

Forest wealth of Canada.

INADEQUACY OF FOREST SUPPLIES.

In regard to the consumption of forest supplies no full statistics are available, yet we have a better basis for estimates. In the report for the year 1892 it was stated that the total annual consumption cannot fall short of 22,000,000,000 cubic feet, or 350 cubic feet per capita, of all kinds of wood. This figure was arrived at by a series of careful estimates, the basis for which was stated. With additional information furnished by the Eleventh Census, it may be readily increased to 24,000,000,000 feet. The consumption of mill timber (sizable logs) was stated as about 4,000,000,000 cubic feet (now found to be an understatement by 15 per cent), representing about 30,000,000,000 feet, B. M., or between 20 and 25 per cent of the total consumption—a proportion which may be readily admitted to represent a rather extravagant average for the “millable” part of the forest growth, indicating that if we assume the annual growth of such timber per acre at 10 cubic feet, at least 400,000,000 acres of fully stocked forest are necessary to furnish this part of our consumption. Add the consumption of firewood, which is largely made of sizable timber, and it is safe to say that three times that area is necessary to furnish the amount of present consumption by its annual growth. From this statement alone, which is highly favourable to those who claim sufficient and “inexhaustible” supplies, the inadequacy of our forest area to meet growing demands will appear.

QUANTITY AND VALUE OF FOREST PRODUCTS.

The Eleventh Census statistics of lumber production, ably and conscientiously gathered by Mr. George A. Priest, agent of the census, have not yet been published. Like all statistics of this kind, the figures given must be incomplete, always remaining somewhat short of the truth and requiring estimated additions. Nevertheless, they furnish gratifying proof that the above estimates by the writer are within bounds.

By the courtesy of the Superintendent of the Census, the Hon. Carroll D. Wright, the writer is permitted to produce, in advance of the regular publication by the census, a summary statement, prepared in part by Mr. Priest and supplemented by canvass and estimates of this division, showing approximately the variety, quantity, and value of forest products used in the United States during the census year.

AMOUNT and value of forest products used during the census year 1890.

Classes of products.	Quantity.	Estimated cubic contents of forest-grown material. ^b	Value.	
		Cubic feet.		
I. Mill products: a				
Agricultural implement stock.....feet, B.M	30,000,000		\$532,000	
Bobbin and spool stock.....“	49,000,000		688,000	
Carriage and wagon stock.....“	66,000,000		1,306,000	
Furniture stock.....“	94,000,000		1,435,000	
All other sawed lumber.....“	27,630,000,000		310,818,000	
Total sawed lumber.....“	27,869,000,000	4,000,000,000	314,829,000	
Lath.....pieces.	2,365,000,000	}	3,709,924	
Pickets and palings.....“	110,000,000		750,000	
Shingles.....“	9,276,000,000		200,000,000	17,000,000
Staves.....“	1,178,000,000		300,000,000	7,762,000
Headings.....sets	183,000,000		175,000,000	4,934,000
Total lumber and cognate products, directly from logs.....		4,675,000,000	348,984,924	
II. Railroad construction:				
Ties.....pieces.	80,000,000	400,000,000		
Round and hewn timber used for bridges and trestles.....		80,000,000		
Telegraph poles.....		5,000,000		
Total.....		485,000,000	40,000,000	