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Large Increase in Provincial Lumber Production

Total of Forest Products Amounts to \$70,285,094—Greatest Increase Is in Shingles, Which shows an Expansion of Over Double to \$12,801,564—Lumber Cut Increases \$5,000,000—Pulp and Paper Increases \$2,000,000.

In advance of the annual report of the Forest Branch of the Department of Lands, which usually appears in April, the Honorable T. D. Pattullo, Minister of Lands, Victoria, has given out a preliminary report on the forestry production for the year ending December 31st, 1919, which is a source of congratulation to those interested in this great natural resource of the Province, and of considerable satisfaction to the Minister of Finance because of increasing revenue.

The Honorable Mr. Pattullo estimates the total value of the forest products of British Columbia for the year 1919 as at \$70,285,094. This is compared with \$54,162,523 in 1918, \$48,300,469 in 1917, and \$35,528,000 in 1916. The largest increase is in the matter of shingles, which show a value of \$12,801,564, as compared with \$5,805,417 in 1918. The value of the lumber cut is nearly \$5,000,000 more than the previous year, while pulp and paper production shows an increase of over \$2,000,000. Each item shows a considerable increase over the previous year, and the mining, railroad and general industrial developments of the Province are reflected in the gains made.

The Minister estimated that the total revenue of the Province from the forest branch will exceed \$2,825,000, as compared with \$2,730,808 in 1918. This figure exceeds in forest revenue any figure of the Province with the exception of 1913, when the revenue was approximately \$3,000,000. In that year a large revenue was produced from timber sales.

The total log scale for the Province for the year 1919 is estimated at 1,758,329,995 feet, as compared with 1,761,184,406 feet in 1918, and 1,647,275,000 feet in 1917. Considerable increases in the scale are recorded from the Kamloops and Fort George districts and on Vancouver Island. While decreases are shown in Cranbrook, Nelson, Vernon, Vancouver and Prince Rupert districts, with a total only a slight decrease from that of 1918. The decrease

in the Prince Rupert district is due to the cessation of aeroplane spruce cutting operations, while labor difficulties and an extremely heavy fire season tended to reduce operations in other districts.

The water-borne lumber shipments from British Columbia in 1919 show an increase of approximately 17,000,000 feet, totalling 105,111,090 feet in comparison with 88,069,029 feet in 1918, and 43,922,563 feet in 1917. The increase is due largely to heavy shipments to the United

Kingdom, making up a total of 65,264,720 feet shipped to Great Britain last year, or roughly, 60 per cent. of the water-borne exports.

The pulp and paper industry of the Province also shows a considerable expansion in both the volume and value of business done. The production of newsprint increased from 112,206 tons in 1918 to 123,607 in 1919. Kraft paper shows a decline from 8,277 tons in 1918 to 7,202 tons in 1919. The production of sulphite pulp increased from 66,054 tons in 1918 to 80,047 tons in 1919. Sulphate pulp shows a reduction from 12,188 tons in 1918 to 9,473 tons in 1919. This reduction is reflected in the smaller production of Kraft paper. The ground-wood manufacture increased from 91,145 tons in 1918, to 99,769 tons in 1919. Practically all of the sulphate pulp and ground-wood pulp was manufactured into paper in the Province and a considerable amount of sulphite pulp was also used in the manufacture of newsprint in the Province. The total value of the pulp and paper sold during the year was \$12,554,257, as compared with \$10,517,250

in 1918, itself a big year in paper production.

The forest policy of the Government is one of closest co-operation with the industry. Joint committees of representatives of the lumber industry and forestry officials have been formed and meeting regularly to discuss scaling, log export, market extensions, etc. The trade extensions programme of the Government has been extended resulting in a large increase in number of inquiries. A large amount of educational literature has been distributed throughout the East and the Prairies, and all branches of wood manufacture in the Province are being kept in close touch with the Eastern commissioner in Toronto.

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