

LUMBERING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Lumbering operations in this province have been carried on with great vigor during the past year, with the result that the cut of 1888 is the largest in the history of the province. The total cut of the province during the year is placed at 140,000,000 feet, or about 40,000,000 feet in excess of last year. On Burrard Inlet (Vancouver), the mills have been kept cutting actively during the season, the demand, both local and for export, being good. The Moodyville Mill Co., on Burrard Inlet, cut 29,182,960 feet for the year, and exported 35 ship loads, distributed as follows:—South America, 8,028,454 feet; China, 4,157,684 feet; Australia, 15,958,493 feet; Japan, 146,869. The balance of 897,460 feet was taken by local dealers.

The Hastings Saw Mill Co., Vancouver, cut 14,048,854 feet, of which 13,567,783 was exported to foreign markets in 17 vessels. The company also turned out 382,322 pickets, and 21,787 bundles of lath, which was mostly exported.

The Vancouver mill of the Royal City Co., cut about 10,000,000 feet, besides lath, shingles, etc. The product of this mill is mostly taken by the local trade. There is a sash and door factory in connection with this mill. The Commercial mills, Vancouver, owned by Leamy & Kyle, cut about 9,000,000 feet, consumed by the local trade. G. F. Slater's shingle mill, Vancouver, cut about 75,000 shingles daily, and is now increasing the capacity of the mill to 115,000 daily. The sash and door factory of Geo. Cassidy & Co., is a new institution put in operation during the year, and giving employment to 25 men. A shingle mill with a capacity of 40,000 per day, is being added. Fader Bros., who own a small mill at Vancouver, are erecting a mill of a capacity of 85,000 feet per ten hours. The total cut of the Vancouver mills would therefore be in the neighborhood of 64,000,000 feet of lumber besides a large quantity of shingles, lath, pickets, etc.

At Westminster are located the mills of the Royal City Planing Mill Co., and the Brunette Saw Mill Co., the former mill the largest in the province. The Royal City mill cut 22,000,000 feet of lumber, 5,000,000 feet of moulding, 6,000,000 lath and pickets and 7,500,000 shingles. There is a sash and door factory in connection with this mill in which 25,000 sash and 15,000 doors were manufactured. The mill employs 425 men in the mills, and in connection with its tugs and boats. Five vessels loaded at this mill with lumber for export during the year. This was a new feature of the trade, as heretofore no exports of lumber were made direct from the Fraser river. The company shipped a considerable quantity of timber to the United States for car manufacturing. This company also owns the saw mill and sash and door factory at Vancouver. The Brunette Mill Co. has increased its capacity during 1888. The output of this company was 7,000,000 feet of lumber, 2,500,000 feet of moulding, 3,500,000 shingles, 1,000,000 lath and 50,000 salmon boxes.

At Chemainus, the mill of Croft & Angus cut 16,000,000 feet, a portion of which was exported. W. P. Sawyard, Victoria, cut about 12,000,000 feet, sold altogether in the local trade. There are also five sash and door manufacturing establishments at Victoria. The total output of the thirteen mills named would amount to 121,231,815 feet of lumber alone. There are a number of smaller mills at coasts and interior points, which would bring the total up to about 140,000,000 feet. Exports of lumber from the province to the United States for the year were valued at \$57,437.

The outlook for lumbering during the present year gives promise of even greater development. British Columbia is now attracting attention in Eastern Canada and the United States. During the past year lumbermen from the East and from Wisconsin and Michigan and elsewhere have visited the province, and the result is that several new schemes are in course of development. The capacity of each of the Westminster mills will be increased, and two new mills are projected, one of which will have a daily capacity of 300,000 to 500,000 feet. At Vancouver, Fader Bros' new mill, now nearly completed, will be put in operation, and the old Moodyville mill will be overhauled in such a way as to make it practically a new mill. Over \$10,000 worth of new machinery is on the way for this

mill. The Chemainus mill has lately been purchased by a wealthy syndicate, and the capacity of the mill will be largely increased. The Vancouver Lumber Co. are erecting a mill which will have a capacity of about 25,000,000 feet yearly, and several small mills are in course of erection or projected. One noticeable feature in the lumber industry is the trade that has sprung up during the past year or two with the prairie country east of the mountains. Eastern shipments now form quite an item in the local trade. Cedar shingles especially are in demand from the East, and shipments of these have not only been made to Manitoba and the Territories, but to points further east, in the old provinces of Canada. There is also a growing demand for our fine grained fir and cedar from the east, for finishing purposes for the better buildings. The bulk of the lumber cut in the coast mills is fir, similar to the Puget Sound fir, and it is procured along the coast of both the mainland and Vancouver Island, for a distance northward from the international boundary of about 300 miles. This fir frequently dresses 100 feet long, with scarcely a knot. One tree cut at the Moodyville mill recently scaled 27,000 feet. A stick of timber was shipped from the Hastings mill which was 28 in. square and 112 feet long. A stick 120 feet long and 20 inches square was taken out last week at the Royal City mill, Westminster. The foreign export trade by water, has been done largely by the Hastings and Moodyville mills at Burrard Inlet, with a few shiploads from Westminster and Chemainus. About sixty vessel loads were exported altogether, going to Australia, Asia, South America, and some to California, though the duties prevent extensive shipments to the latter place. Eastern shipments are made mostly from Westminster mills. On the west coast of Vancouver Island, nothing has been done in lumbering, but a mill for this coast is projected. Altogether, the results of the past year's operations and the prospects for the present year are very satisfactory. The attention which has been given of late to the great timber wealth of the province, points almost to a boom in lumbering operations in the near future.—*Exchange.*

THE NORTHWEST TIMBER SUPPLY.

The question of timber supply for Manitoba and the Territories is an important one. With our present small population, local manufacturers have no difficulty in supplying the requirements of the country, but with the larger population which this country will have in the future, it will not be so easy to fill requirements. Though there are considerable tracts of timber land in sections of the country, yet with such vast areas of prairie land which comprise a great portion of Western Canada, it is evident that when the population of the country becomes at all numerous, the question of lumber supply will be an important one.

Our principal source of lumber supply at present is of course the Lake-of-the-Woods district. The mills of that district have a capacity of forty to fifty million feet annually, and this is being steadily increased. A considerable portion of the logs cut in these mills, however, are brought in from the state of Minnesota, and it would be a matter for surprise should the United States government at any time stop the exportation of logs from the state to Canadian mills. In the event of such a move the timber available at the Lake-of-the-Woods would be very greatly curtailed.

There is a vast section of country between Winnipeg and Lake Superior, say 400 miles in length, which may be called a woody country, but in population to the area, a very small portion of this timber is suitable for lumber. The greater portion is only fit for fuel. Owing to the rocky nature of the country, the growth is small, and the variety of wood found—tamarac, poplar, jack-pine, white birch, etc.—are not very valuable for lumber. There is some good pine tributary to the Lake-of-the-Woods, in Canadian territory, and patches of pine in other sections of this region, but the quality of good timber is not as large as might be imagined, when the vast extent of country covered, is taken into consideration. There is plenty for present requirements, but with a large population in the prairie region to the west, the timber resources of the district, especi-

ally for the better class of lumber would soon be exhausted.

In the northern portions of Manitoba and around Lake Winnipeg, there is a good deal of timber suitable for lumber, sufficient to supply the present average requirements of the country for a long time to come. Every year, however, the quantity of lumber required will increase, and in a few years a big hole will be made in this timber area. At present the annual cut of lumber on Lake Winnipeg is under 10,000,000 feet. Riding Mountain country supplies about 2,000,000 feet annually, from the southern and western slope of the mountain. The more northern timber areas of Manitoba have not yet been developed to any extent. There are several other smaller timber districts, which supply a limited quality of lumber, for local use in the immediate vicinity. Spruce is the most valuable lumber furnished by the Manitoba forests, so that it will be seen the supply of fine lumber is limited to the pine timber in the districts to the east of Manitoba.

The vast territory of Assiniboia has very little timber suitable for lumber, though there are patches of forest which furnish a little lumber for local use in some districts. The Cypress Hills is the principal timber district. The population of this territory is very limited, but with the settlement now going on, there will soon be a large demand for lumber from Assiniboia.

The more northern territory of Saskatchewan is fairly well supplied with timber for local requirements for its present very limited population, and the supply is probably sufficient for many years to come. The full timber resources of this territory are not well known. The northern half of the territory, being the portion north of the Saskatchewan river, is supposed to be timbered to a considerable extent, but the country has not been sufficiently explored to determine its full timber wealth. At any rate it will be some time in the future before this district will have a sufficiently large population to call for any very large quantity of lumber from outside sources.

The territory of Alberta has a large supply of timber in and along the Rocky Mountains, which bound the territory on the west and southwest. The country in the vicinity of the mountains is well timbered, with very good qualities of timber in some sections and all through the mountains there is considerable timber wealth. Several mills are established along the line of the Canadian Pacific railway at and along the railway between Calgary and the mountains. There are also a number of mills at points on the railway in the mountains, on the British Columbia side. The small population in the Territories, and the high freight rates charged by the C. P. Ry. Co., has prevented the development of the lumbering industry in the mountains to any great proportions. The freight rates are too high to allow of the profitable shipment of lumber eastward as far as Manitoba. In time, however, as the population of the Territories increases, and the freight rates are reduced, as they doubtless will be, a large lumbering industry will be established in and along the Rocky Mountains, in Alberta and British Columbia.

To British Columbia, however, must Manitoba and the Territories look for a considerable portion of their lumber requirement in the future. As the Territories settle up and the local supply of timber grows less, there will undoubtedly be a large market in the great prairie region for British Columbia lumber.

British Columbia has a great source of wealth in her forests of fine timber. Already there is some demand in Manitoba and the territories for the fine qualities of lumber produced in British Columbia mills, and the deficiency here, especially in fine qualities of lumber, can be abundantly made up in the Pacific province. What is required is a low freight rate from the mountain and other mills of British Columbia. At present, and for years to come, the need of British Columbia lumber will not be keenly felt here, though the demand for the finer qualities of lumber and large dimension stuff, which are hard to supply here, may be expected to increase right along. But as the population of the prairie country increases, and the local supply of lumber decreases, the movement eastward of lumber from British Columbia may be expected to assume large proportions.—*Commercial.*