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## Field for B. C. Lumber in United Kingdom

**Special Commissioner's Report—Changes in Trade on Account of War—Increased Demand for War Purposes and Quality and Sizes Most Needed.**

Mr. H. R. MacMillan, Special Commissioner for Canada on deep-sea lumber trade, reports on the timber situation in the United Kingdom in the Weekly Bulletin of the Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, issue of June 21st, as follows:

The war has, by shutting off accustomed important sources of supply and creating new demands, materially affected the timber trade in the United Kingdom. The most important direct demands for timber, attributable to the war, have been for huts and housing for troops, booms and defence works, shipbuilding, aeroplanes and strategic railways.

### Huts and Housing for Troops.

The necessity for rapidly housing the army in training in England and France was met by building huts. Timber to be acceptable for this work had to be cheap and delivered immediately or at least within a few days of being ordered. The buildings resembled in construction the shacks and granaries built on the prairie, being nearly all of one type, about ten feet wide, twenty feet long, seven to eight feet high at the eaves, and three feet higher at the ridge. The only materials used in the construction were scantling, light lumber and prepared roofing. Owing to the great demands made upon the market both the scantling for joists and studding, and the lumber for flooring, siding, and roof sheeting were used in all the sizes common to the United Kingdom trade both rough and surfaced, matched and square-edged. The important dimensions for scantling and dimension have varied in half inch sizes from 1½ to 4 inches in thickness, and in half inch sizes from 3 to 5½ inches in width; the most important sizes have been in the neighborhood of 1½ x 4½, 2 x 4, 2 x 4½, 2 x 5½, and 2 x 6. The flooring has been all one-inch thick, varying in inch sizes in width from 5 to 12 inches, both square-edged and matched. Siding has absorbed many varieties of ¾ and 1-inch stock, rough, surfaced, matched and beaded; the greater quantity of the siding and sheeting has, however, been one-inch stock, varying in width by

half-inch sizes from 4 to 7 inches, and by inch sizes from 7 to 9 inches. Lengths were 9 to 25 feet, including all odd and even lengths. The prevailing grade has been merchantable, full of sound hard knots, admitting stain, sap, and waney edges.

The amount required up to date has been in excess of 150,000,000 feet board measure. The accumulation of this large stock was made possible by the fact that ordinarily 2,000,000,000 feet of this material is imported into the United

Kingdom annually from Russia, Sweden, Canada and Norway in the order named, and that even on April 30, 1915, there were 10,200,000 pieces of deals, battens, and boards in the London public dock stocks. The Government bought up the available yard stock, which after the outbreak of the war was replenished from Archangel, Sweden, Norway and Canada. The Government also made purchases f. o. b. in Sweden. The f. o. b. price in European ports did not increase greatly, but the freight rates so increased that the class of material used increased in price from \$26 c. i. f. per M feet b. m. at the outbreak of war to \$35 c. i. f. per M feet b. m. at the present time. These high prices ruling through the winter led to the cutting of several million feet of timber from the forests and plantations of Great Britain.

Some pitch pine, chiefly in one-inch stock 4-6 inches wide, was used on account of its better appearance, and finishing qualities in the trimming of the officers' huts. This material sold in England for \$38 to \$40 per thousand.

No ready-made huts were used. It is doubtful if they could be shipped to the United Kingdom from any point as cheaply as the rough timber can be shipped, and the houses built after shipment. The building of the houses here is rendered advisable by the slack condition of the customary building trade on account of the war.

While naturally no definite figures can be given it is expected that fairly large quantities of lumber will be required for hut construction before the coming winter. There is no prospect that lumber will be any cheaper in the United Kingdom or as cheap as it is now. Since November, Sweden has not been able to ship freely. The Baltic is absolutely cut off. Archangel as a lumber shipping port is a

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