

<p>PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY by The Monetary Times Printing Company of Canada, Limited</p> <p>Publishers also of "The Canadian Engineer"</p>	<p align="center">Monetary Times</p> <p align="center">Trade Review and Insurance Chronicle of Canada</p> <p>Established 1867 — Old as Confederation</p>	<p>JAS. J. SALMOND Managing Director</p> <p>FRED. W. FIELD The Editor</p> <p>A. E. JENNINGS Advertising Manager</p>
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Marketing British Columbia's Lumber

THERE is no Lack of Timber or of Mills to Cut it in Canada's Pacific Coast Province but Markets must be Sought far and wide—This Industry is Most Important Source of Wealth—Some Interesting Statistics

"THERE is no lack of timber to cut; there is no lack of mills to cut it. It is the market that must be sought, both in Canada east of the Rockies and in the United States from the Mississippi Valley eastward, in Australia and the Orient, and to a certain extent in Europe. The most important duty of the forest branch at the present time is to assist in extending the markets for British Columbia's forest products. If the present opportunity is lost the lumber industry of the province will have a long uphill fight in establishing its position." The foregoing are some of the conclusions reached by the forest branch of the provincial department of lands as a result of a survey of the provincial lumber resources. From the earliest days the pioneer industry of British Columbia has been the manufacture of forest products. Of all the resources with which the province is endowed, the forest, because of its quantity, high quality, varied usefulness, and accessibility to many waterways and transportation routes, has been the resource from which the population of most districts first sought their livelihood. The fact that agricultural development in many sections of the province has waited upon the market for labor and for produce provided by the lumber industry has done much to make the forest industries prominent.

A province so noted for its forests has naturally attracted workers and investors who have received their training in other forest regions, to take part in the development of the last important stand of commercial timber in Canada. British Columbia led all the provinces in Canada in lumber production in 1913, and the manufacture of forest products was the province's most important source of wealth.

The prime importance of the forest industries of British Columbia is seldom realized. The volume and value of manufactures for the calendar year 1913 is shown below:—

Coast lumber, 1,200,000,000 feet B.M.	\$26,400,000
Interior lumber, 400,000,000 feet B.M.	6,400,000
Pulp products	3,000,000
Construction material (cut by railroads, mines, settlers, hewn ties, cordwood) 100,000,000 feet B.M.	1,000,000
Value contributed by wood-using industries, box-factories, planing-mills, sash and door factories, cooperage, wood-block paving, wood pipes, slab fuel	1,000,000

Shingles from bolts	\$ 550,000
Poles and piles, 5,000,000 lineal feet	400,000
Product of Dominion lands	450,000
Mining props and posts	250,000
Lath	200,000
<hr/> \$33,650,000	

During the year 1913 this large amount was distributed within the province, about \$13,440,000 going to transportation companies, \$11,760,000 to labor directly employed in the industry, \$5,040,000 to merchants for equipment and supplies, and \$3,360,000 for taxes, insurance, and interest on capital invested.

The lumber industry in 1913 ranked above the other basic wealth-producing industries.

Forest products	\$33,650,000
Mining	30,296,398
Agriculture	25,974,529
Fisheries	14,455,488

Of these industries, mining and fisheries are confined to certain favored portions of the province. The other two, lumbering and agriculture, are found to contribute to the support of every community. When the logging camps and mills are running at full capacity and agricultural settlement and production are being encouraged thereby, no community, great or small, fails to feel the impetus.

The life of the lumber industry is the export trade. The population of the province, which in 1912 and 1913 used one-fifth of the lumber produced in the province, does not now use one-twentieth. Thus the market for British Columbia forest products must be found almost wholly outside the borders of the province.

The policy of the government for over a quarter of a century has been to restrict the export of unmanufactured products in order that a manufacturing industry based upon our large supplies of raw material might be built up. Thus the export of logs is restricted to timber cut from lands crown-granted prior to 1906. Export is rigidly supervised by an export patrol and by co-operative arrangement with the Dominion customs authorities. Two seizures were made during 1914, for attempted export of improperly marked logs, while another case of attempted export in defiance of the provincial statute was frustrated by the inability of the exporter to secure clearance.