

L U M B E R

IN respect to the important question of the supply of lumber in connection with the mining industry, the interior of British Columbia is especially fortunate.

In the district of Kootenay the cutting and manufacture of lumber is an industry second in value and importance only to that of mining.

Throughout the district exist immense forests containing fir, white and yellow pine, hemlock, larch, spruce and cedar, all of which are manufactured by the local mills. The supply can hardly be calculated, and at the present rate of consumption is practically inexhaustible. The numerous lakes and the many large rivers, with the smaller streams falling into them, found throughout the whole district, afford great facilities for the handling of timber, and furnish in many cases at the same time immense resources of water power to be utilized for milling and for the production of power.

There are in the district more than 50 mills, all of the most modern design and equipment. In 1907 the cut amounted to 321,000,000 feet, a figure representing only 30 per cent. of the capacity of the mills; and while in 1908 the financial depression reduced the output, the present indications are that by the end of this year the figures will be very satisfactory; while 1910 is expected to set a new high water mark in the lumbering business. Almost the total output goes to the prairie provinces.

Looking to the practically unlimited supply of timber, and the present capacity of the mills engaged in the manufacture of lumber, and allowing for the increasing demand of the markets in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, it does not appear probable that in the near future any industry in which lumber is required can suffer from a failure of supply. The demand for lumber of all Western Canada for many years to come can be supplied by the mills of Kootenay.