

An increasing dependence upon outside sources of timber supplies is shown by the growth of importation in the past decade. Foreign timber constituted only 32 per cent of Australia's consumption in 1903; by 1913 it filled 48 per cent of the total timber uses.

## GROWTH OF TIMBER IMPORTS INTO AUSTRALIA FROM 1903 TO 1913.

Class.	1903.		1913.		Increase per cent.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	1913 over 1903.
	Ft. B.M.	£	Ft. B.M.	£	%
Lumber and logs.....	176,850,844	4,345,737	447,065,948	12,945,652	198
Manufactured goods.....		206,923		1,097,279	432

The overwhelming lead of the United States in this trade is due to the control possessed by that country of Douglas fir exports. Over 92 per cent of the lumber exports from the United States to Australia are Douglas fir. The United States monopoly of redwood, a softwood of growing importance on the Australian market, is a factor in improving the country's export position.

New Zealand exports to Australia softwoods, white and kauri pine, used extensively in box manufacture, shelving, lining, furniture factories and industries. The import of these woods into Australia has fallen off by over 35 per cent in the five years 1908 to 1913, a consideration of influence in increasing the importation of Pacific Coast woods. The hardwoods of New Zealand, chief of which is rimu, are, however, being exploited and exported to Australia in increasing quantities as the softwood forests are depleted. The hardwoods are used almost wholly for flooring and lining.

The rapid cutting of New Zealand forests, which are only estimated to contain thirty years' supply at present rate of use, will prevent a great increase of exports to Australia unless prices are substantially increased.

A great factor in New Zealand's trade with Australia is the Australian tariff preference applying to timber, extended to the sister Dominion. This tariff gives New Zealand an advantage over Canada which is indicated in the following tabular statement:—

*Australian tariff on rough Boards.*

Species and Country of Origin.	Tariff per M. Ft. B.M.
New Zealand white pine and rimu.....	\$2 40
Canadian Douglas fir and spruce.....	8 40

The extension of this tariff preference to include other Dominions would be a factor of the greatest importance to the Canadian trade.

## SCANDINAVIAN TIMBER.

Norway and Sweden together still supply to Australia nine times as much timber yearly as does Canada. This holds true in spite of the fact that Scandinavian standing timber is more valuable than Canadian and the freight distances are greater. The distance from Baltic ports to Australia is 13,000 miles and the distance from Western Canadian ports is 7,000 miles.

The Europeans who first developed Australia imported their necessary softwoods from the only source with which they had connections, the Baltic and the Scandinavian Peninsula. This timber became the standard softwood of Australia and even yet it is the standard of quality for common joinery. The standard of dimension introduced by the 3-inch by 9-inch Baltic deal still lingers to a certain extent.

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