

## Forests Give B.C. Treasury Over 2 Millions

Increases in the value of the natural products of the Province produced last year were shown in optimistic reports submitted in Legislature of British Columbia by Premier Brewster in the course of his budget speech. These reports showed the following most satisfactory results:

	1916	1915.
Forest .....	\$35,528,000	\$29,150,000
Mines .....	42,300,000	33,000,000
Fisheries .....	14,538,320	11,515,086
Agriculture .....	32,259,157	31,127,801

The estimated value of production in the forest industries was \$35,528,000, an increase of more than \$6,000,000 over the total for the previous year, and greater than for 1914 or 1913. The production of shingles and boxes has shown a noticeable increase.

Better prices and increased quantity of demand have produced a noticeable revival in the lumbering industry. As against this, shortage of labor, difficulty in securing material such as wire rope, car shortages, and increased cost of production due to general rise in prices of commodities have exerted a considerable effect in preventing development which would otherwise have taken place. In spite of this the total quantity of timber scaled for the year, 1,280,000,000 feet, shows a twenty-five per cent increase over that of the previous year, this increase being general throughout all districts.

The export lumber trade was severely handicapped by the scarcity of tonnage throughout the year, and the quantity shipped overseas was consequently reduced from 58,000,000 feet in 1915 to 44,000,000 feet in 1916. Placed as she is, British Columbia will have every opportunity of doing an important export trade when the tonnage situation is re-established. Such trade was particularly desirable as a stabilizing influence, so that the Coast industry may be less dependent upon the Canadian Prairie market. For the past year, however, the Prairie demand has been most satis-

factory, while shipments to Eastern Canada were double those of the year before. Persistent effort is made by the Provincial Government to advertise the merits of British Columbia forest products and to assist manufacturers who are entering new markets.

Including nearly \$180,000 from the taxation derived from the crown grant timber lands, the Province drew from forest sources in 1916 a revenue of \$2,000,000 which is slightly in excess of the amount for 1915. For the coming fiscal year the direct forest revenue, apart from such taxation, is estimated at \$2,300,000, an amount including various royalty arrears which are now being called in. The improved outlook is shown by the fact that last month's forest revenue was the largest since the war began, while the collection for the month from both royalties and timber sales broke all previous records.

There is, at Ottawa, an independent Society numbering four thousand five hundred members, and known as The Canadian Forestry Association. Its object is the conservation of our forests from preventable waste, and it does so by spreading timely and useful information amongst those interested. I have just received from this Association a little leaflet headed "Who loses?" and am requested to pass on some of the facts contained therein. It may be remembered that this subject was dealt with in these notes about a year ago, when I tried to show how vitally the forest reserves of Canada affected us all, and to point out the necessity of preserving them from unnecessary destruction.—*Melfort, Sask., "Journal"*

"You are drawing the blood of a future generation in Canada when you misuse the forest resources of the country."—Sir George E. Foster.