

The growth of the timber importations of Australia during the decade 1903 to 1913, as shown in the following table, is an encouraging indication of what may be expected from the trade in the future:—

A COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE TIMBER IMPORTS OF AUSTRALIA 1903 AND 1913.

Class of Timber.	1903.		1913.		Percentage of quantity.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Increase or decrease.	
		£		£		
Rough lumber ft. B. M.	106,725,965	2,357,678	208,373,309	5,197,852	plus	197%
New Zealand pine ft. B. M.	51,088,378	1,149,388	50,017,057	1,467,460	minus	3%
Dressed lumber ft. B. M.	24,763,771	829,632	82,471,445	2,944,128	plus	233%
Lath (pieces)	18,524,843	80,164	46,337,501	192,628	plus	150%
Doors (number)	31,341	66,777	1,410	2,136	minus	96%
Staves, rough (pieces)	314,358	32,635	3,639,969	169,776	plus	1,638%
Pickets (pieces)	760,375	16,761	2,302,748	40,785	plus	263%
Shingles (number)	2,785,554	9,648	1,526,994	10,598	minus	45%
Hickory (undressed). ft. B. M.	59,602	4,574	168,088	25,440	plus	182%
Logs, feet B. M.	213,128	4,464	23,437,906	582,052	plus	1,089%
Architraves, mouldings, etc. . . . lin. ft.	46,257	1,636	80,378	1,200	plus	74%

Australia is a distributing point from which the Pacific Islands are supplied with timber. The re-exports of imported timber amounted to only 2,000,000 feet in 1913, a normal year. This trade is not likely to assume important proportions.

The purchase of such manufactured material as lath, mouldings, three-ply veneer, box shooks, staves and pickets have become very important. The following table shows the volume in 1913 by countries of origin.

IMPORTS OF CERTAIN MANUFACTURED TIMBER INTO AUSTRALIA, 1913, ACCORDING TO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.

(Australian Official Figures.)

Country of Origin.	Value.	Per cent of total.
	£	%
United States	568,464	50
Russia	192,288	17
Germany	120,480	10
Straits Settlements	90,384	8
Canada	56,640	5
Norway	43,344	4
United Kingdom	32,640	3
New Zealand	12,480	1
Sweden	10,752	1
Netherlands	9,744	1
France	1,152	
Total	1,138,368	

The leading place held by the United States in this field of trade also is due to the almost exclusive control now possessed by that country of Australia's importations of lath, pickets and shingles and to the important influence exercised on the supplies of staves and mouldings.