

paid \$292,099 and the value of products at \$1,057,810. The comparison of these figures shows for the ten years an increase of 3,053 per cent. in the capital invested, of 1,758 per cent. in the wages paid, and of 157 per cent. in the value of the products turned out. Until the present census returns are published, the statistics of 1891 are the only correct and complete figures to hand respecting the consumption of spruce in the four older provinces of the Dominion, in which for many years to come the pulp industry is bound to increase in importance. According to the figures of the 1891 census the whole of the spruce consumed in the four provinces for all purposes amounted to 5,146,236,287 feet, of which 2,958,926,740 feet were consumed for sawlogs, 1,566,412,166 feet for firewood, 212,582,464 feet for square timber, 111,889,150 feet for lathwood, 130,400,000 feet for pulpwood, 98,267,801 feet for railway sleepers, and 67,749,166 feet for shingles. In each of the provinces respectively the pulp wood used as follows : Ontario, 57,457,800 feet ; Quebec, 1,812,740,038 feet ; New Brunswick, 650,388,898 feet, and Nova Scotia 705,226,450 feet. The proportion of pulp wood to the other uses spruce had been put to when these figures were compiled was 2.53 per cent. for the four provinces together, 2.90 per cent. for Ontario, 3.51 per cent. for Quebec, 903 per cent. for New Brunswick, and 0.23 per cent. for Nova Scotia.

The extent of our spruce forests may be faintly imagined by stating the fact, that if since the date of the last census there has been cleared and put under crop about

2,000,000 acres of wood lands in Ontario, 1,500,000 acres in Quebec, 250,000 acres in New Brunswick, and 300,000 in Nova Scotia, the present forest area in Ontario would be 52,818,420 acres ; Quebec, 144,363,454 acres ; New Brunswick, 11,224,540 acres, and Nova Scotia, 10,853,544 acres. If this is divided by 260,818 acres, which is about the area demanded each year, even if the pulp industry were to consume 1,500,000 tons a year, it is estimated that it would take 840 years to exhaust our spruce forests. The period of exhaustion for Ontario is estimated at 860 years, Quebec, 1,103 years ; New Brunswick, 987 years, and Nova Scotia 3,255 years. It is well known, however, that where operations were carried out in a wise and provident manner, a spruce forest renews itself every fifteen or twenty years at most, so that the increasing magnitude of the pulp industry need not give rise to serious apprehensions with respect to the total destruction of our forests. The great dangers in this respect are fire and the abuses committed under pretext of colonization and wastefulness in lumbering operations. Some idea of the value of the timber destroyed by fire in our forests may be obtained by taking the province of Quebec as an instance. In this province the value of the timber destroyed in the forests of Lake St. John, the St. Maurice and the Ottawa would pay the whole of the provincial debt and still leave several millions to spend in developing our resources. In the Saguenay and Labrador districts, the ravages caused by fire have been more extensive, if not more disastrous, as regards the