

CHAPTER V.

Forest wealth.—Statistician's report.—Census of forest products.—Value of forest products.—Exports.—Wood pulp.—Industries using wood.—Timber leases in Crown Lands.—Cut on timber lands.—Receipts from licenses.—Areas of forest and wood land.—Forests of Europe.

202. The natural resources of Canada are her forests, her farms, her fisheries and her minerals.

203. The forest wealth of Canada has been made the subject of investigation, during the year 1893-94, by the Statistician of the Department of Agriculture, and a volume of over 300 pages has been published as an appendix to the Minister's report for 1894. (This report can be obtained from the Department of Agriculture or from the Queen's Printer, Ottawa.)

204. In his introductory remarks the Statistician says:—

"The influence of forests on climate, on agricultural operations, on river fisheries, on water communications, on the health of the people and on the general trade and industries of a country is so far reaching that an examination of the value of our forests branches out in many directions, all of immense importance.

"The important direct effects of forests are due to the products which they yield, the capital which they represent and the work which they provide.

"The mechanical effect of forests makes itself felt chiefly in regard to the distribution of the rain water, the preservation of the soil on sloping ground, the binding of moving sand, and the prevention of avalanches.

"In Canada, in the various industries depending for their existence upon the supply of wood, there is an invested capital not far from 100 million dollars and an annual wage list of over thirty (30) million dollars, with an output valued at over 110 million dollars.

"In addition there are the railways which are dependent on the wood supply for railway ties (1) and dimension timber, and in whose freights the lumber carried figures as nearly one-fifth of the total freight carried; the canals, of whose freights the products of the forest constitute two-fifths of the total freight carried; the mines, which require wood for shoring purposes;

(1) Including sidings and double tracks we have about 18,590 miles of railway in Canada. At 3,000 ties to the mile the ties required number 55,770,000. Assuming the life of a tie to be seven (7) years the number needed every year is about eight (8) million for renewals, and allowing 300 miles for new roads every year a million more for this purpose or about nine (9) million ties a year. Supposing that 50 cubic feet of ties can be obtained from an acre of forest, it will be seen that 3,340,000 acres will be required to supply the consumption of young and thrifty trees needed for the 18,590 miles, and 530,000 acres for each year's demand.