

district of Ottawa to the United States, as furnished by the United States Consulate General, shows a decrease as compared with 1897 of over \$1,000,000. The detailed figures for the four quarters of the last three years are as follows:

EXPORTS FROM OTTAWA CONSULAR DISTRICT FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1896.

ARTICLE.	Qr. ending March 31.	Qr. ending June 30.	Qr. ending Sept. 30.	Qr. ending Dec. 31.
Bark	\$ 1,724.00	\$	\$	\$
Lath	3,577.30	27,497.91	27,415.38	22,283.65
Lumber	97,265.15	658,803.82	514,979.02	5,512,943
Pulp Sulphite	16,678.95	12,332.8	8,039.53	3,763.12
Cordwood	30.0			14.75
Shingles	2,160.05	6,051.9	6,957.48	15,178.5
Railroad Ties	6,539.82	5,469.84	603.0	636.02
Logs	129.00			
Timber	425.82	1,960.50	5,745.81	154.32
Pickets	5,39.95	749.90	964.74	
Curtain Sticks		3,583.73	3,704.9*	
Match Blocks		2,790.5	731.5	960.00
Posts and Poles		93.00		30.00
Pulpwood		157.50	297.00	
Total	\$333,349.12	\$722,218.95	\$562,133.34	\$48,401.57

EXPORTS FROM OTTAWA CONSULAR DISTRICT FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1897.

ARTICLE.	Qr. ending March 31.	Qr. ending June 30.	Qr. ending Sept. 30.	Qr. ending Dec. 31.
Bark	\$ 5,000.00	\$	\$	\$
Curtain Sticks		10,466.8	3,069.47	
Lath	7,379.99	14,391.74	14,632.24	14,097.47
Lumber	467,510.05	1,334,607.71	364,025.63	191,648.80
Logs	220.00			
Match Blocks	966.00	17,880.83	83.33	594.00
Pickets	6,824.39	3,823.13	1,079.62	
Posts and Poles	147.52	1,390.65		405.05
Pulp Sulphite		12,630.91	5,225.90	2,746.61
Pulpwood		128.00		131.02
Shingles	57,401	14,641.81	8,347.7	5,475.51
Railroad Ties		4,738.80	2,712.74	
Timber		0.0	2,210.77	601.50
Total	\$489,007.54	\$1,434,350.65	\$418,374.53	\$48,833.13

EXPORTS FROM OTTAWA CONSULAR DISTRICT FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1898.

ARTICLE.	Qr. ending March 31.	Qr. ending June 30.	Qr. ending Sept. 30.	Qr. ending Dec. 31.
Lath	\$ 363.26	\$ 3,027.48	\$ 8,217.85	\$ 9,957.79
Lumber	1,028,910.0	450,634.34	358,489.31	358,145.14
Logs	75.42			
Match Blocks	4,554.75	4,917.75	8,16.82	5,774.5
Pickets	4,587.4	4,587.4	6,744.08	7,901.84
Posts and Poles		601.70		454.48
Pulp Sulphite	7,218.19	1,100.74		
Pulp Wood				5,500.00
Railroad Ties	22,243	4,535.64	860.77	14,615
Wood Board			80.6	898.98
Timber		2,070.01	7,509.99	45,773
Shingles	1,275.25	6,191.08	9,416.7	10,651.25
Total	\$1,115,665.65	\$458,000.98	\$499,491.7	\$9,110.82
Grand Total	1896		\$2,170,990.60	
"	1897		2,261,550.83	
"	1898		1,509,001.4	

QUEBEC.

The year was not a particularly prosperous one for the lumbermen of the province of Quebec. The local trade was below the average, and shipments made to the United States were sold at such a low figure as to leave but a small margin of profit. The price of hemlock and spruce at New England points was lower than before the United States duty was imposed, and as a result only very moderate sales were made, leaving manufacturers with heavy stocks. Work in the woods is therefore being restricted, although a larger quantity of spruce will be taken out for pulp wood. Owing to the depression in the United States trade, a tendency is slow to work stocks of all kinds into the British market. The export trade of the year was not altogether satisfactory. Spruce and pine deals were marketed in foreign countries to about the same extent as in 1897, but prices of the lower grades of spruce weakened slightly in sympathy with the depression in the Maritime provinces trade. The South American market was more active than for several years. From the port of Montreal there were shipped during the season to the United Kingdom and continental ports 323,435,266 feet board measure, an increase over the previous year of 2,632,533 feet. To the River Platte and South America there were shipped 11,993,924 ft. board measure, an increase over 1897 of 11,576,419 ft. The following table shows the quantity shipped by the various exporters, and a comparison with the previous year:

	1897 Feet	1898 Feet
Dobell, Beckett & Co.	98,000,000	76,924,116
W. & J. Sharples	56,829,640	62,488,502
R. Cox & Co.	38,125,185	44,819,842
J. Burstall & Co.	36,390,608	39,627,140
McArthur Bros.	32,786,506	35,595,538
Watson & Todd	30,359,130	30,802,571
E. H. Lemay	8,000,000	5,122,000
Sundry shippers	20,382,664	28,045,557
Total	320,802,433	323,625,266

The statement below shows the quantity and value of lumber and timber exported from the ports named:

PORTS.	ARTICLES.	QUANTITY.	VALUE.
Montreal	Pine Deals	78,565 Std. H.	\$3,622,910
	Spruce Deals	12,212 "	352,347
	Deal Ends	7,498 "	445,835
	Planks, Boards, &c.	35,858 M. ft.	747,048
	Square Timber		125,319
	Other Headings		110,165
	Total value.		\$5,403,605
Three Rivers and Batiscan	Pine Deals	7,503 Std. H.	\$343,526
	Spruce Deals		230,632
	Pulp Wood		260,113
	Planks, Boards, &c.		88,422
	Total value.		\$939,693
Sorel	Pine Deals	927 Std. H.	\$37,483
	Spruce Deals	7,241 "	60,460
	Planks, Boards, &c.	1,528 M. ft.	15,377
	Other Headings		7,018
	Total value.		\$120,368

Mr. James Patton, supervisor of cullers, furnishes the following comparative statement for three years of the chief kinds of timber measured and culled at that port:

STATEMENT OF TIMBER MEASURED AND CULLED AT THE PORT OF QUEBEC DURING THE SEASON OF 1898.

Description of Timber.	1896.		1897.		1898.	
	Cubic Ft.	1896.	Cubic Ft.	1897.	Cubic Ft.	1898.
Waney White Pine	2,870,879	4,311,340	1,903,148			
Square White Pine	316,093	832,589	1,062,157			
" Red Pine	50,609	211,217	239,512			
" Oak	1,139,155	1,448,960	1,072,588			
" Elm	416,625	666,577	474,194			
" Ash	83,749	132,435	35,104			
" Birch	252,424	262,297				

There were also measured this year, 955 cubic feet of butternut, 1,049 feet of maple, 513 feet of spruce, 113 feet of walnut, 2,600 feet of hickory, 2,915 feet of whitewood, and 3,682 feet of cherry.

The timber trade of Quebec is reviewed by J. Bell Forsyth's annual circular as follows:

The past season shows a diminution in the business of the port in wood goods, with the exception of spruce deals, pine boards and sidings shipped from Montreal, and Ottawa pine deals, now almost altogether sent from same port, continue, year by year in an increased degree, to displace waney and square pine in the markets of the United Kingdom. Prices have remained without alteration in this market in nearly all lines, though forced down by oversupply and competition in the home markets.

Ship-building in the United Kingdom has never been in a more satisfactory condition, but the consumption of Canadian wood in connection with this business is a diminishing quantity. General prospects and present volume of business in other lines are distinctly good and promising.

WHITE PINE.—With a diminished export the stock of square pine has increased considerably, and that of waney pine slightly, as compared with last year, but square pine suitable for deck plank purposes and waney pine of really first class quality and good average size, are comparatively light in stock. The Ottawa, Western and Michigan production will all be exceedingly light this winter.

	Supply	Export.	Stock.
1898 { Square	1,062,157	3,015,320	{ 1,353,799 Square. 2,451,838 Waney. 482,839 Square. 2,288,249 Waney.
1898 { Waney	1,903,148		
1897 { Square	832,589		
1897 { Waney	4,311,340	3,773,040	

RED PINE. The stock is heavier than last year, and ample for reduced demand. The price must advance considerably to induce increased manufacture.

	Supply	Export.	Stock.
1898	239,512	145,600	391,639
1897	211,217	168,760	183,552

OAK.—Shipments have been light as compared with recent years, and stock is heavier than last or preceding winter in consequence. Manufacture will not be heavy.

	Supply	Export.	Stock.
1898	1,072,588	949,095	942,995
1897	1,448,960	1,412,200	694,111

ELM. Has been in good demand at full prices all season, and stock is under last year. Suitable standing timber is now very difficult to obtain,

especially of large size, and a scarcity seems probable at no distant date.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1898	474,194	459,020	138,029
1897	662,577	587,080	163,522

ASH.—The stock is exceedingly light, and wood of large average and good color is scarce and difficult to obtain, manufacture will be small.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1898	35,164	74,040	9,579
1897	132,435	76,200	93,744

BIRCH.—Reduced production last winter has resulted in little being left on hand to winter. New wood of good lengths seems likely to be required, but production is easily overdone.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1898	211,451	211,000	16
1897	262,297	214,080	24,717

PINE DEALS.—Until shorter rail communication with Hawkesbury and Ottawa is established by the completion of the Great Northern extension of the Parry Sound Road, pine deals will continue to be shipped almost altogether from Montreal, though the business is largely controlled and carried on by Quebec houses. There seems to be probability of producers accepting any reduction on last year's prices for new cuttings, and United States duty is taken off lumber, an advance may be established.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1898	392,381	192,581	152,843
1897	601,864	49,716	168,853

SPRUCE DEALS.—Continue in an unsatisfactory position, owing to heavy production and competition of Baltic whitewood at reduced prices. A removal or reduction of the United States duty on sawn spruce lumber would greatly benefit the owners. The increased business in pulp wood is sending up the value of spruce limits.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1898	3,881,670	3,592,782	1,132,005
1897	3,049,322	3,753,107	1,071,313

FREIGHTS.—Opened at same figures as last year, seventeen shillings for Clyde, and nineteen shillings for Liverpool for timber cargoes by rail. Quebec loading, and forty shillings for deals by steam liners from Montreal to leading U.K. ports, with half a crown more for entire steamers. As season advanced chartering became difficult even at advanced rates, but the summer freights returned to spring level. In the fall the usual advance, consequent on increased insurance paid by steamers after September loading, took place, but was not so marked as last year.

THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

Low prices, a weak demand, and high freight rates, were the characteristic features of the timber trade of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in 1898. The British market was overstocked with spruce deals from these provinces in the previous year, and consequently when navigation opened it was difficult to obtain a quotation from shippers which would more than cover the cost of production. Profiting by experience, the lumbermen operated in the woods in the winter of 1897-98 very moderately, and much less than the usual quantity of logs was taken out for manufacture. In New Brunswick the production of lumber last year was curtailed by nearly one-half in comparison with 1897, and in Nova Scotia the output was restricted to some extent. To this is due the improvement in the market which took place in the early fall. Stocks having become reduced both at home and abroad, prices showed a tendency to stiffen, and some sales were made at a considerable gain over the quotations of the spring. But, partly owing to the Spanish-American war, freight rates fluctuated greatly, making it difficult to calculate, and rendering the results of contracting on c. i. f. terms very uncertain. It can be truly said that British shipments, on the whole, were unsatisfactory.

One advantage of the prevailing low prices was in opening up a new market for spruce. Hitherto Canadian spruce was little known on the east