

## CANADIAN FORESTRY STATISTICS

Total Forest Area of the Dominion is Placed at  
535,000,000 Acres

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The area of the forest-bearing land in the Dominion of Canada has been variously estimated, and even now it is not exactly known. A few years ago Mr. R. H. Campbell, Dominion Director of Forestry, after careful study and correspondence with authorities, placed the total forest area at 535,000,000 acres. The present uncertainty as to the actual extent of the forest areas of Canada bids fair, however, soon to be dispelled. Already the Government of Nova Scotia has made a rapid survey of its timber-lands, and the returns, which may be regarded as approximately correct, show that the area in that province at present actually forested is about 6,600,000 acres. The amount of coniferous (or softwood) saw-timber is in the neighborhood of 10,000,000,000 feet, board measure, and that of pulpwood is about 24,000,000 cords. Every summer for some years past the Dominion Department of the Interior, through its forestry branch, has had several parties in the field investigating the resources of areas reported to be forested. During the summer of 1912, and again in the present summer, the forestry branch of the British Columbia Government has energetically investigated the vast forest wealth of that province. Quebec, too, has an efficient and active forest service working along similar lines.

## Mostly of Coniferous Species.

The forests of Canada consist mostly of coniferous species: pine and spruce, with hemlock, balsam fir and tamarack in the east and Douglas fir, western hemlock and western larch in the west. In the east the hardwoods comprise poplar, birch, beech and maple with some elm, ash and a few other minor species. Only in southern Ontario is there anything like the variety of hardwoods that is to be found in the Appalachian region of the United States.

In the report for 1911 of the Dominion Director of Forestry, Mr. H. R. MacMillan, now chief forester for the province of British Columbia, estimated from statistics collected by the forestry branch that the quantity of wood actually taken from the forests of Canada in 1909 was 2,896,000,000 cubic feet, with a total value of \$166,000,000. Of this quantity about one-half (estimated at 1,430,000,000 cubic feet) was used for firewood, and of the remainder, owing to the great waste of material in the woods, only about one-half was likely to be actually used.

## Canada's Wood Manufactures.

The forestry branch of the Department of the Interior has established a system for the collection of statistics relating to the different wood-manufactures of the Dominion. Returns published for the year 1911 show the following as the quantities and values of wood used:—

| Description.                                   | Quantity.     | Value.       |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Lumber, bd. ft. ....                           | 4,918,202,000 | \$75,830,954 |
| Square timber for export, tons ....            | 34,847        | 766,406      |
| Lath, pieces ....                              | 965,235,000   | 2,212,226    |
| Shingles, pieces ....                          | 1,838,474,000 | 3,512,078    |
| Pulpwood manufactured in Canada, cords ....    | 672,288       | 4,338,024    |
| Pulpwood exported (unmanufactured), cords..... | 847,939       | 5,340,592    |
| Cooperage (slack), pieces ....                 | 147,374,000   | 1,465,702    |
| Cooperage (tight), pieces ....                 | 5,762,000     | —            |
| Railway ties, pieces ....                      | 13,683,770    | 5,237,424    |
| Poles, pieces ....                             | 585,703       | 1,056,277    |

## Scarcity of Valuable Species.

The statistics collected by the forestry branch since 1908 reveal an increasing scarcity of the more valuable species, and show that species once practically ignored are now being adopted for lumbering purposes. Even in 1908 white pine (once practically the only kind of wood used) still led in lumber manufacture; but for some years the quantity of spruce used has exceeded that of pine; and it is now the most largely used species in the Dominion. The Douglas fir of the western provinces has made rapid progress and now stands third on the list of lumber woods. Hemlock, once entirely passed by the log-maker, stands fourth in point of quantity sawn for lumber. Similarly while spruce still easily leads among woods used for pulp, balsam fir (or "balsam")—which once had to bear the blame for nearly every poor "run" of paper manufactured—is more and more being used for pulp, though the consumption is still only one-fourth that of spruce. For railway ties jack pine has replaced cedar, and it is first on the list, though for poles the cedar is still easily first.

## PACIFIC COAST PROGRESS WILL CONTINUE

Says Sir Richard McBride at Vancouver—Preparations for Future Development

(Staff correspondence.)

Vancouver, June 30th.

Sir Richard McBride, when he spoke before the Vancouver Progress Club, commented on the financial stringency, and remarked that public works in many municipalities were held back because of the lack of funds, but he said there was no reason why any resident of British Columbia should lose heart. Conditions were such that progress was bound to continue. The premier spoke at some length on the railway policy of the Government, declaring that all the lines now under construction in the province would be completed in two years. This increase in transportation facilities would materially assist in expansion in this province. He said that officials of the Northern Pacific were negotiating with the Government for right of way over the Fraser River bridge, and that the Chicago, Milwaukee and Puget Sound line would also come in. This railway was mentioned in a general way, but coming as it did from the first minister, coupled with rumors which have been prevalent, considerable importance is attached to it.

A further instance of activity was that the Western Canada Power Company would soon enter the field as a competitor with the British Columbia Electric.

## North Pacific Shipping Route.

There have been indications of late that big shipping interests are watching the Northern Pacific routes. More than one new service of freight boats to and from this coast has been started since the first of this year. Perhaps the principal has been the inauguration of a service between Canada and the Orient by the big new Empress steamers of the Canadian Pacific Railway. That there will be greater commercial possibilities as far as this route is concerned is evident from the fact that the Blue Funnel liner Ajax has arrived from Yokohama, being the first of the Holt steamers to be placed in this service to augment the sailings of the regular European fleet. She will trade between American and Canadian Pacific coasts points and the Orient.

Mr. Griffith R. Hughes, of Victoria, who has returned from a tour of the world, has expressed the opinion that the apparent reluctance of the British small investor to risk his capital in Canada and the other colonies, is due to the fact that several dubious propositions have been offered them. Some years ago it was mining, and recently it has been real estate. Mr. Hughes says the result has been to make the people who might be glad to find a legitimate investment in these growing countries, and more especially its western sections of Canada, very timid. He believes that this feeling will not continue for long, when the character of many of the investments are realized.

## Light and Power Developments.

The British Columbia Electric's big gas plant investment is coming to the front again. It is proposed to spend about three million dollars. This company operates in Vancouver now under the old franchise of the Vancouver Gas Company. Since the new site is out of the city limits, it is proposed to operate under the charter of the British Columbia Gas Company. As soon as necessary preliminaries can be carried out, No. 1 unit, costing \$750,000, will be started. There are three units in the whole, and the site has an area of seven acres.

That capitalists are looking ahead is indicated by the project to develop a water power on Bridge River, by the Bridge River Company, composed of Vancouver interests. The location is on the route of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway. If plans are carried out, the expenditure will be about \$8,000,000. The scheme has been favorably reported upon by engineers. The proposed power house will be within forty miles of the Canadian Northern Railway and Canadian Pacific Railway lines at Lytton and it is hoped by the promoters that both these railways will take power. If the market for power is favorable, the high tension wires may be run even into Vancouver. The project involves the construction of a large dam on Bridge River and a tunnel, a mile and three-quarters long.

## PUBLIC TOOK NINETY PER CENT. OF THIS.

Officials of the National Drug and Chemical state that over 90 per cent. of their £200,000 preference issue was taken by the British public.

A roads and bridges by-law involving \$40,000, was defeated in the municipality of Stewart, Alta.