

The United States Market.



THE United States is undoubtedly the best customer the Canadian lumberman has, and some think that the trade will continue to grow in volume, notwithstanding the proposed duty, for the American people have destroyed all their own large forests in the Northern States. A well-known Ottawa lumberman predicts that in five years' time the Ottawa mills will be supplying lumber to

Chicago.

The official returns show an enormous increase in the exports of Canadian logs to the United States in the twelve years from 1882 to 1893. In 1882 they amounted to 46,450,000 ft. B.M., 274,083 dols. value; in 1893 to 198,021,000 ft. B.M., 1,507,000 dols. value.

The bulk of this increase was in pine logs from 1,313,000 ft. B.M., 16,001 dols. value in 1882, to 127,062,000 ft. B.M., 1,056,355 dols. value in 1893. The ratio of increase is rapidly accelerating; a division into three periods of four years shows the following results:—

Four-year periods.	Ft. B.M.	Dols.	Average ft.	Dols.
1882-5 ...	4,335,000	37,943	1,083,750	9,483
1886-9 ...	20,520,000	171,856	5,134,500	42,964
1890-3 ...	269,868,000	2,282,802	67,467,000	579,700

Thus the yearly average of about one million feet in the first four years grew to five millions in the next period and to nearly sixty-seven and a half millions in the period just ended.

By far the greater portion, practically the whole, of these pine logs, were from the province of Ontario.

In spruce and hemlock, mostly from the province of Quebec, there was also a considerable increase, making with that in pine logs, almost the whole of the total increase of logs exported to the United States.

The imports of logs from the United States were far smaller than the exports to that country. The imports reported by the Customs Department are much less than the exports reported by the United States, which give only their own produce, while the Canadian figures include logs imported through the United States from elsewhere.

The business of rafting logs on the lakes has been successfully conducted for many years on Lake Huron, immense quantities having been handled. The invention of the bag-boom has made log towing on the lakes practically as safe as towing on the river, and by this means rafts of 3,000,000 to 5,000,000 ft. each are brought to the Saginaw river. The repeal of the export duty on logs, exacted by the Canadian Government, greatly stimulated the rafting of logs across Lake Huron to Michigan mills. In 1891 no less than 80,000,000 ft. were brought to the Saginaw river, and in 1892 a much larger quantity came over, as figures given below will show. Large quantities of logs are also rafted from Upper Michigan and Lake Superior points to Saginaw and Lake Huron shore mills. The following figures show the quantities rafted in 1892:—

From Georgian Bay.

	Feet.
For Emery Lumber Co.	35,000,000
" Saginaw Lumber and Sd. Co.	27,000,000
" Spanish River Lumber Co.	22,000,000
" Sage & Emery	12,000,000
" J. W. Howry & Sons	22,000,000
" Sibbey & Bearinger	22,000,000
" Wm. Peter	10,500,000
" Merrill & Ring	6,000,000
" Moore Lumber Co.	18,000,000
" Eddy Bros. & Co.	4,000,000
Miscellaneous	6,000,000
Total, 1892.....	184,500,000
" 1891.....	80,000,000

From Upper Lake Points.

For S. G. M. Gates.....	20,000,000
" Saxe Bros.....	2,500,000
" Fisher & Hurst.....	15,000,000
" C. K. Eddy & Son	4,000,000
" other parties	22,000,000
Total	63,500,000

Of the Canada logs, about 40,000,000 were rafted to Tawas Bay mills, and the rest came to the Saginaw river. The log rafting business is only in its infancy, and Saginaw river mills will receive immense supplies of logs from this source for many years to come.

