

Bend; Dominion Sawmills, Ltd., a merger formed three years ago from the holdings of the Mundy firm at Three Valley, and now having mills at Taft, Canafix and Cascade as well. W. A. Anstie, President of the Mountain Lumber Manufacturers' Association, is Manager of this company. All these mills cut over 26 million feet a year, as does also the Crow's Nest Pass Lumber Company, of Wardner and Galloway, in the Cranbrook District. Mr. Peter Lund, known widely in British Columbia, is owner of this company.

Another Interior mill with an output of over 20 million feet annually is the one not far from the last mentioned, the East Kootenay Lumber Company, at Jaffray. The Elk Lumber Company at Fernie and the Adolph Lumber Company of Baynes Lake also loom large in the milling industry of central British Columbia. The mill of the A. R. Rogers Lumber Company at Enderby has done much to build up the Okanagan valley.

Throughout British Columbia wages are higher than in any other part of the country. The logging in all the more progressive and important camps is done by steam. Only the felling and bucking are done by hand, and mechanical yarding engines, skidders, loaders and railroads do the rest. The labor employed is necessarily skilled, but the customary increase in cost of workmen makes logging very expensive. Of late years the mill men in the interior have complained of the rise in cost of manufacture, and it is said in some quarters that the output has been curtailed on this account. It is probable however, that the market will be steady in the near future, particularly in event of a series of successful years among the prairie farmers, who are the great consumers of mountain mill lumber.

The interests of the industry are advanced by two organizations among the lumbermen, the Coast Lumber and Shingle Manufacturers' Association, with headquarter at Vancouver, and the Mountain Lumbermen's Association; whose Secretary, A. E. Frank, is at Calgary, Alta. Of the former organization John Hendry, one of the most prominent manufacturers on the Coast, and recently President of the Canadian Forestry Association is President and R. H. H. Alexander is Secretary. W. A. Anstie, one of the most progressive men of the younger generation, now Manager of the Dominion Sawmills, Ltd., with headquarters at Revelstoke, is President of the mountain men's organization.

Prices.

The growing scarcity of wood is reflected in the price quotations of the Department of Labor. Since 1890 the price has risen 52.7 points.

In explaining these advances in a product as important as lumber, the manufacturers point to several agencies which have combined to enhance operating expenses. Supplies for the camps have advanced. Wages also have been increased, while the supply of experienced help has greatly declined, so that at the higher rate a less efficient staff of employees is available. The timber, more-over, is not so good as formerly, the logs being smaller, entailing a greater loss in driving, and a less return from a like amount of handling. The merchantable timber is found at increasing distances from the main streams. Added to this there has been a marked advance in stumpage rates limits that sold at \$3 to \$4 per thousand in 1890 are bringing \$8 to \$10 per thousand at the present time.

An interesting sidelight on the question of stumpage is the purchase, not long ago of a limit measuring 15½ square miles in Northern Ontario for which E. A. Dunlop M.L.A., paid \$14.40 per thousand feet outside of the regular royalties.

The lumber market, speaking generally, was firm throughout 1912, prices showing on the whole an increasing tendency. The Department of Labor's index number, which covers 14 lines, rose from 165.0 in January to 170.9 in December. The average of 166.5 for the

year as a whole compares with 165.5 in 1911. This brings the general level of prices back to that of the phenomenally high year of 1907. The demand for lumber for construction purposes was probably never so large as in the year just past. British markets were partially closed in the early part of the year by the coal strike and later in the year scarcity of space in vessels and advancing freight rates hampered exports from Canada. Prices, however, strengthened in Britain toward the end of the year, and the United States demand was good.

LUMBER PRODUCTION IN CANADA 1912

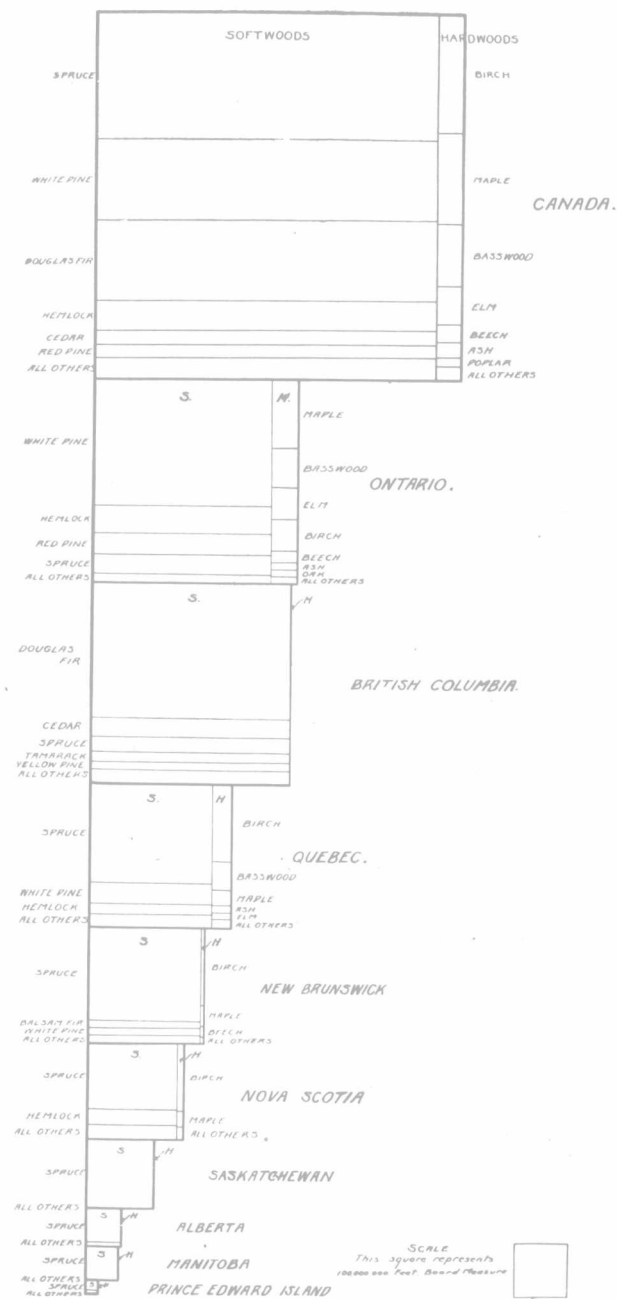


Diagram 3

The Future of the Industry.

The lumbering industry today stands on the threshold of a wonderful development. Just as the clumsy old pit saw gave way to the water-driven blade, and the latter in turn to the gang and circular, and these again to the single and double cut bandsaw and resaw, which today are eating their way into our last great stand of