

# THE LUMBER INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES

**INTERESTING AND VALUABLE STATISTICS OF ONE OF THE COUNTRIES LEADING INDUSTRIES—A LARGE INCREASE IN PRODUCTION DESPITE THE PANIC LAST YEAR.**

The Bureau of the Census, with the assistance of the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, has for some years collected statistics concerning the annual production of various forest products, and the preliminary totals for the cut of lumber, lath, and shingles for the year ending December 31, 1907, have just been made public.

**Total Lumber Cut, Over Forty Billion Feet.**

Unusual importance is attached to the reports for the past year, which show that the aggregate cut of lumber in the United States increased from 37,551 million feet, board measure, in 1906, to 40,256 million feet in 1907—a gain of 2,705 million feet, or 7.2 per cent. For lath and shingles the total production was 3,664 million and 11,950 million, respectively, in 1907, as against 3,813 million and 11,858 million, respectively, in 1906—a decrease of 149 million, or 3.9 per cent, in lath, and an increase of 92 million, or eight-tenths of 1 per cent, in shingles. The number of mills reporting in 1907 was 28,850, while in 1906 the cut of 22,398 mills was covered. **Effects of the Panic, and Other Influences.**

The substantial increase in the total production of lumber in 1907 as compared with 1906, in spite of the financial stringency which measurably affected most lines of manufacture during a part of the later year, is remarkable, and especially so in view of certain well-known local causes which also operated during the whole or a part of the year to reduce the output of the regions affected. Aside from the car shortage, which necessitated a restriction of the cut in many localities during the earlier months of the year, the fact that the industry of lumber manufacture was practically suspended on the Pacific coast early in the fall, on account of the prospective raise in freight rates by the railroads which handle the product of the mills in this region, materially affected the amount of output. Furthermore a steady decline from year to year is to be expected in the Lake states, because of the rapid exhaustion of their timber supply. In the Southern states, however—the principal producers of lumber during recent years—local conditions were substantially normal, but the effect of the business depression obtaining throughout the country during the latter part of 1907, while somewhat obscured, may nevertheless be discerned in the showing for that region.

**Increase in Production, Chiefly in the Southern States.**

The unprecedented volume of building operations under way during 1906 and the earlier part of 1907 had created a demand for yellow pine which reduced stocks and kept the mills running at practically maximum capacity during the major part of the latter year—for some months even after the decline in building activity had become general and pronounced. Furthermore these conditions brought into operation many new mills, a fact which also contributed to a material increase in the normal cut of the region through the earlier months of 1907. The exceptionally heavy production during this part of the year is more clearly indicated by the figures when it is borne in mind that many of the large mills in the yellow pine district were idle, or practically so, for several weeks during the latter part of the year. The greater thoroughness which characterized the 1907 canvass undoubtedly contributed in some degree also to the increased totals for these states as well as for other lumber regions of the country.

**Cut of Yellow Pine, Nearly Thirteen Billion Feet.**

More than nine-tenths of the stand of yellow pine stumpage is in the coast states, from Virginia to Texas, inclusive, and Arkansas. This group, together with Kentucky and Tennessee, reported a total lumber cut in 1907 of 17,694,218 thousand feet by 11,395 mills, as against 15,096,110 thousand feet by 8,143 mills in 1906—an increase of 17.2 per cent in production and 39.9 per cent in number of mills. Of this total output, the several species of yellow pine—long leaf, short leaf, loblolly, Cuban, etc.—contributed 12,816,790 thousand feet, or 72.4 per cent, in

1907, and 11,298,014 thousand feet, or 74.8 per cent, in 1906—an increase in the cut of this wood of 1,466,788 thousand feet, or 13.4 per cent. Other woods showing important gains were: Oak, from 1,032,398 thousand feet in 1906 to 1,465,763 thousand feet in 1907; poplar, from 325,162 thousand feet to 427,426 thousand feet; red gum, from 286,696 thousand feet to 472,754 thousand feet; and tupelo, from 42,624 thousand feet to 66,894 thousand feet. Oak and poplar are the principal lumber trees of Kentucky and Tennessee. It is possible that the indicated increase in the cut of these woods was due, in part, to the substantially larger number of mills reported for these states in 1907.

**Production in New York and New England.**

In New York and New England, where the manufacture of lumber and allied products from standing timber still holds a relatively high place among the industries of the region, the totals were not materially changed from those of the preceding year; most of the states, however, showed gains, and in a few instances the relative increases were considerable. The total cut of New York and New England combined—3,617,482 thousand feet for 1907—exceeded that of 1906 by 348,214 thousand feet, an increase of 10.7 per cent. Such a showing is noteworthy in view of the waning timber supply in this region, and the adverse business conditions obtaining throughout a part of the period covered. Practically the entire output of the mills of this section—unlike that of the mills in the Lake states, the Southern states, and the Pacific Coast states—is marketed locally and is insufficient in quantity to satisfy the normal demand, a considerable percentage of the product consumed here being shipped in, chiefly from the South and from the Lake region. The falling off in the demand for lumber in these states during the latter part of 1907, therefore, while reflected sharply in the decreased shipments into them, apparently had little or no bearing on the output of the local mills, whose capacity was still short of the demand.

**Spruce Still a Leading Lumber Timber.**

Although the wood pulp industry is making a heavy and increasing draft upon the supply of spruce, this tree still practically shares with white pine the place of first importance among the lumber timbers of this region. The cut of spruce reported in 1907 was 1,098,268 thousand feet, an increase over 1906 of 75,914 thousand feet, or 7.4 per cent. It formed 30.4 per cent of the total output of all lumber in these states in 1907, while white pine contributed 31.8 per cent.

**Decrease in White Pine Cut of the Lake States.**

The total production of the Lake states was 5,491,680 thousand feet in 1907 and 6,219,728 thousand feet in 1906, a decrease of 728,048 thousand feet, or 11.7 per cent. Among the various species the greatest loss was in pine, which decreased from 3,055,072 thousand feet in 1906 to 2,497,505 thousand feet in 1907, or 18.3 per cent; while for hemlock, maple, and basswood the relative decreases were only 8.8, 5.6 and 9 per cent, respectively, and for birch there was an increase of 4.6 per cent. In these states, as a whole, pine still holds the place of first importance, though the history of lumbering in Michigan, where with the passing of pine the cut of the mills ran to hemlock and the hard woods, is being repeated in Wisconsin. In this state in 1907 the reported cut of pine for the first time fell below that of hemlock, the output of the latter exceeding that of the former by 19.7 per cent, while in 1906 the production of pine was greater than that of hemlock by 13.1 per cent. In Minnesota the cut of pine in 1907 formed 91.6 per cent of the total lumber output of that state, and represented 60.9 per cent of the aggregate cut of this wood in all the Lake states.

**Comparison With Previous Years.**

The report also contains statistics of the cut for the years 1900, 1904 and 1905. The total of 35,084 million feet, board measure, shown for 1900, is comparable with the 37,551 million and 40,256 million feet reported for 1906 and 1907, respectively, as the canvass for each of these years covered both merchant and custom mills. In 1904 and 1905 the recorded lumber cut of the country was 34,135 million feet and 30,503 million feet, board measure, respectively. The figures for 1904 were compiled at the quinquennial census

# POSSES STILL AFTER GULES

**Fugitive Murderer at Marysville, Cal., Seen in Butte County But Not Captured**

(By Associated Press.)  
MARYSVILLE, Cal., July 17.—Adolph Gules, the fugitive murderer of two men at Camp No. 20, on the Western Pacific, appeared at Merriam in the eastern part of Butte county, last night. He stopped at a store and wanted beer. None was to be had and he started toward Quincy, Plumas county. He showed evidence of hard travel. Several posses are in pursuit.

**COST OF ELECTIONS.**

**June Balloting in Oregon Caused \$15,500 Expense.**

SALEM, Ore., July 17.—Elections under the initiative and referendum in Oregon last month cost \$15,500 in addition to the regular election expenses, not counting anything for additional time of election judges or the additional cost of enlarged ballots. The amount named is the cost of printing and distributing pamphlets of information to voters. Of the total amount, \$3157 was paid by friends or opponents of measures for the space their arguments occupied in the pamphlets.

**COOL SUMMER BREEZES THAT BLOW ON COOS BAY**

**Empire Man Writes to Friends in Sweltering East About Our Climate.**

EMPIRE, Ore., July 16, 1908.  
Dear Times:

Have no right to trespass upon your time or good nature but I presume to furnish you excerpt from better written by one of our Empireites to a friend in St. Louis, Mo., in effect:

"The weather as a topic: We of Coos Bay, when we read of the torridity, and many heat prostrations in the eastern states are thankful that we are not there as thus far, advanced as is the season, in this particular spot we have had no real summer weather and the truth of the statement of friends, old residents, a few years ago that the upper 'Coos' was more to be desired as a place where one could get warm, 'away from the chilling July breezes so common to the Bay' is now fully realized, for a pair of blankets and coverlet have been acceptable as a bed furnishing ever since the writer, a tenderfoot, has made Empire his abiding place, Long live Empire whose claim to the title of being the typical mecca of the office worn, the sick, the recreationist cannot be gain said, 'So mote it be.'"

ANON.

of manufactures of 1905, which was limited to merchant mills, thus excluding small neighborhood mills and those engaged exclusively in local custom sawing, which probably accounts for the fact that the total cut for that year was smaller than in 1906, 1906 or 1907. The figures for 1905, while doubtless covering the cut of most of the large mills of the country, manifestly fell short of giving complete figures for that year. In order, however, that the comparison of the annual cut might be given as wide a scope as possible, these figures for 1904 and 1905 are presented, as they constitute the most complete record available for these years.

**NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.**

Notice is hereby given that the common council of the city of Marshfield, Coos county, Oregon, will receive bids for the improvement of that portion of Flanagan street, from the north end of said street to the center line of Nevada avenue, according to the plans and specifications on file in the office of the city recorder, and open to the inspection of all persons interested therein. Separate bids will be received for the grading and for the planing, sidewalks and other wood work. Bids will be received up until 8 o'clock p. m., Tuesday, July 28, 1908, and each bid must be accompanied with a certified check for at least 5 per cent of the bid. The council reserves the right to reject any or all bids.  
Dated, July 16, 1908.  
J. M. UPTON,  
Recorder.

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