

across the line than he can obtain in British Columbia under the ceiling price. He naturally wants to carry on; he does not want to go bankrupt, and he is shipping all the lumber he is allowed, under the act to ship, into the United States, with the result that we have not the lumber to build houses; yet we are producing it to the extent of four billion feet a year. There is the crux of the whole matter.

Mr. COCKERAM: What price do they get across the line?

Mr. HOWE: A good deal has been said about lumber; but lumber is not a very scarce commodity. I hold in my hand a three-page statement of the exact lumber position in Canada year by year for the last ten years. With the permission of the committee I am prepared to put it on *Hansard*, or if the committee prefers I shall read it.

The CHAIRMAN: With the unanimous consent of the committee.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Read it.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Put it on *Hansard*.

Mr. HOMUTH: No.

The CHAIRMAN: Order. I do not want to have any misunderstanding. I took it for granted that it was with the unanimous consent of the committee that the statement was to be put on *Hansard*.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No; read it.

The CHAIRMAN: Without the unanimous consent of the committee it will have to be read.

Mr. HOWE: Mr. Chairman, several speakers have mentioned—

Mr. BRACKEN: If the minister requests it, perhaps the committee will approve his putting the statement on *Hansard* without his taking the time to read it.

The CHAIRMAN: With the unanimous consent of the committee.

Mr. HOWE: Mr. Chairman, several speakers have mentioned the operations of timber control, with special reference to the division of total production as between domestic and export markets. I think I can place this problem in its proper perspective by giving the committee the allocation of timber for the ten-year period from 1934 to 1944, with the estimated allocation for 1945. The following figures, which I shall ask to be placed on

[Mr. Howe.]

Hansard, show production in thousands of feet board measure, and include lumber, flooring, ties and square timber: Per cent

Year	Production	Retained in Canada	Exported	of Ex-ports
1934....	2,578,411	1,087,285	1,491,126	57.83
1935....	2,973,169	1,542,621	1,430,548	48.12
1936....	3,412,151	1,554,187	1,857,964	54.45
1937....	4,005,601	2,039,303	1,966,298	49.08
1938....	3,768,351	2,015,260	1,753,091	46.52
1939....	3,976,882	1,764,949	2,211,933	55.61
1940....	4,629,052	2,080,371	2,548,681	55.05
1941....	4,941,084	2,640,209	2,300,875	46.56
1942....	4,935,145	2,755,189	2,179,956	44.17
1943....	4,363,575	2,622,299	1,741,276	39.91
1944....	4,740,000 ¹	2,797,000	1,943,000 ²	40.90
1945 (est.)	4,800,000 ¹	2,765,000	2,035,000 ²	42.00

¹ Timber control preliminary estimate.

² Including 60,000 MB.F. sawn ties sawn to special order for United Kingdom.

A study of these statistics will show that the average quantity of lumber retained in Canada during the years 1934 to 1944 inclusive was 2,072,607 M feet. We will retain in Canada in 1945 approximately 2,765,000 M feet of lumber which is one billion feet more than was retained in 1939, and will give Canada the largest volume of lumber she has had for domestic use in the years under review, with the exception of 1944 when a large quantity of the lumber retained in Canada was used for war.

The average percentage of Canada's lumber production that was exported in the years under review was 48.45 per cent. Canada's exports this year will be approximately forty-two per cent of production, compared with nearly fifty-eight in 1934; fifty-five per cent in 1939 and 1940.

Of the quantity retained in Canada, now that the war is over, it is estimated that at least four hundred million feet previously taken up for military purposes, will be available for the civilian economy. This, combined with an expected higher production next year, should make available for the civilian economy by far the largest volume of lumber it has had in the last twenty years.

Sufficient lumber is being retained in Canada under rigid export control to handle present building needs, particularly taking into consideration the shortages that exist in such things as labour and other building supplies. It should be noted that there is very definite export control, and that the volume of lumber being exported can be adjusted. On those items which are in short supply at various times in various parts of the country, such as doors, millwork and flooring, no export at present is allowed.

Mr. HANSELL: The hon. member for New Westminster has almost said what I was going to say. I was going to compliment the hon. member for Regina City upon touching what I thought to be a very important point in this whole picture, namely, that so much of our lumber was going out of the country compared with the amount that was staying in. I think he should have pursued the matter farther by asking the minister why this situation is allowed to exist.

The hon. member for New Westminster has, I think, told us what we already know,