S T A T E M E N T II.

TIMBER POSITION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA AND THE PACIFIC COAST OF NORTH AMERICA GENERALLY.

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Statement 2.

CONSERVATION OF TIMBER SUPPLIES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The following extract from an article by R.W. Hibberson in the "Journal of Forestry" (Washington, D.C.) for November, 1921, shows the timber position in British Columbia ~~and the urgent necessity for conservation of the existing supplies:-~~ & the Pacific Coast of North America generally:-

"To the average man in the street, British Columbia is all timbered. He travels by train through the interior of British Columbia, or by steamer up the Coast and the country everywhere looks green; therefore it must be timber. If you told him there is every danger of a timber famine in British Columbia within 15 years, you would be ridiculed; but there is a very decided danger of a timber famine, and before many years lapse, we will all begin to feel it.

Ten years ago, the center of the logging industry was within a radius of 50 miles of Vancouver. Today it is from 150 to 200 miles from Vancouver, and in some cases operators are towing logs as far as 600 miles to their mills, and an average tow of 200 miles is quite common.

Ten years ago, the average cost of logging was $5 per thousand feet; today it is nearly $20 per thousand feet and in some of our cedar camps last year, the cost was over this figure.

Ten years ago, most of our logging was done within a mile of the salt water; today we are hauling by railroad 10 to 20, and in some cases more miles by railroad to salt water, before we commence to tow logs to the mill.

The interior of British Columbia had the same conditions, where formerly saw mills were built in the heart of the timber, today, logs are brought distances up to 70 miles by water and by rail. This means heavy expense and conditions are getting worse every day. The general public is clamoring for cheap lumber. There can be no cheap lumber in the future, if the logger and mill man are to make a fair profit on their investment. Lumber will steadily rise in price as the timber recedes farther and farther away from centers of population, and the cost of getting the logs to the mill increases year by year.

The logger, in order to get his logs as cheaply as possible is devastating our forests; cutting only the timber that can be cheaply handled, smashing down all the smaller timber inthe process of logging and leaving in the woods to rot or to be burnt, some 30 to 40 per cent. of the volume of timber on the ground. He cannot afford to attempt to log much of the timber in the high elevations or on the rough ground; broken timber is left and on most operations on rough ground, fully half of the timber never reaches the mill, it being broken up and left on the ground. There is no country in the world that would tolerate the wasteful logging methods practiced on the Pacific Coast of Canada and the United States. It is not logging, it is forest devastation.

We have been credited in British Columbia with having 350 billion feet of standing timber. Of this I have no hesitation in saying that there will not be 100 billion feet actually taken to our saw mills in the form of saw logs. This figure of course refers to our virgin timber. Our present output is approximately two billions of feet per year; this figure will be more than doubled within five years, and by 1930 British Columbia will be called upon to supply at least six billion feet per year, possibly more.

As is well known, the eastern United States is almost denuded of timber, they are already dependent on eastern Canada, the southern States and the Pacific Coast for 90 per cent. of their domestic requirements in lumber. The southern States which now cut approximately 12 billion feet per year, will, within seven years, cease to be an exporter of lumber, and the Pacific Coast will be called upon to supply the deficiency.

The United States annually uses 38 billion board feet of lumber; that is to say, all the saw timber we have in British Columbia would only last the people of the United States three years. Her wood fuel consumption is enormous. Last year it was 110 million cords. The United States railroads used annually 125 million railroad ties, and six billion feet of timber is used just for boxes, crates, and barrels. Already the people on the other side of the line are preparing for a timber famine. Reforestation is practiced in many of the eastern States. The pulp and paper companies, who formerly were self-supporting in pulp timber, now obtain two thirds of their pulp, paper, or pulp wood from Canada; and if as is quite probable, Canada prohibits the export of pulp wood across the line, most of these companies will be put out of business, and investments totalling hundreds of millions of dollars will be wiped out.

In Quebec and Ontario, the large pulp and paper companies realize the necessity of a continuous supply of timber; and although they still have thousands of square miles of timber, they are now engaged in systematic reforestation on the cut-over areas; as fast as a tract is logged, they plan to reforest it. Their logging methods are supervised by Government foresters and no waste is tolerated. The Government of the Province of Quebec is now planning to fix the maximum annual cut of timber and also a minimum cut, to stop speculation on Government lands. They have sent young forestry engineers to Europe to study the best forestry methods and are engaged in reforestation on a large scale.

I have no doubt that you think I am painting a very harrowing picture and one that can never come about, but it has come about in other parts of this continent, and will certainly come about here unless we can take measures to prevent it. The fact that we can ship lumber across this continent by rail into New York State, to keep the wood using plants there alive, proves it. New York State once was heavily forested like British Columbia. Her requirements today are 300 board feet per capita. She can only get from her forests 30 feet per capita; the balance of 90 per cent. she must import from Canada, the Pacific Coast, and the southern States.

At the last meeting of the Southern Pine Association it was estimated that 80 per cent. of their mills will close within seven years, not having any further supply of timber for their use. This means that British Columbia and the Pacific States of the United States will have to supply the wants of the United States market and the Prairie Provinces of Canada in addition to filling the wants of the export trade, with Europe, Australia.

South Africa, the Orient, and South America.

British Columbia has an area of 359,000 square miles, of which only 40,000 miles is commercially forested; 110,000 square miles of our timber lands containing 665 billions of feet has been totally destroyed and as the humus has been burned it will be centuries before it is again covered with a forest growth. The Slocan and southern boundary countries of British Columbia have been so burned over that many of the mines and mining towns have to ship their mining timber and fuel by rail, distances up to 70 miles, and this country a few years ago was heavily forested.

The virgin growth of timber in British Columbia is steadily decaying and should be cut and marketed, but the young second growth on which we depend for our future supply of lumber should be jealously preserved. At present we are recklessly cutting it for tie timber, poles and mining timber, destroying fully 30 per cent. of it during the operation.

Depletion of our forests in British Columbia within 20 years with a resultant slump in all enterprise that depends wholly or in part on forest products can only be averted if action is taken without further delay. The action we would propose is that private timberland owners adopt logging methods that will protect and preserve young growth, and leave logged off lands in condition for forest renewal, then the young trees of today will be of merchantable size when needed. This is dependent on keeping fires out of the forests, so that young trees will have an opportunity to grow."

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This article shows what may be expected from the present source of oregon timber, which at present is a large factor in preventing the sale of scantling from Western Australia in the Eastern States and is now competing in the sleeper markets of the world. For use as a sleeper it is creosoted.

Statement 3.

FOR COMMONWEALTH

Year	Annual Import of Timber	Annual Export of Timber		Excess of Imports over Exports
	Value	Volume	Value	Value
	£	lds.	£	£
1900	-		-	-
1901	1,368,196		666,952	701,244
1902	1,171,134		564,949	606,185
1903	961,971		848,255	113,716
1904	1,350,886		836,217	514,669
1905	1,072,275		1,027,603	44,672
1906	1,329,456		1,012,111	317,345
1907	1,632,493		805,133	827,360
1908	1,894,591		1,039,114	855,477
1909	1,653,820		1,028,961	624,859
1910	2,115,380		1,020,044	1,095,336
1911	2,785,564		1,069,627	1,715,937
1912	2,863,213		903,603	1,959,610
1913	2,986,476		1,011,041	1,915,435
1914-15	2,160,440		802,186	1,349,212
1915-16	1,723,889		403,461	1,320,428
1916-17	1,478,828		305,393	1,173,435
1917-18	1,404,526		244,711	1,159,815
1918-19	1,838,537		240,387	1,598,150
1919-20	2,476,711		534,018	1,942,693
ø 1920-21	5,092,139		1,403,868	3,688,271

Impossible give total volumes, as exports made partly in super. ft. and partly in made up pieces.

ø Preliminary figures only.

Statement 4.

FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Year	Annual Import of Timber	Annual Export of Timber		Excess of Exports over Imports
	Value	Volume	Value	Value
	£	lds.	£	£
1900	53,274	114,508	458,461	405,187
1901	73,961	143,012	572,354	498,393
1902	73,681	125,135	500,533	426,852
1903	96,062	154,969	619,705	523,643
1904	137,422	161,446	654,949	517,527
1905	75,397	a174,190	689,943	614,546
1906	79,122	a176,614	708,993	629,871
1907	101,324	a128,091	511,923	410,599
1908	78,844	a197,390	813,591	734,747
1909	72,575	a216,609	867,419	794,844
1910	156,044	a241,482	972,698	816,654
1911	121,037	a248,990	986,341	865,304
1912	144,559	a225,942	903,396	758,837
1913	177,457	a272,397	1,089,481	912,024
1914b	66,839	a125,595	502,153	435,314
1915c	93,913	a190,370	808,392	714,479
1916c	59,698	108,642	441,991	382,293
1917c	61,010	77,813	310,893	249,883
1918c	42,272	68,725	274,141	231,869
1919c	60,095	82,715	344,119	284,024
1920c	95,430	101,306	487,666	392,236
1921c	167,471	196,325	1,162,735	995,264

a. Approximate figures only.
b. Six months ended 30th June
c. Year ended 30th June