

LUMBER PRODUCTION AND STOCKS.

Statistics show that the production of pine lumber in the states of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota has steadily declined since 1892, when the cut reached 8,594,222,802 feet. The cut of 1902 was 4,294,395,000 feet, a decrease of 42,000,000 as compared with the previous year.

An interesting showing as to the condition of pine stocks at the present time is found by comparing the percentage of stocks to the lumber product in 1902 with

the figures of previous years. For nine years beginning with 1894 the average stock carried at the mills at the end of the year was 54% per cent. of the year's product. At the end of 1902 the stock at the mills was only 40 per cent. of the product of that year. The quantity on hand was 2,112,719,000 feet, a decrease of 275,000,000 feet as compared with 1901.

The shingle production in the states named was 1,665,757,000 in 1902 and

2,471,627,000 in 1901, and the stock on hand 397,811,000 and 345,545,000 respectively for the two years. The quantity of lath produced was 1,467,017,000 in 1902 and 5,267,166,000 in 1901, and the stock on hand 495,176,000 and 386,048,000 respectively.

Statistics of hardwood show a remarkable reduction in the quantity of stock on hand. In 1901 711 mills reported a production of 790,592,000 feet, with a stock at close of the year of 422,376,000 feet.

In 1902 621 mills reported a production of 730,315,090 feet and a stock on hand of 256,622,000 feet, a reduction of 30 per cent. as compared with the previous year. This plainly illustrates the general situation in the hardwood market.

The production of northern hemlock was 1,277,814,000 feet in 1902 and 1,261,943,000 feet in 1901. The stock on hand at the close of the year was 441,634,000 feet, a decrease of over 130,000,000 feet as compared with the previous year.

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