

Annual Report British Columbia Forest Branch

The report for the year ended Dec. 31, 1913, of the Chief Forester of British Columbia, Mr. H. R. MacMillan, to the Hon. W. R. Ross, Minister of Lands, is a most important document.

Forest Revenue.

In addition to the usual letter press of such reports, there are a number of diagrams which help to enforce the points of the report. One of these diagrams shows that the forest revenue of British Columbia amounts to \$6.63 per head, whereas that of Ontario is only 79c per head, and Quebec 77c per head. Another diagram shows that royalties from timber cut in British Columbia during the twelve months amounted to \$489,377, whereas those of Ontario amounted to \$1,339,957, and those of Quebec to \$1,173,393. In spite of financial stringency during the past year, the branch collected, during the twelve months ending December 1st, a revenue breaking all previous records, and amounting to \$2,832,788, which is \$229,669 greater than the revenue for the twelve months ending December 1st, 1912.

The total forest revenue, including taxation on Crown-granted timber lands, for the twelve months ending December 1st, was \$2,999,579. The estimated expenditure for the branch for the fiscal year ending March, 1914, is \$245,754.

The forest protection fund, to which the government and the timber owners contribute equal sums, is estimated, for the year ending March, 1914, at \$350,682.

Importance of the Lumbering Industry.

Even today, with the trade undeveloped, except with the Prairie Provinces, lumbering constitutes the financial backbone of British Columbia. Half the industrial capital of the Province is embarked in lumbering, and half the pay roll and 37% of the production come from the same source. The report looks for great development with the opening of the Panama Canal, the development of eastern markets, and of the general over seas trade.

Says the Report: 'In the collection of forest revenue the returns of the Forest Branch show a cut of 1,457,000,000 feet, board measure, for the year 1913, an amount which is nearly equal to the combined output of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec for the previous year. If the large amount of material used in railway construction during the year be included, British Columbia's total cut would approach 2,000,000,000 feet. The number of saw and shingle mills exceeds 425.'

Logging Inspection.

There were 794 logging operations in progress during 1913 on timber lands, on which a royalty, or tax, had been reserved to the Crown. The product of these operations for the calendar year 1913 was, approximately, 1,348,000,000 feet of logs, 82,805 cords of shingle-bolts, 3,030,010 lineal feet of piling, 35,000 mining-props, 15,500 cedar posts, and 5,093,718 lineal feet of cedar poles. The report states that there are few cases of intentional trespass. Absence of clearly marked survey lines and duplicate unofficial surveys account for most of them.

Clean Logging.

It is admitted that clean logging will depend upon the lumber market, for when there is no market for low-grade lumber the logger will feel disposed to leave low-grade logs in the woods. The general study which has been made up to date shows, however, that even under the market conditions, which have governed during the past few years, a great deal of material has been left to rot which could have been taken out profitably. The Forest Branch is working to reduce this waste.

Forest Insect Damage.

During the past two years timber owners have reported instances of destruction of merchantable timber by insects. Investigations in the Pacific States have shown that insect depredations can be controlled economically, and, with this end in view, arrangements were made last year with Dr. C. Gordon Hewitt, Dominion Entomologist, for a co-operative study of forest insects. Mr. J. M. Swaine, Entomologist for Forest Insects, spent the summer in British Columbia. His report has already appeared in the *Canadian Forestry Journal*.

Export of Forest Products.

The Report notes that the life of the timber industry of British Columbia depends upon profitable export, because the local population uses less than one-fifth of the timber production of the Province. The chief markets are the Prairie Provinces, the United States and Eastern Canada, and the sea-borne cargo trade. These are discussed at length, and measures for their development indicated.