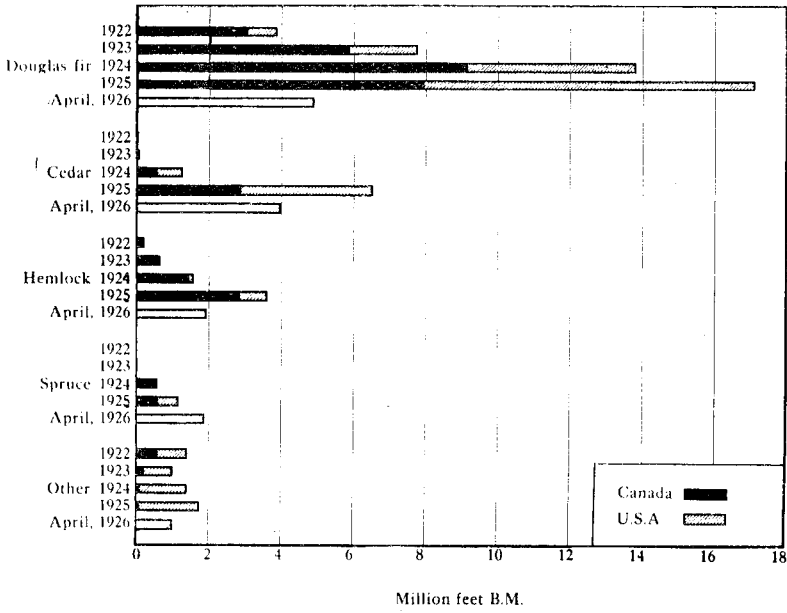


IMPORTS OF SOFTWOODS INTO NEW ZEALAND FROM CANADA AND UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR THE CALENDAR YEARS 1922-25.
(Expressed in terms of feet board measure.)

Species.	Canada.				U.S.A.				Totals from Canada and U.S.A. from 1st Jan. to 30th April, 1926.
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	
Douglas fir ..	3,069,000	5,880,000	9,133,000	7,940,000	824,000	1,881,000	4,696,000	9,167,000	4,881,000
Cedar ..	20,000	50,000	567,000	2,870,000	..	..	684,000	3,638,000	2,987,000
Hemlock ..	200,000	631,000	1,439,000	2,855,000	..	5,000	148,000	813,000	1,940,000
Spruce ..	..	3,000	573,000	579,000	..	..	..	572,000	1,869,000
Other ..	586,000	203,000	100,000	70,000	821,000	1,062,000	1,304,000	1,676,000	1,000,000
Totals ..	3,875,000	6,767,000	11,812,000	14,314,000	1,645,000	2,948,000	6,832,000	15,866,000	12,677,000

Total, Canada and United States : 1922, 5,520,000 ; 1923, 9,715,000 ; 1924, 18,644,000 ; 1925, 30,180,000.



GRAPH OF IMPORTATIONS OF SOFTWOOD LUMBER FROM CANADA AND UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR THE CALENDAR YEARS 1922-25.

With the highest *per capita* consumption since 1910 importations, like local production, reached a new peak. Falling prices, too, and a wider knowledge of the properties of foreign softwoods contributed to this unprecedented invasion of New Zealand markets; the result is, unfortunately, a displacement of our own excellent building-timbers. During the latter part of the period under review these heavy importations have had a depressing effect on New Zealand's sawmill industry, which provides employment for nearly eight thousand men, and pays out approximately two million pounds sterling per annum in wages. The industry is now endeavouring, by improved manufacturing methods and by more efficient distribution, to meet, in a measure, this alarming influx of foreign timber, and to render greater selling service to its customers.

THE FOREST INDUSTRY OF NEW ZEALAND.

There are at least four hundred sawmills in New Zealand producing 360 million feet b.m. of timber annually. Of this output a total of 79 million feet b.m. (22 per cent.) was cut from State Forests, and the proportion exploited is so increasing that within ten years it will be at least 75 per cent. At the 31st March, 1925, the forested lands held for milling in the Dominion were 361,000 acres (40,000 acres had been cut during that year), whilst the average yield per acre was 7,100 ft. b.m. The State, in ten years, will be the chief landlord as regards supplies of exploitable raw material.

Marching with the times and economic trends, the exploitation, manufacture, and distribution of forest-produce in New Zealand is evolving along lines which must result in the rendering of cheaper and more efficient service to the consumer, and the meeting of overseas competition. The principal changes are—

- (1.) In the use of heavier and more powerful logging equipment in haulers, locomotives, steel rails, and rolling-stock.
- (2.) Finer-gauged saws in mills; wider use of gang-saws, Canadian type head-rig mills, faster planer-feeds, live rolls, automatic saw-grinding machines, improved transmission, and better housing.