

and ship them green. As a matter of fact the lumbermen with whom we conferred during the whole period of the conference pointed out to us the necessity of shipping dry lumber if we hoped to regain our former position.

Mr. POWER: May I interrupt my hon. friend to say that last week I conferred with quite a number of lumbermen who in past years have been in the habit of shipping to the United Kingdom market, and they all told me that if the logs were cut next summer they could be shipped to the British market in August or September.

Mr. NICHOLSON: I will grant that it may be possible to ship a limited quantity of certain sizes of lumber which may be sawn in May and June, as early as September and October of next year, but in the general sense anyone who has had anything to do with the manufacture and sale of lumber knows that, to be merchantable, it must be in pile at least twelve months.

Mr. NEILL: Do you not use dry kilns?

Mr. NICHOLSON: No; to dry kiln the lumber produced in the saw mills of this country would be an absolutely impracticable proposition. It may be all right for small quantities of hardwood, but to undertake to put one hundred million feet, for example, through dry kilns would be impossible. I think it would be found that the cost of drying that lumber would effectively put us out of the market. Lumber is air dried in Russia, Norway and Sweden, except in special cases. It may not be air dried in British Columbia, but British Columbia will come to air dried lumber if they are to compete in the United Kingdom market. There is just one other point, Mr. Chairman. It has been stated that under this preference we cannot compete. I will admit at once that the lumbermen's committee never expected that under the conditions at present prevailing we would be able to get back into the market in a large way, but they do expect that in two or three years we will be able to recapture the British market. We will not be ready before then, but we can recapture that market in fair competition with any country in the world. We cannot recapture it in the face of competition of the character that has prevailed for the last seven or eight years.

My hon. friend from Quebec South, as well as the hon. member for Comox-Alberni, referred to Norway as the country with which we had to compete. We competed successfully with Norway before we lost the market; we shipped as much as 1,250,000,000 feet into

the British market in competition with Norway, Sweden and every other country in the world, with no preference at all. It is true that today Norway and Sweden have depressed wages; it is true that the lumber situation there is about as bad as it is here, if it is not worse, but hon. gentlemen are confusing cause and effect. What has brought the lumber trade to that condition in the Scandinavian countries? It is the same thing that has brought about the condition which exists in Canada; Russian dumping.

Mr. MUNN: May I ask a question? Is it not true that the bulk of the timber we ship to Great Britain in competition with Norway is higher grade stuff that cannot be supplied by that country, generally speaking?

Mr. NICHOLSON: No, that is not so. The large volume of the lumber shipped from eastern Canada—I cannot speak for British Columbia, though my hon. friend may know—

Mr. MUNN: I am speaking of eastern Canada.

Mr. NICHOLSON: The large volume of lumber from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and eastern Ontario was spruce and red pine. There was also a substantial volume of white pine, but spruce, red pine and jack-pine compared identically with what was known as northern white wood and northern redwood. It was exactly the same type of timber, and we had a very splendid market. My hon. friend shakes his head. Perhaps he knows more about the lumber trade than I know; perhaps he knows more about it than is known by the men from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and eastern Quebec, but if the hon. member will investigate I think he will find that I am correct. We of course shipped a substantial volume of white pine; there is no other country in the world that can supply the volume of high grade white pine that can be supplied by eastern Canada, but white pine has been forced off the British market by the importation of northern Siberian pine from Russia. My hon. friend should know that, since he is in the lumber trade. During the five year period ending in 1930 Norway shipped to the United Kingdom just 2.5 per cent of the total United Kingdom imports, while in 1931 Russia alone exported to the United Kingdom almost 40 per cent of her total requirements.

There is just one other matter to which I should like to refer in regard to this question of dumping. While our committee was in session here during the progress of the imperial conference, presenting our case as strongly as we could, we received a telegram