

Rimu also continues to suffer from the competition of North American and Baltic timbers, especially for flooring and lining purposes.

Beech was again exported in record quantities, and this species, due to the excellent manner in which it has been graded and marketed, has obtained an export market which can still increase considerably. The present market is mostly confined to clean-grade timber only, but millers have been strenuously endeavouring during the past two years to develop a market for the inferior grades. Present indications point to a fair prospect of success in this direction.

The restrictions on the export of timber imposed in 1918 were repealed towards the end of the year, and operators are now at liberty to export without restrictions. It is not anticipated, however, owing to the reasons mentioned above, that the export trade will increase for some time to come.

Imports of Forest-produce.

Softwood timbers decreased in both quality and value imported, and totalled 33,276,000 ft. b.m. for 1927, or over 7,000,000 ft. b.m. below the peak trade experienced during the previous year.

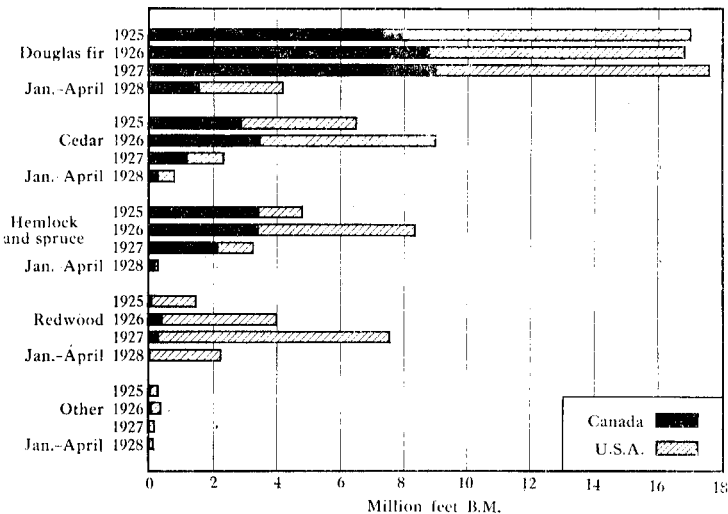
The main species of softwoods imported were again Douglas fir, white and red cedar, hemlock, spruce, and Californian redwood from Canada and the United States, and spruce from Baltic ports.

Imports of Softwoods into New Zealand from Canada and the United States of America for Calendar Years 1925-27.
(Expressed in terms of feet board measure.)

Species.	Canada.				United States America.			
	1925.	1926.	1927.	1st January to 31st March, 1928.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1st January to 31st March, 1928.
Douglas fir	7,940,000	8,787,000	9,001,000	1,555,000	9,167,000	8,034,000	8,637,000	2,652,000
Cedar	2,870,000	3,475,000	1,187,000	267,000	3,638,000	5,536,000	1,203,000	517,000
Hemlock and spruce ..	3,434,000	3,407,000	2,106,000	208,000	1,385,000	4,981,000	1,165,000	81,000
Redwood	60,000	400,000	285,000	28,000	1,400,000	3,600,000	7,298,000	2,194,000
Other	10,000	80,000	16,000	7,000	276,000	370,000	130,000	120,000
Totals	14,314,000	16,149,000	12,595,000	2,065,000	15,866,000	22,521,000	18,433,000	5,564,000

Grand total, Canada and United States : 1925, 30,180,000 : 1926, 38,670,000 ; 1927, 31,028,000 ; January to March, 1928, 7,629,000.

The change in the trade, at first evident in 1926, was more strongly developed during the year. Redwood is now firmly established as a weatherboarding-timber, and not only has it almost completely displaced western red-cedar but it is becoming a serious rival to our own excellent native species. The decreasing quantities of western red-cedar now imported are used mainly for joinery purposes. Sawn hemlock, which for two or three years found a ready market as an interior finishing and lining timber, has now almost disappeared from the market for these purposes, due to many local bodies having classed it with white-pine as a species very subject to borer-infestation, and consequently prohibiting its use in general house-building. Douglas fir still finds a ready market, and during 1927 again experienced a record trade. Dairy-produce containers manufactured from hemlock and spruce continue to find favour on local markets.



GRAPH OF IMPORTATIONS OF SOFTWOOD LUMBER FROM CANADA AND UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR THE CALENDAR YEARS 1924-27.