

U. S. LUMBER PRODUCTION IN 1913.

The United States Forest Service reports that the production of lumber in the United States in 1913 was 38,387,009,000 board feet, which represents a decrease of about three-quarters of a billion feet from the total reached in 1912. The high water mark of lumber production was attained in 1909 when the cut exceeded forty-four billion feet. In 1913 there was an increase as compared with the previous year in the cut of Douglas fir and yellow pine, and a decrease in white pine, hemlock, spruce, oak and maple. This change in the quantities of certain woods indicates increased production in Washington and Oregon and the Southern States and decreased production in the Northern, Central and Atlantic States. Of the total production in 1913 soft woods contributed a little over thirty billion feet.

FOLLOWING CANADA'S LEAD.

The good work done by the Dominion Forestry Branch in the past twelve or thirteen years in distributing trees to settlers in the prairies for windbreaks, and ultimately for fuel and timber, is to be followed by the United States Forest Service. Mr. W. A. Peterson, Superintendent of the newly established Field Station at Mandan, North Dakota, U.S.A., recently visited the Dominion Forestry Branch Nursery at Indian Head in order to get information as to the methods employed in handling the trees to settlers in Canada. It has been decided that the United States Forest Service will in the future distribute trees to prairie settlers from Mandan in the same manner as the Dominion Forestry Branch has been distributing them from Indian Head. The province of Ontario has for a number of years been distributing trees to farmers from Guelph and latterly from the nursery station at St. Williams. In both the above cases

the trees (except special kinds for which a small charge is made) are distributed free, the recipient paying the express and undertaking to give cultivation for a period of three years. The province of Quebec during the past two years has distributed trees at a very low price from the provincial forest nursery at Berthierville. It is interesting to know that Canada has been leading in this matter, but some of the other provinces, notably the Maritime provinces, might well assist in the work of farm forestry by similar methods.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY ACTS.

In order to relieve the unemployment caused by the war, the Canadian Pacific Railway management, at the end of September, decided to take on six thousand extra labourers for two months, to do work along its lines. It is understood that a good deal of this work will consist in clearing debris from the right of way to reduce the risk of fire spreading from the locomotives. This is a satisfactory action from whatever standpoint it is viewed, and the only regret is that the other railways do not see their way clear to do likewise.

UTILIZING MAIL CARRIERS.

The United States Post Office Department, in its postal guide, instructs rural mail carriers to report forest fires which they observe when on their routes to the proper authorities. The railways in Canada, the Bell Telephone Company, and other companies have inserted instructions regarding forest fires in their time tables and directories, and this idea of having rural mail carriers linked up with the protecting agencies is one worthy of the consideration of the Canadian Post Office Department.