

mile, was \$10,977. Each ranger would have an average of 750 square miles of territory under his supervision, and the average cost to the licensee would be \$152 per ranger. It must be admitted that seventy-two rangers are not sufficient to patrol 62,700 square miles, and the wages of all the extra rangers necessary for the proper protection of the limits must be paid by the limit holders.

In the Province of Ontario there were under license in 1903 17,033 square miles of timber limits, on which two hundred and forty-four fire rangers were employed. The cost to the licensees was \$31,257. Thus there would be provided one ranger to every seventy square miles, at an average cost to the licensee of \$138 per ranger. The cost of extinguishing fires is divided between the Government and the licensee.

The Ontario Government and the timber limit holders alike seem well satisfied with the operation of the fire ranging system, and other provinces might, with advantage we think, adopt this system. Unfortunately, several of the provincial governments have as yet made no provision for fire ranging. Whether or not the destructive fires which have occurred recently in British Columbia would have been prevented by a staff of fire rangers we cannot say, but no time should be lost in adopting such regulations as would be likely to reduce the danger from fire to the minimum.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

According to the Government reports, for the period of ten months ended April 30th of the present year, lumber was imported into Canada, largely from the United States, to the value of \$4,676,556, as against \$2,920,876 in the corresponding period of the previous year. Thus American lumber sent into Canada almost doubled in value in the last ten months, as stated.

Occasionally argument is heard against the imposition of an import duty on United States lumber. A gentleman who deprecates the idea of taxing raw material, and who has given some study to the Canadian timber supply, points out that increasing difficulty is being experienced by lumber dealers and contractors in securing bill stuff in Canada. He claims that white pine has become too valuable to be used for that purpose, and that it is almost impossible to get a large order for dimension timber executed by the white pine mills. For this reason he argues that we must import southern pine. His remarks, of course, were intended to apply particularly to Ontario. It is an argument that has not been advanced heretofore to our knowledge, and one which is entitled to some consideration.

The lumber manufacturers of Nova Scotia are likely to adopt a wise policy in connection with the coming winter's logging operations. In view of the prevailing depression in the British market and the low price of spruce lumber, there is a strong feeling in favor of curtailing the production of logs, a decrease of 50 per cent. being spoken of. A meeting of the Lumbermen's Association will be held at

an early date, at which such action is likely to be agreed upon. It is probable that it will also be decided to hold such lumber as is now on hand rather than attempt to market it in Great Britain. Such a policy is to be commended and we sincerely hope that it may be strictly carried out. Timber is too valuable to be sacrificed, and it will make more money for its owner by being permitted to stand in the tree than if cut down and sold at an unfavorable time.

We would direct the attention of our readers, and especially the retail dealers of Manitoba and the North-West Territories, to the large number of lumber and shingle manufacturers of British Columbia now advertising the products of their mills in the columns of the monthly and weekly issues of THE CANADA LUMBERMAN. The list includes some thirty-five of the largest firms in the province and

represents an invested capital of about \$20,000,000. During the past twelve months these manufacturers have marketed their stocks in Manitoba and the Territories in the face of considerable difficulties and disadvantages, such as excessive freight rates and the competition of surplus stocks of low grade American lumber; but, with this latter evil eliminated, as we hope it will be, the volume of trade is certain to assume very large proportions. This is as it should be, and we feel convinced that the longer the acquaintance of the buyer with the B. C. mill products, the more convinced will he become of their excellent qualities, and we assure all retailers that they will do well when in search of lumber to carefully consider the B. C. product.

Subscribers are expected to send us lumber news items from their locality. Don't neglect to advise us of all improvements, business changes, etc.

IMPORTS OF FOREST PRODUCTS

The following table shows the value of the products of the forest imported free of duty into Canada from the United States during the months of March, April, May, and June, 1904. The table is compiled from the unrevised monthly statements of imports and exports issued by the Department of Trade and Commerce:

Class of Timber.	March. Value.	April. Value.	May. Value.	June. Value.
Sawed or split boards, planks, deals and other lumber.....	\$207,405	\$260,904	\$236,800	\$388,904
Logs and round unmanufactured timber.....	29,894	11,062	17,885	84,487
Timber or lumber, hewn or sawed, square or sided.....	6,489	29,967	11,705	46,005
Cherry, chestnut, gumwood, hickory and white wood.....	45,861	42,633	55,561	48,625
Oak.....	122,823	137,252	125,926	164,382
Pitch pine.....	14,887	19,562	29,745	69,401
Mahogany.....	4,342	15,259	5,885	6,840
White ash.....	15,279	9,770	14,469	10,155
Walnut.....	2,855	9,259	4,161	4,606
Spanish cedar.....	322	313	317	
African teak.....	1,498	316	139	586
Pine and spruce clapboards.....	1,651	747	361	18
Laths.....	3,335	7,379	4,825	10,139
Shingles.....	1,621	3,058	693	976
Staves.....	16,502	8,013	15,011	8,465
Shovel handles.....	6,520	2,209	2,698	7,370
Felloes of hickory, rough sawn to shape only.....	1,936	2,560	4,412	2,834
Handle, heading, stave and shingle bolts.....	4,136	1,526	4,291	381
Hickory billets.....	555	79	110	979
Hickory for spokes of wheels.....	390	253	244	76
Hickory spokes, rough turned.....	27,279	29,860	18,027	22,144
Hubs for wheels, posts, last blocks, etc.....	4,219	2,596	3,287	4,138
Fence posts and railroad ties.....	4,346	13,572	8,830	28,693
Total.....	\$524,265	\$601,169	\$625,382	\$910,214

EXPORTS OF FOREST PRODUCTS

The following table shows the value of the products of the forest exported from Canada to the United States during the months of March, April, May, and June, 1904. The table is compiled from the unrevised monthly statements of imports and exports issued by the Department of Trade and Commerce:

Class of Timber.	March. Value.	April. Value.	May. Value.	June. Value.
Planks and boards.....	\$205,830	\$347,191	\$523,091	\$1,572,224
Basswood lumber.....	332	756	425	1,866
Pine deals.....	237	1,338	7,890	7,508
Spruce and other lumber.....		12,696	7,819	15,227
Laths.....	28,391	29,857	54,830	135,431
Pickets.....	238	341	6,215	18,586
Scantling.....	3,387	1,698	16,230	16,267
Shingles.....	75,578	1,6429	153,137	252,697
Shooks.....	1,605	379	6,943	7,250
Staves and headings.....	4,217	4,256	8,382	12,840
Telegraph and other poles.....	1,155	4,924	1,990	6,205
Cedar and tamarac posts.....		1,397	2,262	7,856
Shingle bolts.....	500	138	350	180
Sleepers and railroad ties.....	5,816	12,493	14,327	34,490
Stave bolts.....	701	113	163	930
White pine timber.....	574			25
All other square timber.....	431	507	265	808
Pulp wood.....	117,229	142,204	163,225	277,531
Lumber not elsewhere specified.....	3,480	5,783	14,195	17,868
Cedar logs.....	90		700	4,920
Elm logs.....	24	370	70	1,115
Hemlock logs.....	576	48	15,497	1,343
Spruce logs.....	2,702	2,958	33,221	5,957
All other logs.....	16,692	10,429	30,747	63,399
Total.....	\$469,585	\$716,305	\$1,062,004	\$2,462,509