

This estimate shows a total of 118,202,780,000 board feet. A conservative figure in round numbers, would be one hundred million of thousand board feet, including much of the best wood of the world. Not only is the present value to be considered but the future possibilities must be reckoned with. By a proper prevention of waste and an adequate fire protection coupled with a policy of selective cutting and reforestation this source of supply should prove inexhaustible and permanent.

Naturally the lumbering industry has assumed great proportions in these districts. There are two principal centres or belts where this industry has centred. These are the coast regions, of which Prince Rupert is the centre, and the upper valley of the Fraser river, from Prince George eastward along the Grand Trunk Pacific railway as far as McBride. On the coast are found large and most modernly equipped sawmills. Logs are cut and hauled out of the bush on specially constructed railways, rafted together and pulled by powerful tugs to the mills, where they are cut into the required dimensions at marvellous rates of speed. These regions, on account of the numerous inlets and channels, make the wood most accessible, and the shipping facilities by land and sea to the widely-scattered markets of the world are of the best.

The interior mills are not so large, nevertheless their capacity ranges from 15,000 to 100,000 feet per day. Some 18 mills are located in this belt and it is expected this number will shortly be increased to 25. The output for 1918 was nearly 30 million board feet. This was nearly all shipped east to the prairies.

Two huge pulp-mills operate on the coast, namely, the Pacific Mills Limited at Ocean Falls, and the Whalen Pulp and Paper Mills at Swanson Bay. The Ocean Falls plant represents an investment of over ten million dollars and is a splendid example of a modern plant. Some 850 to 900 hands are employed, including many returned soldiers. News, wrapping and craft papers are manufactured, the daily output being about 225 tons. A modern "company" town gives ample housing accommodation to the employees. At Swanson Bay a sulphate plant turns out about 30 tons of pulp daily. A sawmill is also run in connection with it. Special trains similar to its famous "fish trains," have been inaugurated by the Grand Trunk Pacific railway for the conveyance of pulp and paper from these mills to eastern markets.

Almost unlimited quantities of pulpwood are available in these districts. Many other localities both on the coast and in the interior contain vast quantities of wood suitable for the manufacture of pulp and paper and the expansion of this industry may be expected. The total amount of pulpwood available in the whole province has been estimated at 225 million cords.

Many small local and portable mills are scattered all through the central belt. Outside the commercial lumbering areas there is a supply of wood sufficient to meet the requirements of the settlers and farmers for a long time. Wood for fuel and fencing is plentiful, while the ever-increasing mining industry finds a ready supply for timbering purposes. The noble forests of Central British Columbia are a source of never-failing admiration and an asset of incalculable value.