

quiring them to be improved, thus allowing of their being locked up for purposes of speculation. Accordingly an Act was passed (61 Victoria, chapter 8), entitled An Act respecting Water Powers, under which Regulations were made providing that all water privileges in excess of 150 horse-power disposed of thereafter should be leased on condition of actual development within a specified period, with a proviso that other persons should be furnished power not required by the lessees at rates subject to the control of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

The rental asked is very moderate, the object being to encourage the development of the many large water falls characteristic of northern Ontario, while at the same time protecting the public by making development compulsory and providing for reasonable rates to users of power.

Not nearly as much hardwood is exported from Ontario as formerly, but the supply is still large—larger perhaps than is generally supposed—and will continue to supply domestic consumption and contribute to export for years to come.

Ontario is the centre of the wood employing industries of Canada, and manufactures household furniture, doors, sashes, blinds, matches, etc., for export. The value of the exports of the Province in wood, wood products, and the manufactures of wood, is about \$10,000,000 annually.

Under a recent Ontario statute, pine, spruce, and other soft woods, must be sawn or manufactured in the Province, and cannot be exported in the log. As a consequence, the saw-milling industry is more active than at any previous time in its history, and gives employment to a large number of persons.

Some idea of the growth of the saw-milling industry in Ontario during the last few years, principally as a result of the prohibition of the export of logs cut on Crown Lands, may be seen from the following tables. It is not possible, of course, in a statement like this to be exact to a dollar, but the figures given have been gathered from what are believed to be the most reliable sources and have been compiled with great care. The first table deals with new mills which have been erected, and the second with mills which stood in disuse for several years while Ontario logs were being towed across to the Michigan shore, but which have been refitted and again put in commission since the prohibition of export.

NEW MILLS ERECTED.

Cost	Hands Employed	Annual Cut
\$849,400	1,218	212,250,000 ft., B.M.