BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Many Sawmills Have Recently Amalgamated—American Lumberman Opposes Reciprocity—Western Fuel Company.

Vancouver, B.C., June 10.
(Staff Correspondence.)

Conditions in the lumber industry are satisfactory, though business with the Northwest has not developed as much as expected. Seeding there was good and a good crop prospect will mean business for the lumber mills. It is at this time that the mills in the States to the south get in their work. Conditions in the industry there are dull, and cut prices are being given on lumber for both foreign and domestic shipment. Several months ago the foreign trade was bright, but the present prospect is not so good. The Canadian Western Lumber Company is loading a couple of ships for South Africa, and has another charter or two; the Hastings mill is doing some export, but the cutting of prices by mills in Washington and Oregon, which have a surplus, has had its effect.

An instance occurred last week when an order for 8,000,000 feet of lumber and timber was awarded by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway to mills in Washington State. It was a large contract, but British Columbia mills had little chance, the lowest tender from this side being sent in by the Michigan Puget Sound Lumber Company, of Victoria, which is composed of American capitalists in Chicago and Detroit.

American Lumberman Opposes Reciprocity.

A lumberman of Portland, Oregon, told The Monetary Times this week, that he opposed reciprocity because it meant destruction of the forests. With freer trade channels, a greater amount of cutting of timber would be done, and there would be no attempt at conservation. Under such conditions there would be much waste, for with greater competition the smaller part of the tree, toward the top, would be left in the woods to be burned. He holds that if the markets were tightened up instead of widened, the tendency would be to utilize all the tree instead of only the most profitable part of it.

Curtailment of production is suggested among the Washington and Oregon mills, but on this side the plants are all working full time. In Vancouver record local deliveries were made in May, but it is probable that the strike will lower the amount for June.

A large lumber merger is being effected in the Kootenay district, the mills including those of the East Kootenay Lumber Company, the Standard Lumber Company, the Rock Creek Lumber Company, the Baker Lumber Company, the King Lumber Company, and other concerns. Definite information respecting the deal is difficult to obtain, but negotiations are on, Senator Dr. King being now in the west in connection with the matter. The capital of the combined company was mentioned at $20,000,000, and it was understood on the coast that the British Canadian Lumber Corporation, of Vancouver, which has a capital of $20,000,000, was taking over the mills. This company has nothing to do with it. The proposal is to merge interests and establish a couple of hundred retail yards on the prairies. With lumber increasing in cost, these retail yards, operated directly by the mills with large capital, are necessary to keep the business in Canada. It was for this reason that the office of the Mountain Lumber Manufacturers' Association was moved to Calgary.

B. C. Sawmills Amalgamate.

There seems to be a process of amalgamation going on among British Columbia sawmills of late. Two months ago two large concerns on Vancouver Island, the Michigan-Puget Sound Lumber Company and the Michigan Pacific Lumber Company merged interests. Previous to that the Dominion Sawmills, Limited, floated in London, took in six mills in the vicinity of Revelstoke. The Canadian Western Lumber Company, or those directly connected with that company, were responsible for the purchase of the Columbia River Lumber Company's plant at Golden. The British Canadian Lumber Corporation, with a large mill in Vancouver, bought at Arrowhead, and is building on Lulu Island.

Western Fuel Company.

Much conjecture has resulted from the announcement from Victoria that the Mackenzie and Mann interests had taken an option on the Western Fuel Company's mines at Nanaimo, and the denial of the report by Mr. A. D. McRae, of Vancouver. There are peculiar features. The Monetary Times learned directly from Victoria that Mr. Coulson, the manager of the Canadian (Dunsmuir) Collieries, a Mackenzie and Mann flotation, returned last week from San Francisco, where he conferred with Mr. Smith, vice-president of the Western Fuel Company, and brought back with him an option on the property. Mr. McRae was informed of this, but he said that all he could say was to reiterate his denial, which was unqualified. Further communication with Victoria elicited the information that the option was in that city, and was being held for what was virtually the Mackenzie and Mann interests. It is difficult to adjust these conflicting statements, which are absolutely opposed. Mr. Coulson is an executive officer, and Mr. McRae is the direct financial representative of Sir William Mackenzie and Sir Donald Mann in British Columbia.

LIGHTNING CONDUCTORS.

A bulletin published by the Manitoba Agricultural College which will be of considerable interest to farmers. It refers to the protection of farm buildings from lightning. Mr. L. J. Smith, of the mechanics' and engineering department, is the author, and he has illustrated his work with six descriptive drawings which show very clearly exactly what system and points should be fitted on the roofs of the buildings.

The writer recommends a five-sixteenths inch galvanized steel or iron strand for the conductor, or galvanized guy wire as it is often called. Iron is preferable to steel, on account of its somewhat greater duration, though the steel cable is used by the telephone because of its greater strength. Copper or iron points are recommended, and they should be fixed vertically to the roof, not less than twenty feet apart. Points should also be placed on copulas and chimneys. It was once thought that the points should extend quite high above the building, but this is no longer considered necessary.

Buildings having metallic roofs need no points, the writer claims. All is necessary is to ground the four corners with common heavy fence wire. Wire fences should be grounded every sixth post to protect live stock in the fields from lightning, where it strikes and runs along the fence wires. The method is simple and inexpensive and is fully explained. Copies of this bulletin can also be secured free of charge from the Manitoba Agricultural College, Winnipeg.

ANOTHER CROP ESTIMATE.

Mr. Frank Fowler, secretary of the Northwest Grain Dealers' Association, issued the following estimate of the acreage under crop in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta:

	1911 (acres)	P.C., inc.
Wheat	9,788,800	15.3
Oats	4,504,760	4.0
Barley	1,121,230	12.0
Flax	637,910	40.0

The situation of the 1910 crop to-day is as follows:

	Bushels.
Wheat inspected to date	75,250,000
In transit not inspected	450,000
In store at country points	5,500,000
Marketed at Winnipeg	150,000
Total market to date	81,350,000
Last year	91,895,500
In farmers' hands to market	4,150,000
Allow for country mills	6,000,000
Used for seed and feed	20,000,000
Total crop	111,500,000
Last year	108,995,500
Oats inspected to date	18,661,000
Oats in farmers' hands to market	3,215,000
Oats in store at country points	2,500,000

Reports indicate these to be the best conditions growing crops ever reported since 1895.

FIELD CROPS IN CANADA.

A Bulletin of the Census and Statistics Office states that the season this year has been favorable for field crops in all parts of Canada, and excellent reports have been received from all the provinces. The lowest percentage of condition is made for fall wheat, which suffered from inadequate protection in the winter months, and also to some extent from spring frosts. The areas of fall wheat are greater than last year by 4.50 per cent. and of spring wheat by 13.70 per cent. The total area in wheat is 10,503,400 acres, as compared with 9,294,800 in 1910 and 7,750,400 in 1909. The per cent. condition of fall wheat at the end of May was 80.63, and of spring wheat 96.69. The area in oats in 10,279,800 acres and its condition 94,76, as compared with 9,864,100 acres and 93.95 per cent. condition last year. Barley and rye each show a small decrease in area, but the condition is higher than at the same period last year. Slight decreases are also reported for areas of peas, mixed grains, and hay and clover, with per cent. condition of over 90. Hay and clover have a reported condition of 91.45 for the Dominion, being practically 100 in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The area of the field crops named is 32,051,500 acres for 1911, compared with 30,554,200 acres for 1910 and 28,194,900 acres for 1909. In the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta the area in wheat, oats and barley was 3,491,413 acres in 1900, 6,009,389 acres in 1905, 11,952,000 acres in 1909, and 13,809,300 acres in 1910, and it is 15,355,500 acres this year. The increase of these crops from 1900 to 1911 was 2,663,699 acres in Manitoba. 7,364,315 acres in Saskatchewan and 1,836,073 acres in Alberta.