

THE WAR AND THE LUMBER INDUSTRY

The Ottawa Citizen published the following on Monday:

The war has already begun to prove serious in a business way to lumbermen in Ottawa and district, for it has completely tied up the export trade and also given a set-back to local trade.

Great Britain and the rest of Europe imports from Canada every year millions of feet of lumber, a big percentage of which is supplied by Ottawa firms. With the trade routes in danger and circled with uncertainty as to when they will be open with safety there is little lumber moving for export. Steamship companies in Montreal say they will take a cargo aboard, but will not promise when it will be shipped. The insurance rates have jumped from around one per cent. to around five per cent. with prospects of soaring higher.

It is not likely that prices on lumber here are likely to increase for some time, but if times are prosperous early next year it will sell several per cent. in advance of what it does now, for there will be a limited supply. The intention of the big wholesale dealers and manufacturers was to send an extra big army of men into the bush this year, but with the coming of the war and the prospect of provisions being dear and scarce, only such men as it is absolutely necessary will go to the camps. Areas of timber that were burned last spring and those that were partly destroyed by the hurricane last fall must be gone over if the timber on them is to be saved or made merchantable.

Mr J. R. Booth had planned to send between three to four thousand lumberjacks into his limits, but he is going to send less than 1,000 now. The W. C. Edwards Company, Shepherd and Morse, Colonial Lumber Company, and in fact all the large firms are going to send out about one-fourth of the number they originally intended to send. This will mean, of course, that next year, without the war ends within the next few weeks, lumber will be scarce and consequently dear.