

wood may account for the 11.9 per cent. decrease in the amount of spruce lumber cut in 1912.

Coniferous woods made up 92.9 per cent. of the lumber sawn in Canada in 1912, the hardwoods forming 7.1 per cent. of the cut, a somewhat greater percentage of the total than the amount cut in 1911. While it is true that the supplies of more valuable hardwoods of southern Ontario and Quebec are nearing exhaustion, yet the increase in cut of the more widely-spread birch, beech, maple and basswood should be noted because these species are common to the farmer's woodlot. Birch is Canada's most important hardwood.

The average mill prices of lumber in Canada in 1913 rose 41 cts. above that of the previous year, becoming \$15.83 per M. ft. B.M. The local variations in these prices show in some cases a much greater increase as in Ontario where there was an average increase of \$1.52 over the price of 1911 directly due to the decrease of 19.3 per cent. in the production of lumber for 1912.

In the prairie provinces the greatest extremes of increased and decreased production are to be observed. Saskatchewan was the only province in Canada to report an increase in cut, this being 16.7 per cent. greater than the cut of 1911. The average

capacity of the Saskatchewan mills is second only to those of British Columbia, being nearly seven million feet of lumber a year, 99.2 per cent. of lumber cut in these mills being spruce. Manitoba showed a decrease in production of 26.4 per cent., but this decline can be only temporary, for the exhibit of Manitoba woods at the recent Canadian Forestry Association Convention in Winnipeg showed great latent possibilities in this province as a lumber producer.

The production of shingles in Canada in 1912 was 14.1 per cent. less than that of 1911. Spruce, white pine, hemlock and jack pine are being increasingly used for the manufacture of shingles. The production of lath also showed a decrease of 1.9 per cent. from 1911, spruce making up over one-third this product.

One of the most remarkable facts brought out by the bulletin is the extraordinary increase of 89.9 per cent. in the production of square timber in 1912 over that of 1911, this being the first increase since 1877. This increase was largely due to the largely increased amounts of white pine and birch exported in this form, white pine making up 5.3 per cent. and birch 28.5 per cent. of the amount exported. 97.5 per cent. of the square timber cut was exported to the United Kingdom.—G.E.B.

## International Bureau of Forestry.

### Permanent Commission Decided Upon by the Forestry Congress at Paris.

Probably the most important result of the International Forestry Congress held in Paris last June was the creation of an International Forestry Commission, having for its object the furthering of forestry principles and the convoking, when necessary, of International Forestry Congresses at which legislative and administrative questions pertaining to the forest shall be brought up for discussion.

The temporary officials, consisting of a President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and Executive Committee, were chosen largely from the French foresters and legislators who were present at the Convention, while forty-two of the representatives of foreign countries, who were present at the Convention, made up the body of the Commission. The Touring Club of France, one of the most influential bodies of private citizens in Europe, offers their hotel in Paris as a temporary headquarters for the Commission.

It is likely that this Commission will take over the publication of International Forestry statistics now being occasionally is-

sued in the bulletins of the International Institute of Agriculture, which was established at Rome in 1910. This latter institute, publishing monthly statistics of the world's agricultural crops, has more than justified its existence, and the International Forestry Commission will prove justifiable for similar reasons. Moreover, it will make possible the spreading and co-ordinating of scientific forestry knowledge which is at present largely restricted to and put to most practical application in Europe.

The Commission will also facilitate the assembling of forestry congresses, international in their scope, at which questions of present concern to all foresters, may be discussed, such as the right of the Government to expropriate misused private lands when their reforestation is necessary for the protection of the watersheds of navigable streams. Such a congress might profitably be held in Canada and would be justified by the impetus they would give to forestry in Canada and by the great importance of the forest resources of this country.