

the ships which, themselves made of wood, find in our exports¹ of the forest the materials for the full cargo, without which freight and rates on goods carried must be higher, nearly one-quarter of the exports of home production being products of the forest; the leather industry, which depends upon nature's supply of tannin secreted in the bark of trees; the lucifer match industries, those varied industries which depend in part upon wood, such as agricultural implements, edged tools, &c., and the practically new industry of pulp making, which within ten years has sprung up into an industry with nearly three million dollars of invested capital and over one million dollars of annual output.

186. "The value of forest products consumed per capita may be estimated approximately. The value of our forest products, calculated from the census returns of 1891, was \$80,071,415. For the fiscal year 1890-91 our imports of wood articles amounted to \$3,132,516, while for the same period our exports were \$27,707,547, leaving for consumption in Canada \$55,996,384, or a value of \$15.59 a head. With respect to the quantity used the census returns show an aggregate of 2,045,073,072 cubic feet as the total cut of the year. About 30 per cent of this is exported, leaving 1,431,551,150 cubic feet for the annual home consumption. This is equal to 296.2 cubic feet per head of the population. B. E. Fernow, chief of the Forestry division of the United States department of Agriculture, estimates that the per capita consumption of the United States is about 350 cubic feet annually.

187. "Whether we consider the capital invested, the labour employed, and the varied uses to which wood is put in the enhancement of our comfort and convenience; or whether we consider the permanent interests of the timber trade, of the settlers in our new country, of the public revenue and of the country generally, we are forced to regard the forest as a precious heirloom to be deeply revered, properly used and, through careful maintenance, to be handed down to posterity improved and enriched.

"Looked at from the most enlarged point of view the forests of Canada are her greatest heritage because 'the nations or states in which food, fuel, metal and timber may be produced at the highest relative rates of wages and at the lowest money-cost per unit of product will thereby be enabled to apply labour-saving machines to other branches of productive industry in the most effective manner.' The nation that would succeed in effecting this combination can do so only by maintaining its forests in their best possible condition, since, of the four factors described, the timber is the most easily exhausted. The nation which succeeds in this four-fold combination must be at the head of all nations in the long run.

"At the very outset of the enquiry great difficulties were encountered in the effort to secure trustworthy data. These difficulties were increased from the fact of the divided control and ownership.

¹ Canada is the fourth largest exporter of products of the forest, being only exceeded by Sweden and Norway with a net export of \$37,135,000; by Austria with a net export of \$31,000,000 and by Russia with \$33,300,000. On a per head basis, Canada stands second, her net export in 1891 having been \$24,574,869, equal to \$5.08 per head, against Sweden and Norway's \$5.50, Austria's 75 cents and Russia's 34 cents per head.