

272

BRITISH COLUMBIA FINANCIAL TIMES

A Journal of Finance, Commerce, Insurance, Real Estate, Timber and Mining

Vol. V. No. 16

VANCOUVER, AUGUST 17, 1918

SINGLE COPY 10c
THE YEAR \$2.00

The Lumber Industry in a Prosperous Year

Report of the Provincial Forest Branch for 1917 just out shows the lumber industry to have had one of its most active and prosperous years, 42% increase in lumber cut.

The Honorable T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands, Victoria, has recently given out the annual report of the forest branch for the year ending December 31st, 1917. While the report has been delayed for several months on account of press of work at the King's Printer, the report is nevertheless welcome and is a very interesting commentary on the state of the lumber business last year. The actual work of the report was done under the direction of Mr. M. A. Grainger, Chief Forester, and, due to the inroads of the war on the personnel of the Forest Branch, the usual literary comment on the statistics is omitted.

If the lumber industry of the province has been patriotic no less so have been those engaged in the Forest Branch. When war broke out in 1914 a large number of those in the Department volunteered and were rapidly drafted into the forestry battalions working in both France and Britain. This left only those in charge of departments who were of American nationality. When the United States entered the war in April, 1917, those from across the line withdrew and now hold important positions in the United States Government expediting the manufacture of spruce or they are in forestry battalions operating in France. Hence, when it came to the writing up of the report which has always been a marked feature of the Forest Branch's work, there was no one left except the Chief Forester, and he was too busily engaged in his own programme of getting out spruce for the British Government to spare the time to write the report.

While the figures of the provincial production have been available for several months and have been printed in these columns early in the year, the report just published renews the interest that was taken when the figures were first given out. The report is also interesting in that all those elements, which have combined to make 1917 a remarkable year in the lumber industry of British Columbia, applies with equal, if not greater, force to the current year. While

there is some hesitancy at present in the lumber industry or rather in the plans which lumbermen are making for the immediate future on account of the less satisfactory agricultural reports received from the prairies which, after all, is our largest consuming section, the impetus given to the lumber industry by the Imperial Munitions Board in the getting out of spruce for aeroplane purposes and the heavy manufacturing demands in the east and the United States for lumber, it seems likely that for the balance of the year

there will be no retrogression in the intense activity of the entire lumber industry.

The total of lumber scaled in the province of British Columbia for the year ending December 31st, 1917, was 1,647,275,000 board feet. This compares with an actual cut for 1916 of 1,161,750,000 board feet and 991,780,200 in 1915. This is an increase of practically 42% over the 1916 cut. The value of the production is equally marked. The value of the production in 1917 was \$48,300,469 as compared with \$35,528,000 in 1916, \$29,150,000 in 1915 and \$28,680,000 in 1914. The value of the timber cut was \$28,225,000 as against \$21,075,000 in 1916. The value of the pulp product was almost double, being \$6,835,034 in 1917 as against \$3,520,000 in 1916. Shingles in value also constituted a large increase, being \$6,900,000 in 1917 as compared with \$4,500,000 in 1916.

On the other hand the waterborne export of lumber from British Columbia shows only a slight expansion, being 43,922,563 feet in 1917, as against 43,676,523 feet in 1916 and 58,074,773 board feet in 1915.

Lack of bottoms in the only reason why the province has not a greatly increased export trade.

Of timber scaled in 1917, 1,647,275,000 board feet, logs constituted 1,403,724,000 board feet; poles, etc., constituted 6,089,000 lineal feet; cordwood 335,846 cords, and ties 1,445,862 ties. The cut by species was as follows: Douglas Fir, 763,369,000 feet, in 1916, 564,691,000 feet; Red Cedar, 443,075,000 feet, in 1916, 385,096,000 feet; Spruce, 110,569,000 feet, in 1916, 85,329,000 feet; Hemlock, 149,761,000 feet, in 1916, 101,315,000 feet; Balsam Fir, 21,740,000 feet, in 1916, 21,406,000 feet; Western Soft Pine, 90,495,000 feet, in 1916, 71,783,000 feet; White Pine, 6,468,000 feet; in 1916,

THE LUMBER INDUSTRY IN A PROSPEROUS YEAR

REPORT OF LAND SETTLEMENT BOARD FOR 1917

CONSERVAION REPORT ON FIRE WASTE IN CANADA

COPPER PRODUCTION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 1917

RECENT ANNUAL REPORTS

MINING THROUGHOUT BRITISH COLUMBIA.

TRUST COMPANY NOTES, COMPANY NOTES, INSURANCE MUNICIPAL, LUMBER, MINING AND OTHER INFORMATION