

THE LUMBER TRADE.

CANADA.

The Lumber Trade of Canada is of the highest importance to the country. As will be seen in the Trade Tables elsewhere printed, the exports of products of the forest have frequently approached, and in some years exceeded, those of the products of agriculture. The best general review of this industry is that read to the Detroit Convention by Hon. James Skead, of Ottawa. No country in the world produces such fine and large timber in merchantable quantities as Canada; the species peculiarly adapted to commercial purposes being the white pine, (*pinus strobus*), and the red pine (*pinus rubra*). Mr. Skead enumerates eight districts, chiefly river valleys, producing pine of both these kinds, in addition to tamarac, black birch, ash, elm, spruce, white cedar, maple, oak, &c. These are: the Saguenay valley, 27,000 square miles; the valleys between the Saguenay and St. Maurice, 3,000; the St. Maurice valley, 21,000; the valleys between the St. Maurice and Montreal, 9,000; the Ottawa valley, 87,761; the valley between Kingston and the Trent, 2,350; the Trent valley, 6,200; total, 161,911. To this should probably be added 65,000 square miles of pine country east of the Saguenay, and 60,800 square miles drained into Lakes Huron and Superior. Mr. Skead calculates that about 24,000 square miles in the western peninsula of Canada produce wholly or in part the finer hardwoods, as oak, elm, black walnut, maple, chestnut, hickory and ash, also sycamore and basswood, and says that if a market could be obtained for the ornamental woods, Canada West would have a regular mine of wealth in her yet uncleared forests.

The Crown Lands Department sells its "timber limits" at auction. Each limit is theoretically ten miles square. The limit holder becomes a tenant to the Crown at the fixed ground-rent bid, and pays, besides, a half-penny per cubic foot of squared timber, or five pence per piece on each standard log, (12 feet long by 21 inches in diameter.)

About 25 per cent of the standing pine is available for squared timber; 40 per cent more for sawlogs; the remaining 35 per cent is undergrowth, useless or damaged.

The average quantity of timber got out is stated, by Mr. Skead, to be as follows:—

	cubic feet.		cubic feet.
Oak.....	1,585,856	White Pine.....	17,665,675
Elm.....	1,438,707	Red Pine.....	2,566,360
Ash.....	149,930		24,486,393
Birch.....	92,714	Sawed Planks, 250,000 m. ft. B. M.	
Tamarac.....	987,062	Sent to Quebec.....	20,833,333
		Home consumption.....	20,833,333
		American market.....	20,833,333
		Total.....	86,986,352

or over one million and three quarter tons.

The following is the official statement of the areas under licence, and the amounts accrued on timber and ground rents in the several districts,—season 1865,—with the names of the Crown Timber Agents in each territory, whose duties are to grant licences to cut timber, collect the Crown dues, protect the Public Woods and Forests from trespass, and administer the Timber Regulations:—

Territory.	Agents' Name and Address.	Sq. miles under licence.	Accrued on Timber dues.	Accrued on ground rent.
Upper Ottawa.....	A. T. Russell, Ottawa.....	15,356	\$150,643	\$19,540
Ontario.....	J. F. Way, Belleville.....	1,904	25,508	2,842
Lower Ottawa.....	C. E. Belle, Montreal.....	2,999	28,668	3,359
St. Maurice.....	A. Dubord, Three Rivers.....	6,483	16,578	4,232
Huron, Sup'er, & Pen. of C.W.	T. R. Nash, Toronto.....	892	9,605	1,203
St. Francis.....	G. J. Nagle, St. Hyacinthe.....	1,194	5,949	889
Saguenay.....	G. Duberger, Chicoutimi.....	1,006	8,004	670
Chaudiere and Madawaska.....	C. Dawson, Fraserville.....	1,251	3,382	2,080
Lower St. Lawrence.....	F. Dubé, Trois Pistoles.....	364	4,564	206
Baie des Chaleurs.....	J. N. Verge, Carleton.....	89	799	104
	Total.....	31,630	\$253,700	\$34,765

To these amounts add \$67,519 for slide dues, and \$5,586 for miscellaneous items, and we have as the total revenue accrued from the woods and forests \$361,570. The amount collected (including some arrears), was \$409,003.

On arrival at shipping ports, the lumber is "culled," if required, by Government officers. Wm. Quinn, Quebec, is the Supervisor of Cullers, Mr. Harbeson, do., deputy. Merchants who purchase usually require the rafts to undergo this ordeal.

The lumber trade employs, in the forest alone, 15,000 men, and in the partial manufacture of lumber over 2,000 mills, and at least 10,000 men. It further employs at Quebec about 1,200 vessels, of an aggregate freight capacity of 700,000 tons, besides 500,000 of lake and canal tonnage. Seventeen thousand seamen are engaged in carrying its products from Quebec to Europe, and 8,000 more in their transportation on inland waters.

The returns of our exports of lumber in the years 1864-'65, shewed as exports to

Great Britain.....	\$7,971,991	Germany.....	\$ 1,625
Sister Colonies.....	28,741	Other Countries.....	144,992
British West Indies.....	3,835		
United States.....	4,758,539	Total.....	\$13,008,595
France.....	98,872		