

THE TIMBER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



THE rapid depletion of the forests of all the southern and eastern parts of the continent of North America has never been more clearly set forth than in the following quotation from a speech of Mr. James J. Hill's, before the conference which was held at the White House recently, for the conserving of the natural resources of the United States: "The forests of this country, the product of centuries of growth, are fast disappearing; the best estimates recording our standing merchantable timber at less than 2,000,000,000 feet. Our annual cut is about 40,000,000,000 feet. The lumber cut rose from 18,000,000,000 feet in 1880 to 34,000,000,000 feet in 1905, that is, it nearly doubled in 25 years. We are now using 500 feet, board measure, per capita, as against an average of 60 feet for over all Europe. The New England supply is gone. The North-West furnishes small growths that would have been rejected by lumbermen thirty years ago. The South has reached its maximum production and begins to decline. On the Pacific Coast only, is there now any considerable body of merchantable standing timber. We are consuming yearly three or four times as much timber as the forest growth restores. Our supply of some varieties will be practically exhausted in ten or twelve years. In the case of others, without reforestation, the present century will see the end."