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THE LUMBER TRADE OF 1900

Tables Showing the Shipments from the Different Provinces.—Year of Satisfactory Progress. High Freight Rates the Feature of Export Business.

FOLLOWING our usual custom, a review of the lumber trade of the year 1900 is presented in this issue. By means of the tables given, the extent of the lumber industry of the Dominion may be estimated, while the tables of particular value as showing comparisons with previous years. Some advancement was made by the lumber industry during the year. The volume of home consumption was as large as in the previous year, while the exports to foreign countries show a slight increase. The shipments of lumber from British Columbia were 1,000,000 feet greater than in 1899, those of New Brunswick 70,000,000 feet greater, and of Nova Scotia 20,000,000 feet greater. From the province of Quebec the exports were slightly less, although statistics covering the province of Ontario are not available, it is believed that the shipments were about the same as in the previous year.

The output of lumber during the year exceeded the production of 1899, and at the close of the season manufacturers and dealers held slightly larger stocks. The Presidential election in the United States was a disturbing factor, causing a falling off in the demand from that country. Prices ruled firm throughout the greater part of the year, although towards the close there was a slight depreciation in the price of hardwoods. The figures at which lumber was sold, however, show that there is a growing appreciation of lumber values, consequent upon the decreased timber supply. This is especially true in respect to hardwoods, of which the supply has become greatly diminished.

Excessive freight and insurance rates and a scarcity of tonnage from both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts were features of the export trade. Vessel charters were effected at the highest rates on record, 62 shillings 6 pence being paid from Montreal to London. Early in the year the export demand was very brisk, but towards the close of the British market became somewhat depressed. The stock of export lumber held over at shipping is greater than at the close of the previous year.

ONTARIO.

When the mills in Ontario commenced operations last spring, the stock of unsold lumber held by dealers and manufacturers had been reduced to very small proportions. The active demand which characterized the trade of 1899 continued during the first half of last year, with lumber prices generally quite as high, and in some in-

stances higher. The probability of a weaker market as midsummer was approached was removed by the fire in the lumber district of Ottawa which occurred in April, and by which over 150,000,000 feet of lumber, chiefly pine, was destroyed and thus taken out of the market. While more directly affecting the Ottawa district, the result of the fire was to cause manufacturer throughout the province to hold prices firmly, as it became evident that all the lumber manufactured was likely to be required for local and export purposes. Sales of the most active grades of pine lumber were made at prices about one dollar per thousand higher than in 1899, and although some stocks were allowed to accumulate at the mills towards fall, there was no depreciation of values, and the year on the whole was characterized by high prices, especially for white and red pine. The Presidential election in the United States was the cause of a temporary cessation in the demand from that quarter. Larger shipments were made from the Georgian Bay district to Michigan than ever before.

The quantity of lumber manufactured was equal to, if not greater, than in 1899. Many of the Georgian Bay mills were employed in sawing for firms which had in previous years rafted their logs to Michigan to be manufactured. The Ottawa Valley production of pine was slightly increased. While prices during the year were high, it is understood that the profits of lumbermen were no greater than in the previous year. This is due to the increased cost of production, brought about by the higher cost of labor and supplies and by high freights and insurance in transportation.

The early part of last year was phenomenal in the remarkable demand for hardwoods of all kinds. Prices were then the highest that have been known for years. Later in the season this demand fell away. Many of the hardwood lumbermen did not avail themselves of their early opportunities to sell, and consequently the stocks at the close of the year were rather heavy. In the winter of 1899-1900 extreme prices were paid for hardwood logs, so that it was necessary to hold lumber for high figures. Beech lumber came into unusual demand during the year in some localities. There was also a greater use of hemlock, which sold at \$9 per thousand at mills in western Ontario.

The shingle market did not seem to gain in strength in common with lumber. The white pine variety encountered severe competition from red cedars.

Lath was in fair demand, but the high price of \$3.75 for No. 1 white pine which ruled in the fall of 1899 did not hold. Towards the close of the year there was greater firmness.

On a conservative estimate the cut of the Ottawa and Ottawa Valley mills for 1900 will total 588,000,000 feet. This is an increase of 56,000,000 feet over the cut of 1899. This may seem surprising, in view of the fact that fire played havoc with the Ottawa lumber interests. The Hull Lumber Co.'s mill was completely destroyed, but this company had the use of the Mason and Bronson & Weston mills at Ottawa and an Aylmer mill, the combined cut of which was greater than that in 1899 at the old mill. The Booth mill at the Chaudiere was only interfered with early in the season by the fire, though the standing supply of lumber was wiped out. As the mill was worked day and night till late in the season the cut was large. Gillies Bros., Brakeside, also had a large cut at their mill, amounting to 30,000,000 feet. The cut at the other mills was about the same as in the past year. The Ottawa Valley production for two years is given below:

OTTAWA VALLEY PRODUCTION.		
	1899—Feet	1900—Feet.
J. R. Booth, Ottawa	125,000,000	125,000,000
Gilmour & Co., Trenton.....	25,000,000	25,000,000
Hull Lumber Co., Hull.....	25,000,000	35,000,000
McLachlin Bros., Arnprior....	65,000,000	70,000,000
Hawkesbury Lumber Co., Hawkesbury.....	50,000,000	45,000,000
W. C. Edwards & Co., Rock- land and New Edinburgh	70,000,000	85,000,000
St. Anthony Lumber Company, Whitney	43,000,000	42,000,000
Gillies Bros., Brakeside.....	13,000,000	30,000,000
Gilmour & Hughson, Hull....	30,000,000	35,000,000
R. & W. Conroy, Deschenes Mills.....	3,000,000
Pembroke Lumber Co., Pem- broke	11,000,000	14,000,000
Ottawa Lumber Co., Calumet	10,000,000	8,000,000
Ross Bros., Buckingham....	10,000,000	10,000,000
McLaren Estate, Buckingham	16,000,000	15,000,000
J. R. & J. Gillies, Arnprior...	3,000,000	3,000,000
A. Hagai & Co., Plantagenet.	6,000,000	6,000,000
A. & P. White, Pembroke	5,000,000	5,000,000
Bailey Bros., Aylmer.....	8,000,000	4,000,000
McLaren & McLaurin, East Templeton	10,000,000	6,000,000
G. H. Perley Co., Calumet..	25,000,000
Total	532,000,000	588,000,000

QUEBEC.

Nearly every lumber manufacturer in Quebec catering to the local and United States markets reports a very satisfactory year's business. Particularly in the early months in the year was there an active demand from the United States, and as stocks became scarce prices were advanced. One manufacturer writes that the average prices of spruce and hemlock lumber were three dollars higher than in 1899. There was also an increased demand for hardwoods, and the season closed with stocks of lumber suitable for the United States market practically cleaned up. The higher prices offered by shippers to the United States was an inducement