

37,000,000 board feet. Moreover, a large part—over 24,000,000 board feet—of the wood cut goes to outside mills; therefore, the actual excess of wood consumed over the amount received from this region is over 61,000,000 board feet, and constitutes nearly 20 per cent, of the wood consumed in Northern New Hampshire. This is explained by the fact that most of the pulp companies are preserving their own supply of timber, preferring to draw upon an outside source, *chiefly Canada*, and that the demand for wood, especially spruce, is greatly in excess of the supply.

The wood consumed by pulp mills in Northern New Hampshire from 1st July, 1902, to 30th June, 1903, was 271,604 cords, 138,131 cords or 50.9 per cent. being from that district, 101,911 cords or 37.5 per cent. from Canada, and 31,562 cords or 11.6 per cent. from Maine.

The combined holdings of timberland by pulp and paper mills in Northern New Hampshire are 488,290 acres. This acreage includes the great bulk of virgin timberland in the region. The owners are thoroughly alive to the importance and farsightedness of a policy of perpetuating their supply of timber and, as a means to this end, with a view to cutting as little as possible from their own land at present, they are getting a large part of their supply from farmers' wood lots and Canada.

The question was asked the various pulp mill owners as to the length of time the present supply of spruce might be expected to last, and also as to the substitution of another species for pulp when the supply should have been exhausted. Their replies certainly indicate that they are not anticipating a spruce famine in the near future, and that they will not worry over a substitute for spruce until the available supply of spruce in Canada is exhausted.

Forest fires have done considerable damage in different localities during the late summer.

As the result of bush fires in Nova Scotia the village of Belmont was almost wiped out of existence in the latter part of August. Newspaper reports give the damage at \$35,000, and it was also stated that there would no doubt be considerable distress amongst a number of the losers, some of them having nothing left but the clothing they wore. There had been no rain for some time, and everything was dry enough to burn easily. High winds caused the fires to spread and considerable damage was done in other localities. One fire is stated to have been caused by the gross carelessness of one person, who was trying to clear some land and fired it when the wind was blowing a gale.