

Douglas fir, however, because of its cheapness and greater latitude of sizes, together with the assistance given by a tariff penalizing all sizes below 6 inches by 12 inches, sizes which include the whole of the Scandinavian output, has almost driven out the Scandinavian rough deal. It is in dressed lumber that Scandinavian countries are still pre-eminent in the Australian market. The standard of quality and size for flooring, lining and weatherboards set in Australia two generations ago by the mills of Norway and Sweden still holds absolutely good. The large trade with Norway as compared with Sweden, although Sweden is the more important timber producing country, is due to the fact that Norway specializes in dressed lumber, Australia's chief imports from the Baltic.

JAPANESE COMPETITION.

Japan, ten years ago unknown in the Australian timber trade, has passed Canada. The imports from Japan are a soft, weak, knotty white pine for boxes (known as Pacific pine), oak and ash for industrial purposes.

Several unlikely countries, Norway, Sweden and Japan, exceed Canada in the exports of timber to Australia. At the beginning of this century Canada was exceeded only by Norway and the United States. The present exports from Canada are eighty per cent Douglas fir and twenty per cent spruce deals from the Maritime Provinces. The trade in the latter has been seriously reduced by the introduction to the Australian market of Japanese pine and Pacific Coast hemlock and spruce.

Russia's exports of spruce and pine deals, from the White Sea and Pacific ports, are growing and if no change is made bid fair soon to exceed Canada's trade.

The timbers imported from India and the Straits Settlements are teak and other hardwoods which will not be a factor in the trade.

During the past decade important readjustments have taken place amongst the countries supplying Australia with timber and in these readjustments Canada's share of the trade has decreased both in proportion and total.

LUMBER IMPORTS INTO AUSTRALIA BY COUNTRIES IN 1905.

Country of Origin.	Quantity in Feet B.M.	Per Cent of Total.	Value.	Average Value per M ft. B.M.
		%	£	cts.
United States.....	88,759,999	50	2,040,278	22 98
New Zealand.....	51,325,008	29	1,157,054	22 54
Norway.....	21,810,058	12	745,324	34 17
Canada.....	7,879,875	4	175,965	22 35
Sweden.....	5,363,696	3	172,459	30 83
Russia.....	810,400	.....	26,827	33 12
Straits Settlements.....	261,779	.....	5,779	22 14
United Kingdom.....	179,977	.....	9,427	52 37
Total.....	176,611,792	.....	4,333,053	—

The most striking feature of the shifting of the trade amongst the various countries is the big gain made by all the leading countries competing, except New Zealand and Canada, which lost heavily, New Zealand because of exhaustion of supply and Canada for other reasons which will be discussed later. Sweden has largely increased her share of the trade by specializing to a greater extent on the export of dressed spruce and pine. Two practically new sources of supply have been opened up in the ten years, one of which, Japan, has already exceeded Canada in her exports to Australia, and the other of which, Russia, in less than ten years of trade development, has reached Canada and possesses embarrassing possibilities for the future.