

**Exports of Wood and Paper Products.**—The forests of Canada contribute substantially to her export-trade values. During the calendar year 1943 exports of wood and paper products amounted to \$391,069,658 and made up 13.2 p.c. of the total value of Canadian exports for the period, amounting to \$2,971,475,277. Domestic exports of wood and paper products were exceeded by those of agricultural (vegetable and animal) products, which made up 26.0 p.c. of the total, and by mineral products with 37.4 p.c. Wood and paper products are prominent among the individual items of export. Even more impressive is the contribution made by products of the forest and forest industries toward Canada's excess of exports over imports. In 1943 this excess from trade in all commodities (excluding gold) was \$1,266,275,389. In comparison, the gross total contribution from trade in "wood, wood products and paper" only, amounted to \$351,166,355.

### **Section 7.—The Influence of the War on Forestry\***

Because of the great and growing importance of wood, Canada's 500,000,000 productive forested acres have taken on a new significance not only in the war program but in planning for the period of reconstruction that will follow.

Except in magnitude, a wartime timber contribution is not new for the Canadian forester. When Napoleon tried to defeat Britain by blockading her supplies from Europe in 1806, the ring of the axe was heard in Canadian woods, Canadian timbers became ships of the Royal Navy, and the blockade attempt was a failure. A little over a century later another would-be conqueror tried even more strenuously to blockade the British Isles, and once again the woodsmen of this country aided in the victory.

But providing enough timber for the Britain of Napoleon's day, or even for the War of 1914-18, was one thing; supplying the enormous quantities presently needed by the Allied Nations, is quite another. Demands have risen so high that production cannot keep pace, and Canada, one of the richest timber countries in the world, has had a deficit.

At the outbreak of the present war in 1939, the Canadian lumber industry was experiencing a period of reasonable activity. During the first winter the cut of logs was increased but, on the whole, the industry underwent no great dislocation until early in the summer of 1940.

To meet this emergency, the Department of Munitions and Supply established a Timber Control on June 24, 1940. Apart from applying the brakes to runaway prices, the heaviest task facing the Control during its first six months was the purchasing of lumber for Departmental account and making sure that deliveries were made on time.

At that time Royal Canadian Air Force projects were built under contract, and the function of the Control was to make sure that contractors could obtain quickly the lumber they needed. On the other hand, Army training camps were built by the Royal Canadian Engineers, and lumber for these was purchased by the Department.

By December, 1940, Government account purchases had exceeded 110,000,000 bd. ft. and contractors had taken an additional 260,000,000 bd. ft. In this period, several flying schools, each requiring six hangars and 33 other buildings, were erected in the amazingly short time of 100 days or less. More than 5,000 wooden buildings were built in 1940, and about 4,000 more the following year.

\* Prepared in the Department of Munitions and Supply.