

Poles Purchased in Canada in 1912.

The statistics in this bulletin are based on reports received from 207 telephone companies, 131 electric light and power concerns, 29 electric railways, 18 steam railways (operating telegraph and telephone lines), and 4 telegraph companies. These 389 companies reporting purchases in 1912 represent at least 95% of the wooden pole users in Canada, and the figures in this bulletin include at least 95% of the poles purchased in 1912. Pole users are divided into two groups, with steam railways, telephone and telegraph companies forming one group, and electric railway, power and light companies the other.

Table 1 shows the number, total value, average value and per cent. distribution of poles purchased in Canada in 1911 and 1912.

There were 608,556 wooden poles reported as having been purchased in 1912, an increase of 22,853 poles, or 3.9%, over 1911. While this increase is slight, it follows a decided decrease from 1910 to 1911. The average pole has a life of at least ten years, and the demand for poles is therefore more or less intermittent, depending on the building of new pole lines.

Altogether nine kinds of wood were reported for poles in 1912, with eastern cedar heading the list, as in past years. Cedar has been, and probably will be for some time, the most popular wood for telegraph, telephone and other pole lines. Although the purchases in 1912 show a decrease, wood for this purpose need not be specially strong or hard, as there is little or no mechanical strain to be endured. Durability in contact with the soil, lightness, and a slender tapering form are most essential, and cedar seems to fit those requirements better than any other native wood used in an untreated state. The use of the British Columbia species of cedar (*Thuja plicata*) has increased in the last few years, with the decrease in the supply of poles of the eastern species in the greater length classes. While these poles are not so strong nor so durable as those of eastern cedar, they can be obtained in greater lengths, and the source of supply is more easily accessible. The two species of cedar together formed over 85% of the total. Balsam fir was reported for the first time in 1912. It is being used more and more each year for all purposes, especially in the Maritime Provinces, where the supply of pine is beginning to fall below the demand. As far as form and lightness are concerned, this should make excellent pole material, if its lack of durability were made up for by some preservative treatment. Increases are to be noted in the use of western cedar, tamarack, spruce and chestnut, with balsam fir added to the list, and decreases in the use of eastern cedar, jack pine, Douglas fir and hemlock. No poles were reported in 1912 of red, white or yellow pine.

The average prices given in tables are based on the cost at point of purchase, and may or may not include transportation charges. Only in the case of those woods which are used in large quantities can the values given be taken to represent the relative value of the wood. The average value of poles in 1912 was \$1.83, an increase of only 3 cents over 1911. A slight increase was recorded in the case of eastern cedar, and other increases to be noted are in the value of spruce and jack pine poles. All other kinds of wood

decreased in value, and the balsam fir reported in 1912 was valued at an average below the general average for 1911.

Steam railways, telephone and telegraph companies reported the purchase

average value of \$1.51 per pole is an increase from 1911. The average values of poles purchased by this class of pole line companies is always less than with the electric railway, power and light concerns, as the steam railway and telephone companies are usually closer to the source of supply and purchase their

TABLE 1

KIND OF WOOD	1911				1912			
	Number	Value	Average Value	Per Cent.	Number	Value	Average Value	Per Cent.
TOTAL OF ALL USES								
Total.....	585,703	\$1,056,277	\$1.80	100.0	608,556	\$1,113,524	\$1.83	100.0
Cedar.....	463,234	746,854	1.61	79.1	378,369	613,580	1.62	62.2
Western Cedar.....	72,354	216,444	2.99	12.4	144,222	408,472	2.83	23.7
Balsam Fir.....					38,000	30,400	0.80	6.2
Tamarack.....	28,226	40,410	1.43	4.8	36,158	46,822	1.29	5.9
Spruce.....	8,764	8,983	1.02	1.5	9,127	10,334	1.13	1.5
Jack Pine.....	3,318	2,986	.90	0.6	1,790	2,710	1.51	0.3
Douglas Fir.....	7,906	29,994	3.79	1.3	612	994	1.62	0.1
Chestnut.....	150	788	5.25	*	228	147	0.64	*
Hemlock.....	555	936	1.69	0.1	50	65	1.30	*
Red Pine.....	156	2,054	13.17	*				
White Pine.....	68	728	10.71	*				
Yellow Pine.....	30	280	9.33	*				
Unspecified.....	942	5,820	6.18	0.2				
STEAM RAILWAYS, TELEPHONES AND TELEGRAPHS								
Total.....	521,572	\$ 764,398	\$1.47	89.1	549,560	\$ 830,793	\$1.51	90.3
Cedar.....	422,588	595,880	1.41	81.0	341,240	462,964	1.36	62.1
Western Cedar.....	57,597	112,234	1.95	11.0	122,925	278,846	2.27	22.4
Balsam Fir.....					38,000	30,400	0.80	6.9
Tamarack.....	28,213	40,394	1.43	5.4	36,158	46,822	1.29	6.6
Spruce.....	8,577	8,730	1.02	1.6	8,567	7,869	0.92	1.6
Jack Pine.....	3,318	2,986	.90	0.6	1,790	2,710	1.51	0.3
Douglas Fir.....					612	995	1.63	0.1
Chestnut.....					228	147	0.64	*
Hemlock.....	555	936	1.69	0.1	40	40	1.00	*
Red Pine.....	156	2,054	13.17	*				
White Pine.....	68	728	10.71	*				
Unspecified.....	500	456	.91	0.1				
ELECTRIC RAILWAYS, POWER AND LIGHT								
Total.....	64,131	\$ 291,879	\$4.55	10.9	58,996	\$ 282,731	\$4.79	9.7
Cedar.....	40,646	150,974	3.71	63.4	37,129	150,615	4.06	62.9
Western Cedar.....	14,757	104,210	7.06	23.0	21,297	129,626	6.09	36.1
Spruce.....	187	253	1.35	0.3	560	2,465	4.40	0.9
Hemlock.....					10	25	2.50	0.0
Douglas Fir.....	7,906	29,994	3.79	12.3				
Chestnut.....	150	788	5.25	0.2				
Yellow Pine.....	30	280	9.33	*				
Tamarack.....	13	16	1.23	*				
Unspecified.....	442	5,364	12.14	0.7				

* Less than one tenth of one per cent.

TABLE 2

KIND OF WOOD	1911				1912			
	Number	Value	Average Value	Per Cent.	Number	Value	Average Value	Per Cent.
20-25 Feet (66.1 Per Cent.)								
Total.....	608,556	\$1,113,524	\$1.83	100.0	402,407	\$ 436,583	\$1.08	100.0
Cedar.....	378,369	613,580	1.62	62.2	263,440	255,508	0.97	65.5
Western Cedar.....	144,222	408,472	2.83	23.7	60,785	102,638	1.69	15.1
Balsam Fir.....	38,000	30,400	0.80	6.2	38,000	30,400	0.80	9.4
Tamarack.....	36,158	46,822	1.29	5.9	32,160	41,267	1.28	8.0
Spruce.....	9,127	10,334	1.13	1.5	7,148	5,607	0.78	1.8
Jack Pine.....	1,790	2,710	1.51	0.3				
Douglas Fir.....	612	994	1.62	0.1	612	994	1.62	0.2
Chestnut.....	228	147	0.64	*	222	129	0.58	*
Hemlock.....	50	65	1.30	*	40	40	1.00	*
26-30 Feet (21.1 Per Cent.)								
Total.....	128,228	310,663	2.42	100.0	47,559	190,634	4.01	100.0
Cedar.....	70,087	165,892	2.37	54.7	27,893	100,143	3.59	58.6
Western Cedar.....	50,594	132,168	2.61	39.5	19,439	90,082	4.63	40.9
Balsam Fir.....								
Tamarack.....	3,771	5,147	1.36	2.9	227	409	1.80	0.5
Spruce.....	1,976	4,721	2.39	1.5				
Jack Pine.....	1,790	2,710	1.51	1.4				
Douglas Fir.....								
Chestnut.....								
Hemlock.....	10	25	2.50	*				
36-40 Feet (3.4 Per Cent.)								
Total.....	20,937	112,648	5.38	100.0	9,425	62,996	6.68	100.0
Cedar.....	12,325	58,089	4.71	58.9	4,624	33,947	7.34	49.1
Western Cedar.....	8,612	54,559	6.34	41.1	4,792	29,025	6.06	50.8
Balsam Fir.....								
Tamarack.....								
Spruce.....					3	6	2.00	*
Jack Pine.....								
Douglas Fir.....								
Chestnut.....								
Hemlock.....					6	18	3.00	*
40 Feet and Over (1.5 Per Cent.)								

* Less than one-tenth of one per cent.

of 549,560 poles in 1912, an increase of 5.4% over the total for 1911, and is evident in the cases of western cedar, tamarack and the newly added material, balsam fir. All other woods show a decrease in number, although Douglas fir and chestnut were added to the list of woods purchased by steam railways. The

poles in greater quantities. They also use more poles of the shorter length classes. These companies used all the poles purchased of balsam fir, tamarack, jack pine, Douglas fir and chestnut. They purchased 90.3% of all the poles used.

The electric railway, power and light companies purchased a total of 58,996