

number of uninitiated workmen. To the latter class, shanty work lacks a good many of the social amenities of the town and city, and a few weeks restless employment is apt to make such a man give a willing ear to the camp agitator.

### Labor Unrest.

Another interesting and vital fact taken from the 1919-20 experience of lumbermen in the Ottawa valley and in varying degrees over other parts of Eastern Canada, is that in the average camp that should have a staff of 80 to 100 men, labor unrest often results in stripping the camp of half its complement at the period of the year when production should be highest. The reader will bear in mind also that the fixed overhead charges remain about the same whether the woods operations are going at full blast or under a half crew. Foremen, superintendents, bookkeepers, and clerks must be held on the job and the cost of supervision itself has materially risen. At the sawmill end, also, the reduced hours of labor and advance of wages of from 80 to 100 per cent. between 1913 and 1920 bear upon the cost of lumber in the retail yard.

### Feeding the Lumberjack.

The wages paid to shantymen always are in addition to board and lodging. Here we come upon yet another factor that helps to add dollars to the market price of a thousand feet of spruce or pine. Comparing the wholesale prices in 1913-14 and 1919-20 at Ottawa, the four big staple items of food have advanced approximately as follows:

Flour from \$4.80 per barrel to \$13.30.  
Oats from 45c per bushel to \$1.00.  
Hay from \$15.00 per ton to \$30.00.  
Pork from \$23.00 per bbl. to \$48.00.

Plant and equipment, as between the six years mentioned, show an increase of 150 per cent. Blankets, which were \$4.50 a pair in 1913 are now \$12.50 to \$15.00 a pair.

Wages have increased 120 to 140 per cent. In 1913, wage rates in the woods ran from \$28 to \$30 a month,

and today are from \$65 to \$80 a month plus board.

### Freight Rates Also.

Another factor directly increasing the cost of lumber to the consumer has been the advance in freight rates by the railway companies. First came an advance of 15 per cent. with a maximum of one cent per hundred pounds, then a further scaling up of 25 per cent., with a maximum of 5 cents per hundred pounds.

It is well also to bear in mind that the popular notion that lumbermen obtained their limits for "a mere song" and are cashing in on a piece of good luck and government generosity, is not borne out by facts. The "mere song" may run into scores of thousands of dollars, and no investment in the world is so constantly exposed to depreciation through forest fires as is true of a timber limit purchase in most parts of the Dominion. Except for a small area in the Eastern States there is as yet no such thing as timberland insurance against destruction by fire. It is the purpose of the Forestry Journal in an ensuing number to explain some of the facts associated with timberland tenure in Canada, from which it will be seen that, except for a relatively small percentage, the great bulk of the timberlands now under operation represent a large capital investment with heavy carrying costs.

### PLANTATION OWNER!

Exact data regarding small plantations, their costs and profits, are very meagre. The Canadian Forestry Journal invites its readers, many of whom own tree plantations, to place before the membership whatever facts are available.

We would like to secure information particularly of those plantations now yielding fuel wood or other commercial material. Will you aid us in this search? It may be possible to arrange for expert studies to be made of a few of the more interesting examples.