

**1914-1915.**

United States .....	172,896,000
New Zealand .....	71,025,000
Norway .....	49,440,000
Sweden .....	14,147,000
Canada .....	3,346,000
Japan .....	12,576,000
Russia .....	3,302,000
All others .....	2,199,000

Total ..... 328,931,000

**1915-1916.**

United States .....	140,954,000
New Zealand .....	75,255,000
Norway .....	18,409,000
Sweden .....	9,352,000
Canada .....	654,000
Japan .....	12,425,000
Russia .....	212,000
All others .....	2,884,000

Total ..... 260,146,000

**1916-1917.**

United States .....	111,726,000
New Zealand .....	76,616,000
Norway .....	3,315,000
Sweden .....	26,000
Canada .....	1,700,000
Japan .....	8,665,000
Russia .....	—
All others .....	2,462,000

Total ..... 204,510,000

**1917-1918.**

United States .....	85,927,000
New Zealand .....	64,469,000
Norway .....	—
Sweden .....	—
Canada .....	11,986,000
Japan .....	1,999,000
Russia .....	—
All others .....	5,748,000

Total ..... 170,129,000

**Baltic Stock out of Market.**

At the present moment the American exporters have but little competition from the Baltic producers, since the imports of Baltic lumber into Australia have been small since 1915.

Dealers in Australia, however, are looking forward to heavier trading with the Scandinavian manufacturers in 1920.

Prior to the war there were regular subsidised lines plying between the Baltic and Australia. The distance is in round numbers about 12,000 miles. The rate on sailing vessels carrying one to two million feet from Sydney and Melbourne was 35/- to 70/- according to port of loading and the freight market, using Gothenburg and Fredrickstad as a basis. Partial steamer cargoes, 57/6. The Baltic

rates were the cheapest lumber rates in the world, equivalent to 2/6 per 100 superficial feet.

The lumber rate from Sydney to Melbourne, a distance of 500 miles, is 5/- per 100 feet. The freight from New Zealand to Melbourne, 1500 miles, is 10/-. By comparison, the exceedingly low lumber rates from the Baltic will be noted. The present rate from the Pacific Coast lumber ports to Sydney is 37.50dol.; it was formerly about 10dol.

**Domestic Timbers have Advantage.**

Although the cost of producing domestic timbers in Australia is high, owing to scarcity and inefficiency of labour, the home-grown product sells very much lower than the imported.

As, however, the local timber industry is carried on in a comparatively primitive manner, due to the comparatively sparse forests, inaccessibility and difficulty of bush transport, most distributors will welcome the time when prices and other conditions will allow the importation of foreign timbers.

**Forestry Research in Sydney.**

A committee consisting of Professor R. D. Watt, of Sydney University (Chairman), Mr. Norman Fraser, of Bell & Fraser (commercial member), and Messrs. R. Dalrymple Hay and N. W. Jolly, Forestry Commissioners, has been appointed by the Government to carry on the forest research work. Details as to the scope of their undertakings and the manner of working are left entirely to the committee, which will be financed by the Commonwealth and State Governments jointly on the basis of pound for pound, not exceeding £500 each in the first year, nor £1,000 each in subsequent years. While this cannot be regarded as by any means an extravagant expenditure, the financial limits will not detract from efficiency, particularly if the need for setting up a special laboratory can be overcome by the agricultural laboratory at the University being opened to the committee. The general direction of the inquiries and tests is to be the determination of—

The pulping and paper making qualities of indigenous woods and material;

To find by distillation the tar, oil, gas, acids, and other properties of indigenous woods;

Investigation of starch, spirit and other values in forest products;

Investigation of chemical properties of gums, resins and saps;

Investigation of fibre values of forest material.

This for a commencement will make a fairly full programme, but one which will be capable of expansion as occasion may arise, and in any case the headings quoted suggest a condition of elasticity which should satisfy the ambitions of the most optimistic among us. The point of the subject is that a practical start has been made—another step has been taken towards placing Australian forest management upon its proper plane.