

Of the vast territory of British Columbia, estimated at 370,000 square miles not more than 30,000,000 acres or 12 per cent. is by well informed land lookers considered merchantable, according to present standards, and it is doubtful whether under any change of standards the acreage of actual and potential commercial forest could be increased beyond 50,000,000 acres. At present, to be sure, the lowest standard at the Coast mills is as a rule 14 inch in 32 feet logs, and, as a rule, no trees under 26 inch d. b. h. are cut. Of such timber, now pretty nearly all located by timber licenses, not more than six million acres are supposed to exist, which may be swelled to 15 million of commercial character when standards are lowered, and both the northern extension and timber of higher altitudes are added, which at 15 M feet average may indicate a stand of over 225 billion feet.

In the mountain mills the average log sawed at the mill is 12 inches. Of this description some 15 million acres may be found in the southern Rocky Mountain type, which figured at 5 M feet, gives another 75 billion feet, or altogether for the western Canadian forest 300 billion feet. One might easily double these estimates without finding the supply inexhaustible. Every effort is being made to get rid of this valuable limited asset of the Province. The Government has disposed of at least two-thirds of the coast timber and of one-half of the mountain timber, and only six million acres, believed to be good timber, are not disposed of.

The mill capacity so far established is, to be sure, still small, hardly one million feet, the value of the log products of the Province being by the Census of 1905 placed at \$11,000,000.

Fires, as everywhere, have made great havoc, especially in the mountain timber. While, on the western humid slopes in the heavy timber fires do not do much damage, the drier mountain country has suffered severely, not only along the line of travel, but wherever prospecting could be facilitated by the destruction of the forest cover. The northeastern section, but little explored, is probably without timber of other than local interest.

Of the Northern Forest, so far as known, not much of commercial value, especially for saw mill use, except for local consumption, may be expected. Those who figure on pulpwood values will have to keep in mind that for such use too qualitative