

Market in United Kingdom for Douglas Fir

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a proof that it will be used in greatly increased quantities throughout the industries in which it has made an entry.

Opinions and habits change slowly in Great Britain but the change from pitch-pine to fir is likely to be assisted by the growing price of pitch-pine and the inevitable deterioration of quality due to the exhaustion of the forest, which is now seen in the small logs and large proportion of shortleaf and loblolly shipped. This deterioration of quality and increase in price, well recognized in the timber trade in England affords an excellent opportunity for supplying engineers and architects with definite information on the durability and strength of Douglas fir. Architects should also be furnished with information as to the best method of varnishing and staining the wood for interior finish. The treatment of fir in this manner is not understood in Great Britain.

The use of Douglas fir by the War Office will be of the greatest assistance in broadening the market. There was a large stock on hand in the country when war broke out. Since that date, the arrangements made by the Department of Trade and Commerce that the War Office and Admiralty should use Canadian Douglas fir as far as possible instead of pitch-pine has led to the importation directly, by the Government and by dealers selling to the Government, of between 40 and 50 million feet. This timber has been used for poles for military telegraphs, tent poles, pontoons, military bridges, trenches, railway sleepers and many articles being manufactured in connection with the war. The bridges, pontoons, poles and other manufactured articles were produced in woodworking shops throughout the United Kingdom. After having worked on the timber for months these proprietors are more likely to buy it for their future work. The fact that it is accepted for War Office work is an important item in its favor.

The frequent liner service from pitch-pine ports to all English, Irish and Scotch ports has been of great advantage in developing the pitch-pine trade. A merchant could buy any specification of pitch-pine large or small and have it delivered in less than a month. At the same time if he bought fir he had usually to take a cargo, wait two to four months or more, run the risk of the cargo deteriorating. The interest charges also increased the cost of the timber to the consumer. Naturally only a few merchants were in a position to buy the timber under such conditions, and they bought it only in specifications unobtainable in other woods.

The present liner service from Douglas fir ports, though not nearly so good as from pitch-pine ports, is already encouraging many merchants to buy Douglas fir, who never bought it before. The effect of this new custom will be cumulative. It will be difficult to develop the markets on the west coast of England, until a liner service is established with the western ports.

Not nearly so much wood is used in the interior trim of buildings in Great Britain as in Canada. The use of plaster, wallpaper and other substitutes is much more general. The floors are covered with linoleum or carpet. The use of wood is restricted to doors and windows with their casings, to floors which are for the greater part covered, to baseboards and to stairways.

Such wood as is used may be divided into two broad classes. The very cheap, which is heavily covered with paint, and the very good which is given a natural finish.

The very cheap is overwhelmingly the more important of the two and is used in all buildings excepting the best class private dwellings, public buildings and a small proportion of offices.

The doors are imported manufactured. The cheapest doors for workmen's houses cost 76 cents each c.i.f. London. A size very much used, 2 feet 6 inches by 6 feet 6 inches by 1½ inches, moulded both sides, costs \$1 each c.i.f. A half glass door costs \$1.24. The great majority of doors are comprised of the above classes. A better class pine door is

imported chiefly from the United States at \$1.50 to \$1.75 each.

In certain parts of the country, e.g., Dublin and the Scotch cities, the labor unions will not allow the importation of ready manufactured doors. Elsewhere the doors are all imported in stock patterns at prices ranging between those quoted. The doors come chiefly from Sweden, Canada and the United States and are made of very low grade timber, little better than pine box lumber. The doors imported at \$1.50 to \$1.75 are not nearly as good as the fir veneer doors selling wholesale for the same price in Canada. The purchasers of the doors, which are imported ready-made, do not demand a good door. They want a cheap door, that will look fairly well when painted. The doors used for the best class of buildings are all manufactured locally from oak, mahogany or other high grade hardwoods, both solid and veneered.

The floorings used in nearly all buildings are sound but very knotty. Both spruce and redwood are used. Large quantities are imported from Norway and Sweden ready manufactured, and the remainder is dressed in Great Britain from imported lumber. The sizes are 7-8-inch x 5½-inch-6-inch; 1-inch x 5-inch- 5½-inch- 6-inch- 7-inch- and 9-inch; and 1½- x 4-inch- 6½-inch, and the sizes most commonly used are the 5-inch to 7-inch widths. Most of the flooring is dressed both sides and both edges and is square-edged. The quantity of tongued and grooved flooring used is not great. All flooring imported is flat-grained. The prices before the war were c.i.f. London:

Swedish flooring—	Per M feet.
1" x 6" redwood	\$23.00
1" x 7" "	24.00
1" x 7" whitewood	22.75

Samples of Swedish flooring which are being sent to the Commissioner of Commerce illustrate the grade.

The mouldings, ceilings, linings, baseboards and other specially manufactured finish is not imported in the manufactured form, but is manufactured to order in the various woodworking establishments chiefly from Swedish redwood. The patterns vary throughout the country. The linings and ceilings or "matchwood," as they are called in England, are manufactured from lumber imported at \$20 to \$25 per thousand. Ordinarily the finished article is very well manufactured but full of knots. Common sizes are 6-inch x 9-16-inch, ¾-inch, ⅞-inch or 1⅛-inch, double V-jointed. Other sizes are used which vary throughout the country. The price at which this lining is sold to builders is given here:

⅝" x 6"	36 cents
⅞" x 6"	48 "
1⅛" x 6"	60 "

Pitch-pine floorings are used in public buildings. Imported sizes are 1¼-inch x 6-inch, 7-inch, 8-inch, cost about \$67 c.i.f. for rough clears. The 1¼-inch x 7-inch-8-inch is cut and dressed to 1½-inch x 3-inch matched.

In halls and public buildings 3-inch x 3-inch pitch-pine blocks are used, 2-feet or more in length, sawn edge-grained. The normal price is about \$28.80 to \$33 per thousand feet.

Various species of mahogany, oak, teak and other hardwoods, which are comparatively cheap, and of which large stocks are carried in Great Britain, are used for finishing the best class of buildings. Mahogany sells from one shilling to six shillings per cubic foot, depending on the variety and is used in very large quantities.

The wide Douglas fir clears imported during the past two or three years have been used to a certain extent for interior finish. As the builders and architects become more familiar with the use of fir finish they will use it in large quantities. The chief sale will be in clear boards and planks for floors, inside joinery such as staircases and panels. The growth of the trade may be expected to be slow. Three-ply fir veneer is adapted for the uses as panels, for which wide

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