

ideal, could an adhesion to such a policy be expected under the circumstances. When over one hundred years later men supplied with the latest information were still talking about "illimitable" and "inexhaustible" forests it was not to be expected that in 1775, before the days of systematic surveys, men would have the foresight to persist in conserving what seemed almost too cheap and too abundant.

The trade in timber for the British navy began practically with the British occupation of the country. The commercial trade followed in the wake of this business. In fact it was begun by the contractors who received licenses to cut timber for the navy. This commercial trade, however, grew very slowly, chiefly owing to the opposition of British builders who claimed that timber from the Baltic region was much superior to that from Canada.

During and after the Napoleonic wars, however, the British government imposed heavy duties to pay for those wars, and in these duties gave substantial preference to the colonies. In 1803 Great Britain imported 12,133 loads (a load equalled 50 cubic feet) of timber from British North America and 280,550 loads from European countries. In 1820 the figures had changed to 335,556 loads from the colonies and 166,600 loads from European countries.

In the early years of the nineteenth century, timber was imported from the United States into Canada, but only for the purpose of shipping out again to Britain in order to take advantage of the preference granted to colonial timber. Duties on such timber coming into Canada were imposed by an Act passed by the British Parliament in 1820. Shortly after this, Canada began to export lumber to the eastern United States and from that time onward the trade grew very rapidly, until in 1867, the year when the British North American colonies were confederated into the Dominion of Canada, the value of timber exported to Great Britain was \$ 6,889,783, while the value of that exported to the United States was \$ 6,831,252. The growth in the home use of timber has been even more rapid than that of the export trade.

GENESIS AND DEVELOPMENT OF CANADIAN TIMBER REGULATIONS.

In the military, political and commercial exigencies of the nineteenth century the policy of conserving any natural resources was almost completely forgotten. There were individuals who had more information than their neighbours on this subject, but, speaking generally, the idea of all people in Canada was that the sooner the adjacent and circumjacent forest was removed the better, because then the area of agricultural settlement would be increased and this was the hope and aim of the legislators and the people alike. In the settlement of Eastern Canada from the Atlantic to Lake Huron the progress of settlement was practically always from a waterway into the interior. The settlement was founded on a seacoast, bay, river or lake, and townships or parishes, ranging from three to ten miles square, were marked off extending landward from the water's edge. Behind