

The total lumber cut for the province of British Columbia at the present time is approximately 600,000,000, and the mills find the principal markets in the Northwest provinces and Manitoba, which use at least forty per cent of the output on the coast, and practically the entire cut of the mountain mills, or about sixty per cent of all the lumber produced in the Province. In fact, these markets are the key to the industry, as, with the exception of the local trade, they are the only source which absorbs the commoner grades, unsalable in other directions.

The foreign business (by which is meant the cargo trade) ranks next in importance, the principal markets being the United Kingdom, west coast of South America, the Orient and Australia, although shipments find their way to all parts of the globe and enjoy a high reputation wherever sold. This branch of the trade is carried on extensively by several of the Coast mills who make a specialty of catering to it almost exclusively. Up to the present the bulk of the foreign business has been handled by sailing vessels, and this has been something of a drawback owing to the length of time required in delivery; but steam freighters are now becoming more numerous, and their freight rates reasonable enough to permit of the lumber being shipped in this way, thus obviating the necessity of having to rely on the slower and uncertain means of transportation afforded by "sailers."

So far nothing has been done towards utilizing the tremendous amount of material now being wasted in the production of lumber, the greater part of it being either burnt or thrown away as refuse. This waste, representing as it does millions of feet every year, could all be used to advantage in the production of any number of marketable commodities.

In thus neglecting the opportunities for utilizing profitably by-products this section has only followed the usual method of those who have come first to new countries and reaped the richest rewards in the luxuriance of more valuable products and no doubt in a short time the so-called waste materials will be made to yield fortunes to those who are now coming here, thus adding immeasurably to the sum of the wealth attributable to the timber resources of the section, and to the commerce accredited to Vancouver, through the business channels of which city a large percentage of all products will be marketed.

THE FISHING INDUSTRY

The fishing industry, which brings millions of dollars into the province of British Columbia every year also centres in Vancouver, nearly four-

fifths of the total output of the province being accredited to the Fraser river canneries.

From the time of the coming of the earliest European settlers to British Columbia the extreme abundance of the fish in these waters has been known and noted. Tribes of Indians were found subsisting almost entirely upon fish. Salmon, fresh in spring and summer; dried in winter, formed the staple food of more than one interior tribe, while the herring, the fish itself and the spawn collected and dried, was an important article of food amongst the coast tribes.

It is, however, only about thirty years since the fisheries of British Columbia began to assume commercial importance, for in 1876 were packed fewer than 10,000 cases of salmon (the packing of this variety being the most important phase of the industry), and twenty years later the output was more than one hundred times as great, with the limit not yet reached. This record, however, is sufficient to give the fisheries of British Columbia the distinction of being the most prolific and valuable, not only in the Dominion of Canada, but of the whole world.

An adequate idea of the importance of the fisheries of British Columbia can be gathered from the annual report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries at Ottawa:

"The Province of British Columbia shows the vast increase of over \$4,500,000. For the first time in the history of our record has Nova Scotia been superseded as the banner fish-producing province of Canada. That was in 1905, when the total yield of Canadian fisheries was \$20,479,562, of which British Columbia contributed \$2,850,216, about 30 per cent. Of this grand total, \$8,330,713 was derived from salmon, halibut contributing \$445,070 and herring \$243,140. These figures, while proving beyond question the great commercial value of British Columbia's salmon fisheries, suggest the immense possibilities which await the development of the numerous other branches of the fishing business. The product of the Atlantic coast fisheries, long recognized as a prime factor in the economic fabric of Canada will one day be equalled and probably surpassed by those of British Columbia. Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec produced fish to the value of \$15,109,891 in 1905, as against British Columbia's \$2,850,216; but it must be borne in mind that the Atlantic fisheries have reached almost their maximum of development, while those of the Pacific have been seriously attacked in only one branch—salmon. It is, therefore, but reasonable to expect very different results when British Columbia's fisheries reach the same stage of development,