

and the winters hard. No one today would for a moment find fault with the hardy pioneer who had such tremendous obstacles to overcome, but at the same time, the utter abandon with which the woods were slashed and burned is a difficult conception to us of this age in which conservation is ever present problem.

But the classic expression of the French statesman who did not want to keep Canada because it was 'only a few acres of snow' explains to no small degree the freedom which the early settlers felt in slashing without reference to the future. The forest was as a great lake of wood: to remove a few thousands of cubic feet would work no greater injustice, in the opinion of the early settlers, than to dip a few buckets of water from Lake St. Peter, as there could be no doubt about its being readily replaced.

Nova Scotia.

From the very earliest times Nova Scotia was a source of vast timber wealth. As early as 1605 the industry was established, and in 1761 there were thirty-one sawmills, with almost one and one-half million feet of lumber output. In 1785 there were ninety sawmills, and a great proportion of the population was engaged in the reckless cutting of timber along the drivable streams. The province had been the most lavish in Canada in allowing individuals to hold vast areas of timbered lands. The policy of improvident exploitation which marks the early history has rendered it practically clear of virgin timber today. White pine was the sole product at first, but it was rapidly cut out, and spruce became the standard tree for milling.

Nearly the entire original government domain in Nova Scotia has passed into private hands by grant and sale. Outside of Cape Breton Island out of 3.5 million acres, less than 100,000 acres remain unalienated, and this is practically all wild lands. Nearly 1,500,000 acres of timberland are under private ownership. Likewise, in Prince Edward Island, the 800 square miles of woodland remaining are almost wholly under private ownership, the 14,000 acres of state land, being stripped of its value like most of the private property.

In 1899 leases were issued by the government subject to rental and diameter limit, but the early practice of fee simple alienation had worked such evils that practically the legislation came too late.

In 1910 the Act respecting the administration of Crown lands was amended, and existing legislation incorporated and unified. Under this Act the Commissioner of Crown lands of Nova Scotia is authorized to grant license to cut timber on the ungranted lands of the Crown subject to such conditions, regulations and restrictions as may from time to time be prescribed by the Governor in Council. Notice of these are given in the Royal Gazette. The license are tenable for two years, with a renewal of one year. The licensee is required to make a sworn statement as to the quantity and kind of the logs and timber removed under his license. Licenses to establish a sawmill on the land covered by a license may be issued under such regulations as the Commissioner may prescribe. The Commissioner may also at any time offer for sale at public auction the standing timber upon any land belonging to the Crown, upon such terms as to notice, upset price and other matters as he deems expedient.

Lumbering Today.

The Province of Nova Scotia may be divided into two districts of lumber production brought about by trade conditions. The eastern end ships entirely to the English markets, and the western end to South America, West Indies and the United States. This western, or southern end, embracing Lunenburg, Queen's, Shelbourne, Yarmouth, Digby and Annapolis Counties has the great lumber producing centres of the province.

The Davison Company of Bridgewater, Lunenburg County, are the largest operators in Nova Scotia. They draw on a district abundant in spruce and hemlock, and the

bulk of their output of some 25 million feet per annum, is composed of these species rather than the white pine which used to be the staple species in Nova Scotia. This company was formed a few years ago, when the Davison areas and mills on the Lahave River were taken over by a syndicate of wealthy citizens of the United States. The areas embrace about 210,000 acres and the price paid is said to have been a million and a quarter dollars. The company have since spent half a million on mill improvements and a railway system, and their plant is said to be the most up-to-date in Maritime Canada. About eighteen hundred men are employed. This company was the largest individual shipper in the province for 1912, their shipments totalling 30,000,000 feet. They report that business grew better as the year proceeded.

The A. D. Mills Company of Annapolis Royal are lumbering in a district where some of the virgin timber of Nova Scotia remains. They, and the Madaren Company of Liverpool, on the south eastern coast, have moderately large mills of an output of over 10 million feet. At Tusket in Yarmouth county the Eastern Trust Company are operating the mills of Dicker McGrath and turning out close to 10 million a year. At Wilkin's Siding in Queen's County the Saba Lumber Company produce over 5 million a year. At Lake Anne and Lake George in Yarmouth County two mills operated by Messrs Sawder and Langille respectively, cut about 5 million a year, as do those of Clarke Bros. at Bear River in Digby County. These latter mills are all in the southern portion of the province and have a large export trade.

The amount of lumber shipped from the ports of Annapolis, Bear River and Digby during the year 1912 reached a total of 24,000,000 feet, the value being about \$5,000,000. It is said that the Jordan River timber lands in Shelbourne County, consisting of 60,000 acres, are capable of yielding—by judicious operations—an annual cut of ten million feet for all time, providing fires are kept out of them.

The estimated cut from Pictou east was from twenty-five to thirty million feet. This virtually embraces the territory from Truro to and including Cape Breton. The three largest operators are:—J. D. and P. A. McGregor, Limited, Rood McGregor and the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company.

On the northern coast the Rhodes Curry Company in Cumberland and the Kent Lumber Company in Gold River, Kent County have an output of about 5 million a year. As noted above the largest mills in this northern district are in New Brunswick at Campbellton and Bathurst, the former draining the Restigouche River, and the latter the Nipisigiat, both of which are rich in good merchantable timber.

In the old days great quantities of hewn birch timber were shipped from Pictou to Great Britain. Guysboro and even Middle River, Cape Breton, participated in this trade. The birch timber business still survives, but the firm of J. D. and P. A. McGregor are the only people now in it. The timber is shipped to Halifax by rail and thence by steamer to Liverpool and London, with an occasional shipment to Glasgow. An ordinary year's shipment is from 2,000 to 2,500 tons of this stock, which is hew square to an average diameter of from 14 to 18 inches.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Early Development.

Development of the lumber industry in the Province of New Brunswick may be said to have begun with the advent of the U. E. Loyalists at the close of the War of Independence. Up to 1785 New Brunswick was a portion of the Province of Nova Scotia, and was settled by a few people from New England who went there to engage in the pioneer fish and timber trade. After that time there was a rapid influx both from the south and from Europe. Cargoes of timber which were taken to Britain were exchanged for cargoes of immigrants, and