The Lumber Industry, 1925

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December 29th, 1926. — A preliminary report on the lumber industry in Canada during the calendar year 1925, has just been issued by the Forest Products Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This report shows increases in the quantity production of lumber, lath, and shingles, the chief products of the industry, as well as box shooks, veneer, pickets, staves; spoolwood, and poles. There were decreases in quantity with prepared pulpwood, sawn ties, mill waste sold for fuel, and heading. Although the production of sawn lumber increased, the average value per thousand feet was less than in 1924, and the total value decreased. Other decreases for total value were reported for shingles, pulpwood, sawn ties, box shooks, mill waste sold, and heading manufactured, while increases were reported for lath, veneer, pickets, staves, spoolwood, and piles. The total value of all the products of the industry decreased from \$141,929,256 in 1924 to \$133,631,808 in 1925, a decrease of 5.8 per cent.

As far as the gross value of production is concerned, the saw-milling industry ranks fifth among the important industries of Canada, having fallen from third place in 1924. Its gross production is now exceeded by that of the pulp and paper industry, flour and grist mills, slaughtering and meat packing establishments, and butter and cheese factories. With regard to the net value of production, or the value added by manufacture, obtained by subtracting the cost of raw materials from the gross value of products, the saw-milling industry comes second only to the pulp and paper industry, with a net total in 1925 of \$55,412,080. The saw-milling industry comes first among Canadian industries with regard to total number of employees; second with regard to wage distribution; and third with regard to capital investment.

The production of sawn lumber in Canada reached its maximum in 1911 with a reported cut of 4,918,202 M. ft. b.m. A second peak was reached in 1920, with a cut of 4,298,804 M. ft. b.m., followed by a considerable decrease in 1921. Increases in quantity production have taken place annually since 1921, with a production of 3,888,920 M. ft. b.m., in 1925, valued at \$99,725,519 as compared to 3,878,942 M. ft. in 1924, valued at \$104,444,622. The 1925 production represents an increase of 0.2 per cent in quantity, but a decrease of 4.7 per cent in total value. The average value of all kinds of lumber decreased from \$26.93 per M. ft. in 1924 to \$25.64 in 1925, a decrease of 5 per cent.

The production of shingles increased in quantity, but decreased in value, from 3,129,501 M. in 1924, valued at \$10,406,293, to 3,161,459 M. in 1925, valued at \$10,372,736.

The preparation of pulpwood, including cutting-up and barking or rossing, is carried on as a side-line in many Canadian saw-mills, and is therefore included as part of the saw-milling industry. Prepared pulpwood comes third in importance, with 706,700 cords, valued at \$9,169,976, as compared to 814,180 cords, valued at \$11,583,293 in 1924.

from 1,165,819 M. in 1924, to 1,292,963 in 1925, and the total value increased from \$5,975,253 in 1924 to \$6,415,927 in 1925.

While there were fewer mills in operation in 1925 than in 1924, the average production per mill was higher. The 2761 mills reporting in 1924 had an average annual output of 1,405 M. ft. b.m., while the 2700 mills reporting in 1925 produced an average of 1,440 M. ft. The total number of employees on salaries and wages decreased from 35,494 to 35,458, and the total payroll decreased from \$34,783,780 to \$34,097,006. The average earnings per employee during the year decreased from \$980 to \$962. The cost of fuel used in the industry decreased from \$651,499 in 1924 to \$546,025 in 1925, but the total quantity of power employed increased from 285,263 h.p. to 295,246 h.p. Raw materials in this industry, which are in the form of logs, bolts and rough cordwood, were valued at \$78,219,728 in 1925, as compared to \$83,141,692 in 1924. The value added by manufacture was \$55,412,080, and the total cost of raw materials formed 58.5 per cent of the total value of the finished products in 1925, as compared to 58.6 per cent in 1924.

The ratio of the cost of raw materials to value of products has increased considerably, on the whole, during the last few years in the lumber industry, because of increases in stumpage values and increases in the cost of logging due to the longer distances logs must be transported as the more accessible supplies of timber are exhausted. This ratio for the last nine years is as follows:

1917		35.1	1921		49.0
1918		31.3	1922		53.2
1919		44.7	1923		52.4
1920		49.8	1924		58.6
			1925		58.5

The capital invested in the industry increased from \$177,480,064 in 1924 to \$204,134,003 in 1925.

British Columbia heads the list in the production of sawn lumber and shingles; New Brunswick comes first in lath production; and Quebec is first in the preparation of pulpwood. The production of lumber increased in the provinces of British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Prince Edward Island, and decreased in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia.

The figures on which this preliminary report are based are subject to revision on further examination of the individual reports. The complete, revised statistics of the lumber industry for the calendar year 1925 will be included in the regular annual printed report, which will be available for distribution in a short time. Copies may be secured on application to the Dominion Statistician, Dominion Bureau of Statistics or to the King's Printer, Ottawa, Canada.

The following tables include a summary of the principal statistics of the industry, by provinces, and a summary of the primary and secondary products of

Table 1.—Principal Statistics of the Lumber Industry, 1925.

Provinces		Mills in opera- tion	Capital invested	Em- ployees	Salaries and wages	Cost of materials	Gross value of products
No.	\$	\$	\$			No.	\$
Canada		2,700	204,134,003	35,458	34,097,006	78,219,728	133,631,808
British Columbia		314	78,985,887	13,917	15,938,079	28,871,174	53,069,575
Ontario		710	52,755,427	8,361	8,490,771	22,073,392	36,141,672
Quebec		984	37,548,860	6,063	4,572,383	14,724,377	22,802,029
New Brunswick		224	24,163,332	4,133	3,173,631	8,999,292	14,648,407
Nova Scotia		343	4,620,668	1,705	799,252	1,721,767	3,043,069
Manitoba		26	3,924,479	563	604,996	1,119,272	2,427,421
Alberta		43	1,302,774	468	367,773	442,213	996,593
Saskatchewan		12	693,538	220	137,346	195,913	371,189
Prince Edward Island		44	139,038	28	12,775	72,328	131,853

Table 2.—Summary of Products of the Lumber Industry, 1924 and 1925.

Products		Quantity		Value	
		1924	1925	1924	1925
Total, all products	value only	—	—	141,929,256	133,631,808
Lumber	M. ft. b.m.	3,878,942	3,888,920	104,444,622	99,725,519
Shingles	M.	3,129,501	3,161,459	10,406,293	10,372,736
Pulpwood	Cords	814,180	706,700	11,583,293	9,160,976
Lath	M.	1,165,819	1,292,963	5,975,253	6,415,927
Sawn ties	No.	5,274,682	5,041,256	3,723,712	3,474,944
Box shooks	M.	15,584	20,181	1,998,688	1,055,658
Veneer	M. surf. ft.	17,699	21,570	841,855	854,179
Mill waste sold	Cords	331,133	286,426	821,389	746,382
Pickets	M.	19,758	36,654	567,707	592,667
Staves	M.	23,486	34,403	256,897	339,118
Spoolwood	M. ft. b.m.	2,865	4,105	101,369	167,095
Poles	No.	38,766	39,413	66,364	124,838
Heading	M. prs.	1,829	1,337	174,423	124,002
All other products	Value only	—	—	967,391	486,767

Safety First in Logging Camps

British Columbia Loggers Association, of Vancouver, maintains a safety department as part of the regular activities. The results have justified the effort to reduce accidents. In the production of 746 000,000 feet of logs, 15 fatal accidents resulted. An assessment of one-half cent per thousand feet is made for safety work. The association regularly issues graphic bulletins designed especially to catch the eye of the logger and instill a realization of the need for caution at all times. Major L. R. Andrews, of the Association, is a firm believer in safety first work.

The Timberman from which we are quoting, has suggested that a bonus system might be very properly inaugurated as part of the safety work, thereby insuring a direct financial return to the key men for the reduction of accidents. While lectures, cartoons and

safety first committees are to be commended as adjuncts in carrying on safety work, nevertheless a direct financial participation by the men who are responsible in great measure for prevention of accidents should prove a compelling incentive to exercise constant care in reducing the accident hazard to the minimum.

Logging is as dangerous an occupation as is warfare. There are hazards which are inseparable from the industry. Carelessness on the part of the men is responsible for many avoidable accidents, and the foreman, hooktender, loader and engineer can assist materially through helpful co-operation in reduction of accidents. Perhaps a direct financial return might prove a stimulus in the avoidance of preventable accidents.

The Timberman asks for the opinion of safety first engineers on the subject of payment bonuses as a means of reducing accidents.

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