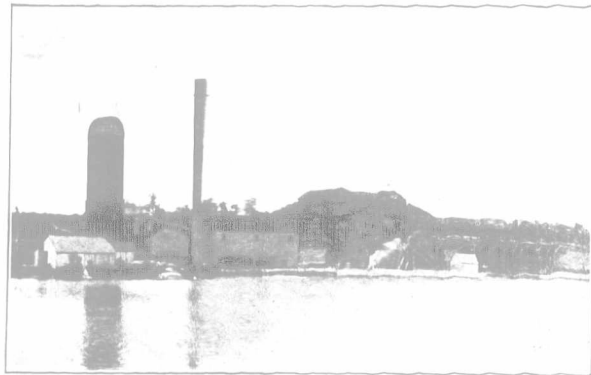


this increase in value is, first, that logs are harder to get; second, wages and supplies are more costly, and, third, stumpage rates of the material have increased. Spruce logs that could not be duplicated in the provinces today, from 1880 to 1885 brought from \$7 to \$8.50 a thousand feet at the mill; from these figures the price crept slowly upward until it reached \$12.50, which price was touched in 1904. The market price of spruce lumber in the United Kingdom had been creeping up slowly but surely during the twenty-five years immediately preceding 1905. In 1879 prices were extremely low, several large lots having been disposed of at figures that left from \$5.75 to \$6 a thousand for merchantable lumber. It would not be reasonable, of course, to use these figures as a criterion, for the year mentioned was one of light demand, forced shipments and the consequent lower prices mentioned above. The trade showed a marked improvement both in prices and demand for several years following; \$8.50 a thousand for merchantable spruce deals would have been a fair average price for the early '80's. From that time until 1900 prices rose gradually, interrupted, of course, by many periods of temporary depression, due to the presence of unfavorable conditions; but always, when the reaction set in, gaining more than had been lost. The end of the century found the figures in the vicinity of \$11.50 for merchantable. Three prosper-



Springfield Saw Mill, Springfield, N. S.

ous years then followed. During that period the demand was extremely brisk and the shipments from the provinces were larger than they had ever been before, conditions being so favorable that in many cases the American logs (which are worth \$3 more a thousand, because their product, when they are manufactured by an American citizen, is allowed to go into the United States free of duty) were shipped to the United Kingdom after being sawed into English size.

In 1903 the high water mark in prices was reached, and merchantable deals were sold in large quantities at figures that ranged from \$13.25 a thousand to \$13.75 f.o.b. steamer at New Brunswick ports. The value in 1912 was about \$13.40. The English market took a decided slump early in 1904, and prices fell so low that on September 1 purchases could have been made at \$11.50 a thousand, with lumber plentiful.

1913 Legislation.

In view of the fact that the special licenses, issued on the 1st of August, 1892, will expire in five years' time, the New Brunswick Legislature last winter passed a new act regarding timber land, in which two forms of license, known as the pulp and paper license and the sawmill license, respectively, are established. The latter is renewable from year to year for a period of twenty years from August 1st, 1913, and at the expiration of that period it may be extended for a further period of ten years, this latter period being conditionable on the satisfactory carrying out of the rules and regulations made in connection with the Crown lands areas. The

bonus on the licenses was established on the 1st of July last by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. This amount is to be payable in two payments, ten years apart. The Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council has the power to fix from time to time the rates of stumpage and the mileage to be paid annually by the licensee, and is allowed to make other rules and regulations which seem to him just, wise and prudent. An interesting feature of this piece of legislation is the provision that a licensee may be allowed a further ten years of renewal, without the payment of bonus, if he gives notice twelve years before the expiration of his license that he intends to allow a certain portion of his lands to reproduce themselves without his cutting upon them. A provision is made for the removal from a licensee's license of that amount of land which the Surveyor General estimates as being of no present productive value to the holder, up to 25% of the total area included in the license.

Premier Flemming of New Brunswick recently stated in connection with the new Forest Legislation that of the 10,000 square miles of Crown timber lands, 7,000 have already been applied for under the terms and conditions of the new leases. It is expected that less than five hundred will remain out, and not elect to come in under the provisions of the new law since the law provides in this case the limits will be put up at auction in 1918 as the former leases provide.

Prominent Producers.

New Brunswick has some mills that are large factors in the production of Canada's lumber wealth. The Shives Lumber Company of Campbellton, and Snowball & Company of Chatham are supposed to be the largest operators in the province, each cutting well over 25 million every year. The Dalhousie Lumber Company of Dalhousie ranks also with these two. The Richards Manufacturing Company of Campbellton, the B. A. Mowatt Company of the same town, Randolph & Baker Limited, of Randolph St. John County, the Fraser Lumber Company of Plaster Roch, Chas. T. White of St. John, and S. H. White & Company of Sussex, as well as Fenderson & Company of the Metapedia valley, are all in the 10 to 20 million class.

QUEBEC.

Resources.

For Quebec the distribution of land areas may be made as follows: Of the 218 million acres (342,000 square miles) around 144 million acres belong to the Northern Forest, 50 million, the same amount as for Ontario, to the southern Laurentian; the St. Lawrence valley with 5 million acres represents mostly farm area, and the balance of 19 million acres may be accredited to the Acadian region. There are about 9 million acres in farms of which 7.5 million are in crops, and 1.5 million is waste land, hence the total forest and waste land area is over 210 million acres. A recent estimate by a Quebec official places the standing lumber of the white and red pine at less than 40 billion feet, and spruce sawlogs at over 100 billion, all other saw material (including jack pine) at about 18 billion feet, or altogether less than 160 billion feet. *

* This and other estimates in this article by Dr. B. C. Fernow.

Early History.

As stated before the only interest the Crown took in the forests was to obtain an abundant supply of oak for the purpose of building ships for the royal navy. Pine timber was by later grants set aside for spars and masts. Permits were issued, as the building and repairing of war vessels went on at Quebec, for the cutting of oak timber, as above reserved, and regulations were made for its transportation to Quebec. Further, laws were passed forbidding the cutting of oak timber in newly-opened districts abundant in this timber, until the trees suitable