

## United Kingdom.

The United Kingdom is the greatest timber importing country in the world. Home-grown supplies are very limited and practically all the wood required for domestic use and for the great export trade must be imported.

The importance of wood in British economy, in war as in peace, is indicated by the promptness with which the Timber Control Board was established under the Ministry of Supply. This Board immediately took charge not only of the supplies in the British Isles but of the overseas purchases that had been made or were to be made.

The reasons for the establishment of the timber control are outlined by Mr. Russell Latham, Assistant Controller in Charge of Promotion of Economy in the Use of Timber, as follows:—

(1) The elimination of competition in those restricted markets that remain open as sources of supply.

(2) To enable any source of supply where timber operators show signs of exploiting the present emergency to be disregarded.

(3) The concentration upon imports of a type that are essential, as opposed to those that are not essential.

(4) To permit the regulation of expenditure of foreign exchange balances in accord with expediency.

The average annual imports of "Wood and Timber", classified under "Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured" during 1934-38 amounted to the equivalent of 6,475 million ft. b.m. The imports of sawn wood, including box boards, averaged 4,964 million bd. ft.; and 151 million cu. ft. (which may be taken as equivalent to about 1,510 million bd. ft.) was imported in the form of hewn wood logs, pit-props, staves, poles, and veneers. Details are shown in the following statement:—

### AVERAGE ANNUAL IMPORTS OF WOOD AND TIMBER, 1934-38.

SAWN—	Equivalent in M ft. b.m.	Equivalent in M cu. ft., Wood Content.
Softwood—		
Not further prepared.....	3,624,861	
Planed.....	612,683	
Box boards.....	164,201	
Total Softwood.....	4,401,745	
Hardwood—		
Not further prepared—		
Mahogany, walnut, oak and teak.....	183,744	
All other sorts.....	258,900	
Planed.....	119,292	
Total Hardwood.....	561,936	
TOTAL SAWN.....	4,963,681	
OTHER TIMBER—		
Hardwood, hewn.....		4,075
Softwood, round logs.....		12,735
Softwood, n.e.s.....		3,373
Pit-props.....		106,872
Sleepers, including sleeper blocks...		17,173
Staves.....		2,624
Telegraph poles.....		3,643
Veneers.....		575
TOTAL OTHER TIMBER.....		151,070

The value of this wood averaged £48,658,516, which, at the average prevailing rates of exchange, was equal to approximately \$240,618,000.

Of the 4,402 million bd. ft. of softwood lumber and box boards, European countries supplied 76 p.c., Canada 18 p.c., United States 2 p.c., and other foreign countries, some of which may be European, 4 p.c. The United States supplied