

46 p.c. of the 562 million bd. ft. of sawn hardwoods, Canada 15 p.c., India, Australia, and other British countries 10 p.c., Poland and Yugoslavia 13 p.c., Japan 4 p.c., and other foreign and unspecified countries 12 p.c.

In addition to the above, there were imports of large quantities of pulp and paper and of manufactured wood in the form of doors, plywood, furniture, etc., that cannot readily be expressed in wood volume.

In spite of the almost complete cessation of construction for civil purposes due to restrictions imposed by the War, war requirements for buildings, containers, aircraft, and other essential purposes will be greatly increased. The exporting industries, which the Government is making every effort to maintain as a means to establishing essential foreign credits, will require wood for containers.

Canada and the United States can with little difficulty, if required, supply all the lumber the United Kingdom needs. Canada's normal production is about 4,000 million bd. ft. During the past five years the exports varied from 1,430 million in 1935 to 2,212 million in 1939, averaging 1,844 million bd. ft., of which 992 million went to the United Kingdom. The sawmill capacity is adequate to provide the United Kingdom with at least double that amount if orders are secured sufficiently in advance to get the logs cut and delivered.

In 1929 the United States produced 35,800 million bd. ft. of lumber of which about 3,000 million was exported. During the depression production was reduced to 13,100 million in 1932 but it has increased steadily to 25,547 in 1939, but only 1,050 million was exported. It is, therefore, evident that the exports from that country can be materially increased.

Forest Products for which there will be a Substantial War Demand.—

The situation in respect to three groups of forest products for which the normal channels of supply have been cut off, and which Canada is in a position to furnish, is reviewed below.

Pit-Props.—One of the most urgent demands of the United Kingdom at the present time is for pit-props. Normal imports amount to over 100 million cu. ft. About 70 p.c. has been coming from the Baltic countries, chiefly Finland, Russia, Latvia, and Sweden, and steps are now being taken to secure large quantities in Canada and Newfoundland.

Aircraft Wood.—The immense air programs of the British Empire and France call for large amounts of wood for aircraft construction, in spite of the increased use of metal for this purpose. The wood best suited for structural parts is Sitka spruce which grows on the Pacific Coast chiefly in Alaska, British Columbia, and Washington. Its light weight, strength, and resilience and the comparatively large proportion of clear straight-grained wood that can be secured from the large trees, usually 3 to 6 feet in diameter and 100 to 150 feet in height, make it of special value for this purpose. During the last year of the War of 1914-18, British Columbia supplied the Imperial Ministry of Munitions with 26,124 M ft. b.m., of Sitka spruce of aeroplane grade and 9,224 M ft. b.m., of high-grade Douglas fir for aeroplane construction. The high standard of quality required limits the selection to only a small proportion of the wood even in these large trees and, if the abnormal demands of war are to be met for a number of years, care must be taken to secure the maximum recovery of aircraft wood from the timber cut.