

2.—The Lumber Industry.

The manufacture of lumber, lath, shingles and other products of the sawmill forms the second most important industry in Canada depending on the forest for its raw materials. Annual statistics covering this and other forest industries were collected and published by the Forest Service of the Department of the Interior from 1908 to 1916. Since that date the work has been carried on by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, in co-operation with the Forest Service.

Table 2 gives the production of lumber, lath and shingles from 1908 to 1925 inclusive.

The production of sawn lumber in Canada in 1920 reached a total of over four billion feet, board measure, the highest cut recorded since 1912. This was followed in 1921, however, by a period of depression which was general throughout all fields of industrial activity. The production of lumber in 1921 decreased by over a third and the average value by over \$10 a thousand feet. The cut during 1922 showed an increase of 9.4 p.c. in quantity, accompanied by an increase of over \$2,000,000 in total value, while the production in 1923 again increased to 3,728,445,000 feet, board measure, and the value to \$108,290,542. Statistics of production in 1925 show an increase in quantity to 3,888,920,000 feet board measure, accompanied by a decrease in value to \$99,725,519.

2.—Lumber, Lath and Shingle Production in Canada, for the calendar years 1908-1925.

Years.	Lumber cut.		Shingles cut.		Lath cut.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	M ft. B.M.	\$	M.	\$	M.	\$
1908.....	3,347,126	54,338,636	1,499,396	3,101,996	671,562	1,487,125
1909.....	3,814,942	62,819,477	1,988,753	3,701,182	822,124	1,979,084
1910.....	4,451,652	70,609,233	1,976,640	3,557,211	851,953	1,943,544
1911.....	4,918,202	75,830,954	1,838,474	3,512,078	965,235	2,212,226
1912.....	4,389,723	69,475,784	1,578,343	3,175,319	899,016	2,064,622
1913.....	3,816,642	65,796,438	1,495,279	3,064,641	739,678	1,783,283
1914.....	3,946,254	60,363,369	1,843,554	3,688,746	625,010	1,585,484
1915.....	3,842,676	61,919,806	3,089,470	5,734,852	793,226	2,040,819
1916.....	3,490,550	58,365,348	2,897,562	5,962,933	665,585	1,743,940
1917.....	4,151,703	83,655,097	3,020,956	8,431,215	616,949	1,828,018
1918.....	3,886,631	103,700,620	2,682,521	8,194,448	438,100	1,369,616
1919.....	3,819,750	122,030,653	2,915,309	13,525,625	820,203	2,157,758
1920.....	4,295,804	168,171,987	2,855,706	14,695,159	763,031	5,248,879
1921.....	2,869,307	82,448,565	2,986,580	10,727,096	804,449	4,188,121
1922.....	3,138,598	84,554,172	2,506,956	10,397,090	1,031,420	5,690,328
1923.....	3,728,445	108,290,542	2,718,650	9,617,114	1,153,735	6,324,747
1924.....	3,878,942	104,444,622	3,129,501	10,406,293	1,165,819	5,975,253
1925.....	3,888,920	99,725,519	3,156,261	11,154,773	1,292,963	6,415,927

The number of mills in operation in 1925 was 2,700, as compared with 2,761 in 1924 and 2,883 in 1923, but the average production per mill increased from 1,295,000 feet in 1923 to 1,405,000 in 1924 and 1,440,000 in 1925. The average number of days each mill was in operation in 1923 was 94.5, in 1924 97.3, and in 1925 93.5.

The total number of employees on salaries and wages in 1925 was 35,457, as compared with 35,494 in 1924, a decrease of 0.1 p.c. The total payroll was \$34,097,006, as compared with \$34,783,780 in 1924, a decrease of 2.0 p.c. The average earnings per employee for all classes shows a decrease from \$980 in 1924 to \$962 in 1925. Power used increased from 285,263 h.p. in 1924 to 295,246 h.p. in 1925, fuel cost declined from \$651,499 to \$546,025, and total cost of materials from \$83,141,692 to \$78,219,728.