

Thirty-five years ago the population of the United States was only about forty-one millions and now it is over eighty millions, while that of Germany was forty millions and is now sixty-one millions. In both of these cases, the United States and Germany had thirty-five years ago, more than sufficient timber of home growth to supply all their internal requirements, but now they have become, owing to their increase of population and industries, far from self supporting, and are more or less dependent on the supplies of other countries.

"Then, the American resources seemed ample; now they have become so diminished as to have given rise to great and well founded anxiety for the future. This shortage in home grown wood must be supplied by imports; and as the great bulk of the timber required by ourselves and by these, our two great competitors is the light wood of coniferous trees, of which the chief stores are now to be found in Canada, Russia and Scandinavia, the amount we shall have to pay for this class of timber, (which constitutes about 90% of our wood imports), must be, to a considerable extent, determined by the requirements of the United States and Germany and by the price to which they will raise this raw material at the sea ports in the countries having surplus timber available for export."

He goes on to say, "that unless Great Britain can arrange some sort of preferential treatment with Canada for her timber exports, there is every probability that the annual sum she will have to pay for her national timber bill will be very much greater than at present, and how large this sum already is, seems not to be generally realized."

It is an extraordinary thing that notwithstanding the increased use of stone, cement, brick and iron for building purposes, the per capita use of timber has gone on increasing annually within recent years. In this connection the same writer says: "In 1882 the population of the British Isles was thirty-five and a half millions, and the timber exports were 18,300,000L; in 1903 the population was forty-two and a quarter millions, and they imported wood and timber to the value of 29,300,000L, thus showing a rise of over 50% in the total value of the imports as compared with an increase of only 19% in the total population."

A Committee on Forestry, appointed by the Home Government in its report in 1902, says; "The world is rapidly approaching a shortage, if not actual dearth, in its supply of coniferous timber, which constitutes between 80 and 90% of the total British imports."

With the nations of Europe looking to us for a future supply; with the ever increasing demand from South America and the Orient and perhaps more important than all, the increase in