

# SQUARE TIMBER.

The only figures available as to the amount of square timber cut annually are the statistics of exports furnished by the Department of Trade and Commerce. There is very little hewn square timber used in Canada, and as all the sawn square timber is entered under the head of lumber, the quantity of hewn square timber exported is approximately the quantity cut. On the following table are given the quantities of square timber of different species exported during the calendar year 1909.

TABLE 26.

(1) QUANTITY AND VALUE of Canadian Square Timber exported, 1909.

Kind of Wood.	Quantity Exported, 1909.	Total Value.	Average Value per Ton.
	(2) Tons.	\$	\$ cts.
Total .....	41,442	991,491	...
White Pine.....	20,539	655,784	31 92
Birch.....	13,935	148,105	10 63
Red Pine.....	4,445	134,633	30 29
Elm.....	1,675	35,808	21 38
Ash.....	429	6,183	14 41
Oak.....	416	10,936	26 29
Maple.....	3	42	14 00

(1) During 1909 the following foreign timber was exported through Canadian ports: Oak, 4,146 tons; Elm, 2,634 tons; Red Pine, 60 tons.

(2) The expression 'ton,' applied to square timber, means 40 cubic feet.

White pine is yet and always has been by measurement the chief square timber exported; in 1909 it was 60·7 per cent of the total. Birch is and has been for many years second.

The highest price per cubic foot was that paid for oak, 54 cents, the lowest was birch at 22 cents. Although the price per ton was slightly higher for white pine, the price of red pine for 1909 was 8 cents higher per cubic foot than that of white pine.

The square timber trade is declining. It passed the maximum in 1877. It is now difficult to secure in Canada first-class clear timber of a quality suitable for squaring. The extent of the decline is shown in the following tabular statement which gives, as taken from the Trade and Commerce reports, the average annual export of square timber, with values, for the years 1871-1880, inclusive.