

imports have increased from \$911,211 in 1874 to \$2,310,836, whilst free imports have risen from \$1,398,870 in 1874 to \$5,939,059 in 1906. For the ten years, 1897 to 1906, inclusive, the total imports amounted to \$59,934,779, \$57,520,731 coming from the United States, \$919,398 from Great Britain, and the remaining \$1,494,541 from other countries. Thus it appears that in recent years about 94 per cent. of imports are from the United States, 2 per cent. from Great Britain, and 4 per cent. from other countries.

The sources of information in regard to forest products available annually are the reports of the cut on Crown lands obtained through the returns furnished to the Dominion and Provincial Governments, but these are incomplete in the respect that they give little or no information of the cut on lands which are held privately, and which furnish a considerable proportion of the total product. The product of the year 1907, as shown by such returns, was in the neighborhood of three and one-half billions of feet, board measure. The pine of the eastern states, including white and red pine, still leads in the production with probably one-third of the total, spruce taking second place with about one-fifth. Other species are not so distinguished in the returns that the quantities can be determined. The hardwood production, as far as the returns show, was less than 2,000,000 feet, board measure.

It is only at the decennial census that information is obtained in regard to the whole forest product, including that from private lands. The census of 1901 showed a product valued at \$51,000,000, and including a total of about nine billion feet, board measure. With the rapid development of the lumber and pulp industries, and the increasing interest in the whole question of the timber supply of Canada, it is desirable that information of a reliable nature in regard to the forest product should be available from year to year. The necessity for such information was recognized some time ago in the United States, and the Forest Service and the Census Bureau have, with the co-operation of the lumber associations and manufacturers, carried out a scheme for gathering annually the statistics of forest production, which is now so fully elaborated as to give reliable results. The report for 1907 shows a cut in the United States of 40,256,154,000 feet, board measure, of lumber, 3,663,602,000 of lath, 11,824,475,000 shingles.

#### Forest Area of Canada.

The information available in regard to the forest area of Canada is of the most general nature, and the various estimates which have been made are uncertain. Actual knowledge is confined to restricted areas and general conclusions are based on deductions therefrom, on judgments from climatic, geologic and other conditions, or on measurements made upon the map. In regard to the timber granted under timber license, and that included in forest reserves, there is fairly definite information, but in regard to the general forest areas knowledge is confined to the routes of travel followed by and reported on by the members of the staff of the Geological Survey. No attempt, except the survey undertaken by the province of Ontario in 1900, has been made either by the Dominion or Provincial Governments to have any systematic examination or estimate of the greater forest areas. In the interests of accurate knowledge of one of the greatest of Canada's natural resources, it is desirable that in all the provinces, and in Dominion territory, a forest survey should be undertaken and systematically carried out throughout the whole forested area.

In the census of 1891 the forest area of Canada was estimated at 799,000,000 acres. More recent estimates reduce the area to between 500,000,000 and 600,000,000 acres, but this will include areas of timber which are not at present merchantable, and for land covered with merchantable timber presently available estimates have been made as low as 200,000,000 acres, and even 100,000,000 acres. These are estimates based from deductions from a general knowledge of conditions or of special areas, and none of them are entitled to great reliability. The stand of timber is even less known, but between five and six hundred billion feet of timber suitable for sawing would be a conservative estimate. In addition there are large areas suitable for pulpwood. The whole forest area of Canada has suffered so severely from fire that the average stand must be computed at a low figure. The area included in forest reserves and parks in the Dominion is 128,060,800 acres, and the area held under timber license or lease is 75,800,000 acres, but these areas overlap to a considerable extent.

#### District Under Dominion Administration.

The district under Dominion administration includes the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and in the province of British Columbia a belt of forty miles in width along the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway and a tract of three million acres at the headwaters of the Peace River. It also includes all the districts outside of provincial jurisdiction. The area under license and permit is 9,422 square miles, or 6,030,080 acres. The area included in forest parks and forest reserves is 16,296 square miles or 10,420,440 acres.

The lumber cut in 1907 was 141,050,292 feet, board measure of lumber, 14,273,300 lath and 60,000 shingles. The cut in the railway belt in British Columbia was 42,000,000 feet, board measure, and the remainder, consisting mainly of spruce, but including also jack pine, tamarack and fir, was cut in the prairie provinces. The official returns do not differentiate the species. No general survey of the timber districts has been made, but special surveys have been made of some of the forest reserves. The forest area has been computed at ninety-six million acres, and the stand of timber at one hundred and ninety-two billion feet, board measure.

#### ORDERS OF THE RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS OF CANADA.

Copies of these orders may be secured from The Canadian Engineer for small fee.

- 14104—June 15—Directing C.N.R. to repair diamond and crossing at Tache Ave., St. Boniface, Man., within 30 days, also that ambulance and street cars have right-of-way over switching movements, under penalty of \$10.00 for each default.
- 14105—June 15—Dismissing complaint of MacPherson Fruit Co., of Winnipeg, Man., re alleged overcharge by Dominion Express Co., on shipment of strawberries from Burlington, Ont., to Winnipeg and Brandon, Manitoba.
- 14106—June 14—Rescinding Order 13119, of February 24th, 1911, re C.N.R. spur on blocks 17, 18, 61, 62, 63, 64, from Russell St., to Fifth Street, between Vanhorne and College Avenues, Brandon, Man.
- 14107—June 14—Directing Brandon, Sask., & H. H. Ry. (G.N.R.), to construct transfer track to connect with C.N.R. and C.P.R. Application, city of Brandon, Manitoba.
- 14108—June 26—Approving by-law of Quebec Railway, Light, Heat & Power Co., authorizing C. E. A. Carr, G. M. or J. A. Everell, Supt., to prepare and issue tariffs of tolls.
- 14109—June 27—Directing C.N.R. to fence its right-of-way and erect farm gates on its Calgary-Vegreville Branch upon which rails have been laid, before August 1st, 1911, under penalty of \$100 per day. Complaint, United Farmers, of Alberta.
- 14110—June 28—Authorizing Quebec Railway, Light and Power Co. to construct its railway across Cote de Courville Road, in village of Montmorency, Province of Quebec.
- 14111—June 28—Approving location and plans for passenger station and restaurant at Cobourg, Ontario.
- 14112—June 28—Approving Vancouver, Fraser Valley & Southern Railway Co.'s Tariff (Std. Freight), C.R.C., No. 1.
- 14113—June 29—Directing that B.C. Electric Co., Ltd., be made party to application re protection by C.P.R. of street crossings in city of Vancouver, B.C.
- 14114—June 22—Directing C.P.R. to furnish certain information to Vancouver Board of Trade within thirty days from date, in connection with segregating annual return.
- 14115—June—General Order re Boiler Inspection, Testing, etc. Order being printed, not yet issued, will send soon as printed.
- 14116—June 30—Authorizing C.P.R. to cross five streets in town of Perth, Ontario.
- 14117—June 29—Authorizing G.T.P. Branch Lines Co. to cross with its Regina-boundary branch highway in municipality of Enniskillen, Sask.
- 14118—June 15—Authorizing G.T.P. Branch Lines Co. to open for carriage of freight traffic its Melville-Regina Branch from Melville to Balcarres, Saskatchewan.
- 14119—June 30—Authorizing G.T.P. to erect station at Pacific Junction Block 25, S.D. of Parish Lots 32-34, St. Charles, Man.
- 14120—June 30—Authorizing G.T.P. Branch Lines Co. to erect 14 stations.
- 14121—June 30—Authorizing G.T.P. Branch Lines Co. to divert road on its Prince Albert Branch, in Province of Saskatchewan.
- 14122—June 28—14123—June 30—Authorizing G.T.P. Railway Co. to cross and divert 12 highways in Province of Alberta, and divert one highway in Province of Manitoba.
- 14124—June 29—Authorizing G.T.P. Branch Lines Co. to construct bridge over Elbow River, at mileage 200.7.
- 14125—June 29—Approving location of G.T.P. Branch Lines Co. Regina-Moose Jaw Branch from east line of Sec. 25, Twp. 17, R. 24, to west line of Sec. 3, Twp. 17, R. 26, west 2nd Meridian, mileage 23.32 to 40.01, Sask.
- 14126—June 30—14127—June 28—Authorizing G.T.P. Branch Lines Co. to cross with its Moose Jaw Northwest Branch 23 highways in Saskatchewan, and cross and divert 4 highways in same province.
- 14128—June 29—Authorizing G.T.R. to cross with four additional tracks, McKinstry, Dickson, Hillyard, Niagara & Wentworth Streets, Hamilton, Ontario.