

FOREST PRODUCTS OF CANADA.

For a proper understanding of the position of Canada as a forest country it is necessary to have definite information in regard to (1) the forest area of the Dominion, (2) the stand of timber, (3) the production of timber and other forest products, (4) the export and import of forest products. It is proposed to discuss in this report to what extent such information is available in Canada, to give such statistics as are reliable and to indicate the means which should be taken to obtain the definite information which is necessary.

EXPORTS.

The most definite and complete statistics in relation to forest products are those in regard to import and export furnished by the trade returns. These show that in 1868 the total unmanufactured wood products exported were valued at \$18,712,625, while in 1908 they reached the sum of \$41,179,170. Manufactured wood products in 1908 amounted to \$4,997,795, making a total for 1908 of \$49,168,265.

Of the unmanufactured wood products \$42,956,521 went to other parts of the British Empire, including \$14,843,094 to Great Britain; \$27,470,574 went to the United States; \$404,280 went to the Continent of Europe; \$2,968,246 to South America and the West Indian Islands; \$412,445 to Mexico, and \$163,509 to China and Japan. It will be noticed that the United States is a customer for over 60 per cent and Great Britain for over 25 per cent.

The square timber trade declined from 654,736 tons valued at \$4,188,862 in 1868 to 59,833 tons valued at \$1,520,005 in 1908. The average price per cubic foot increased from 46 cents to 63 cents. Timber was prepared in this way for shipping to Great Britain and the chief advantages were the removal of sapwood and the greater convenience over round logs in lading vessels. It is a decided advantage to have this wasteful method replaced by the shipping of deals to the British market.

In 1890 the value of the pulpwood exported was \$80,005. Much the greater proportion in each year has gone to the United States, and since 1907 the whole export has been to that country. In 1904 the export to the United States was 479,238 cords valued at \$1,788,049, and in 1908 901,861 cords valued at \$4,655,374. From these figures it will be seen that in five years the quantity of pulpwood exported from Canada to the United States has almost doubled, and that its value has increased 160 per cent. The increase per cord was from \$3.73 to \$5.16. The last report, that of 1907, in regard to consumption of pulpwood in the United States shows a total of 3,664,176 cords, of which the Canadian product formed about one-fourth.

The value of wood pulp exported in 1890 was \$168,180, and in 1908 \$4,037,852; the value of the export to the United States being \$3,545,530, and to Great Britain \$485,199. The quantity of mechanically ground pulp exported was 4,027,939 cwt., and of chemically prepared pulp 783,224 cwt.

The total export of wood products would be about three billion feet, board measure.