

Though the country drained by the St. Maurice and its tributaries is less than two thirds of that of the Saguenay, the growth of pine in its forests has been greater, notwithstanding the unfavourable character of the upper and more elevated part of its valley. But the pine on its lower tributaries has been very much cut away; but where there is a young growth preserved from fire and the axe its yield will doubtless be considerable.

The quantities of timber cut on Crown lands alone in the St. Maurice territory, from 1856 to 1881 inclusively, have been, of square timber, white pine, 56,921 pieces and red pine 5,453 pieces (up to the year 1864, no square pine taken out since). Of other woods, 9,257 pieces. Of white pine saw logs, 4,190,895 pieces. Spruce saw logs 1,740,546 pieces. In the first 15 years the quantities were 2,110,527 pine saw logs against 562,071 spruce, and in the last 10 years 2,080,368 pine against 1,178,475 spruce saw logs. In 1881 the number of pine saw logs was 114,371 and of spruce 112,224, or nearly equal. From which we may infer that it is becoming more difficult to maintain the same superior production of pine, as formerly, over spruce.

The Crown timber revenue that accrued from the St. Maurice territory, from 1856 to 1881 inclusively, as shown by departmental returns, was \$1,103,970⁷³/₁₀₀, including dues on all descriptions of wood goods from Crown lands, ground rents, &c., &c.

St. Maurice territory—*continued*.
Timber from Crown lands, 1851 to 1882.
Great decrease of pine and increase of spruce cut.
Crown timber revenue, 1856 to 1881.

The next district of this central division of the great Laurentian forest region is that designated the Lower Ottawa territory or agency, including the vacant and the waste lands of the Crown on the northern tributaries of the Lower Ottawa, from the boundary of the St. Maurice territory to the watershed dividing the valley of the Rivière aux Lièvres from that of the Gatineau. It embraces the valleys of the River Assomption, the River du Nord, the Rouge, the Petite Nation, the Blanche, and the du Lièvre, with other smaller tributaries of the Ottawa, the total of the included areas being 11,256 square miles, of which 6,035 square miles are covered by licenses from the Crown to cut timber, and there is much private land.

Lower Ottawa territory.

Lower Ottawa territory.
Area.

These rivers mentioned lie altogether within the pine growing zone, excepting Rivière du Lièvre, the main branch of which for 40 miles, in direct distance down from its source, is in the poplar, birch, spruce and tamarac region, which, sweeping over from Weymontacheuc on the St. Maurice and the Manouan, intersects the du Lièvre at the head of Lake Megomangoos, and continues westward over to and across the east and west branches of the Gatineau in the Upper Ottawa territory adjoining. The predominant pine bearing character of the Ottawa country begins to be apparent in the returns of timber cut in this territory on which dues accrued to the Crown from 1856 to 1881 inclusively, which were squared white pine 106,398 pieces, squared red pine 943 pieces, other woods, principally birch, 38,459. White pine saw logs, 5,735,931 pieces. Spruce saw logs, 383,354, or one to 15 of pine very nearly. Of the square white pine, 95,155 pieces were cut in the first 15 years, and 11,243 in the following 10 years to 1881 inclusive. Of squared red pine, 809 pieces in the 15 years and 134 in the 10 years following. Of other squared timber, 22,125 were cut in the 15 years and 16,334 in the last 10. Of the pine saw logs, 3,374,896 were cut in the 15 years and 2,361,035 in the last 10. Showing a decrease of about 10 per cent. in the average annual cut of pine logs. While of the spruce saw logs, 35,501 only were cut in the 15 years and 347,853 during the 10 years stated, showing an increase to about 14 times the annual average of the 15 years preceding. It is noticeable that the total of pine saw logs from the Lower Ottawa territory during the whole period is about one fourth greater than that from the St. Maurice territory, though the latter has about double the area of the former.

Chiefly in pine zone.

As shown by timber from Crown lands from 1856 to 1881.

Increasing proportion of spruce logs cut.

Lower Ottawa territory.

The Crown timber revenue from the Lower Ottawa territory from 1856 to 1881 inclusive, including ground rents on timber licenses, &c., amounted, by departmental returns, to \$1,093,297. It is to be borne in mind, with respect to the quantities of timber from Crown lands here given for the years mentioned in the foregoing territories, for the purpose of showing the character and capacity of their forests, that, in addition to what is shown, these territories, but especially the St. Maurice and Lower Ottawa, have yielded large quantities of square timber and saw logs cut on private lands during the period stated and for many previous years; and that, apart from what was actually cut on Seigniories, timber and saw logs were occasionally passed as being so, if brought down streams flowing through the Seigniories, though really cut on Crown lands behind. It is also especially to be remarked as important in relation to subjects of forestry, and the future lumber trade of the province of Quebec, that, apart from the old Seigniories, or parishes on and near the St. Lawrence and in its great plain, only one

Crown timber revenue for 1856 to 1881.
General remark.
Timber from private lands or in previous years to large amount not included hitherto.