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—BY—

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J. S. ROBERTSON,

EDITOR.

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interests of the lumber trade and allied industries throughout the Dominion, being the only representative in Canada of this foremost branch of our commerce of this country. It aims at giving full and timely information on all subjects touching these interests, discussing them editorially and inviting free discussion by others.

Special pains are taken to secure the latest and most trustworthy market quotations from various points throughout the world, so as to afford to the trade in Canada information on which it can rely in its operations.

Special correspondents in localities of importance present an accurate report not only of prices and the condition of the market, but also of other matters specially interesting to our readers. But correspondence is not only welcome, but is invited from all who have any information to communicate or subjects to discuss relating to the trade or in any way affecting it. Even when we may not be able to agree with the writers we will give them a fair opportunity for free discussion as the best means of eliciting the truth. Any items of interest are particularly requested, for even if not of great importance individually they contribute to a fund of information from which general results are obtained.

Advertisers will receive careful attention and liberal treatment. We need not point out that for many the CANADA LUMBERMAN, with its special class of readers, is not only an exceptionally good medium for securing publicity, but is indispensable for those who would bring themselves before the notice of that class. Special attention is directed to "WANTED" and "FOR SALE" advertisements, which will be inserted in a conspicuous position at the uniform price of 15 cents per line for each insertion. Announcements of character will be subject to a discount of 25 per cent. if ordered for four successive issues or longer.

Subscribers will find the small amount they pay for the CANADA LUMBERMAN quite insignificant as compared with its value to them. There is not an individual in the trade, or specially interested in it, who should not be on our list, thus obtaining the present benefit and aiding and encouraging us to render it even more complete.

FREE LUMBER.

ARE we to have free lumber? A dispatch from Washington a few days since, purporting to outline the programme of the Committee on Ways and Means, places lumber on the free list. The words of the report are these: "Timber, hewed and sawed and unmanufactured." Just what this may mean is a little uncertain without a clearer definition of the terms. It has been pointed out by Mr. H. H. Cook, of the Ontario Lumber Company, in an interview on another page, "that lumber is only lumber up to a thickness of two or three inches. Beyond that it is timber." In any case we have nothing more than the suggestion of the Ways and Means Committee naming the articles, that they are prepared to see on the free list. Congress must yet deal with the whole question and the modifications may be few or many. This is to be said, however, that before any announcement was made by the committee the impression had been growing steadily stronger that lumber would, almost certainly, be made free. This has been taken for granted even in those lumber sections where it could hardly be said that the wish was father to the thought. The matter has been one of concern to Michigan manufacturers, and a lumber correspondent from Saginaw, discussing the subject, anticipating that Congress would abrogate the dollar duty, intimates that the only way "for the Michigan and other manufacturers who ship lumber east to meet this Canadian competition will be to reduce the wages of the men to the same scale as that paid by the competing Canadian manufacturers." Doubtless there is some attempt in this statement to show to congressmen the unwisdom of taking any step, that would be prejudicial to the laboring classes, who, of course, have votes. The view, nevertheless, has been quite generally entertained by United States lumbermen that free lumber was coming.

Tariff reform is in the air, and the position taken by the Democratic party at the Cleveland election, clearly pledges it to changes that will be in the direct line of more liberal trade relations. A tariff battle is soon

to be fought at the polls in our own country. The Liberals are pledged to a removal of protective duties, and to the cultivation of freer trade relations with the people to the south of us. The Conservative party has been the party of high tariff, and its Ministers in their late stumping tours have told us that they have no intention of deviating from the principles of the National Policy, yet they are prepared to modify the tariff. More than this the Premier has stated in his Belleville speech, so far as the United States is concerned, "that if they are disposed to make fair tariff concessions, based on legislation, these fair tariff concessions will be responded to in a proper spirit by the Canadian government." The promises from either side of politics, therefore, plainly point to a relaxing of trade relations with the neighboring republic. The sentiment of the people of the country, if one may judge by the intelligent and studious interest shown, as much by one class of the community as the other, the business or the rural, is keeping fully abreast with the programme of the politicians, and we do not know but what the people are in the advance.

Writing specifically of lumber, however, in which our readers have a direct interest, a careful study of the question from all sides, and it cannot be said, in anything the LUMBERMAN has written on the question, that an unfair bias has been shown in any one direction, would seem to make very clear that lumbermen, whether owners of limits or manufacturers, are prepared to accept free lumber as a fair solution of the duty problem. Even Mr. Wm. Little, of Montreal, from whom we publish a valued article this week, and who has strong and intelligent convictions on the side of protection to our forest products, has intimated that he would be willing to accept a policy of "free logs, free lumber," as a means of leveling up the injustice that he believes exists under present conditions.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

NEWFOUNDLAND is to manufacture pine lumber for the British markets. Mr. W. F. Sterrit is having a complete rotary sawmill placed in the interior of a pine district in the island and believes he can manufacture pine for export with profit. Log driving is claimed to be easy, the mill being located in a part where pine is abundant; and the lumber is to be floated without any great labor to a seaport for shipment. The winters are also considered favorable, not being severe and though late in making the start, Mr. Sterrit expects to get in a month's work with a crew even yet before the winter sets in.

EVEN with the severe financial depression across the line, and the talk of lumber being sympathetically slow, some large sums of money are being paid for timber limits in Canada, showing a strong confidence in the real position of the lumber trade. Within the past fortnight a big lumbering deal has been completed, when the timber limits in townships of Anstruther, Cavendish and Harvey, in Peterboro' county, known as the Scott limits, were sold to J. W. Howry & Son, of Saginaw, Mich., for \$450,000. These limits were in litigation about 15 years, and were bought nearly four years ago by the Dickson Company. The limits comprise about 105 square miles. It is expected that the lumber will be worked by the new owners on mills recently purchased near Bobcaygeon. Messrs. Howry are already large owners of Canadian limits.

WHAT the three lumber merchants from Turkey say of Canadian lumber—their utterances are given on the E.11 page of this issue of the LUMBERMAN—is a flattering compliment to Canadian forest products. Our lumber first came under their notice at the Canadian exhibit at the World's Fair, where they had an opportunity of examining the timber exhibits of all countries. And their preference for Canadian timber is decided after having made a critical "look all around." An earnest of their desire to make their decision of practical service to their business is found in their visit to the lumber mills of the Ottawa and the effort they have since put forth to secure such freight rates as would make it profitable to become customers for Canadian lumber. Canada has every reason to feel satisfied at the high place her native products of all kinds have taken at the World's Fair. To what extent tariff regu-

lations can be made to help to a widening of the markets for these products is a question that cannot be too carefully considered by our people.

MORE than once there has been talk of Michigan manufacturers importing lumber from Canada, a practice, that as a lumber cotemporary has remarked, may seem like bearing coals to Newcastle. It has remained, however, for W. B. Mershon & Co., the extensive planing mill men and box manufacturers, of Saginaw, to make of the proposition an actuality. During the past month this firm brought 393,659 feet of lumber from French river, valued at \$4,723.91, and on which they paid a duty of \$393.66. The Mershon Company have been buying lumber in Duluth and other West Superior points, but the great distance was more than an offset to the Canadian duty. So that the Saginaw firm has demonstrated to their own satisfaction that notwithstanding a duty of one dollar a thousand there is money to even a Michigan manufacturer in importing lumber from this country. The fact would seem to give strength to the contention that the States must have our lumber, duty or no duty. There is another view of the question suggested, also: To what extent might not the exportation of manufactured lumber to the States be extended, if the lumber, as are logs, were altogether free of any tax?

THE New Brunswick sale of timber licenses, which was in progress as the LUMBERMAN was on the press for last month, fell much short of what had been anticipated. The sale took place at Fredericton. The licenses offered covered 4,400 square miles or 2,800,000 acres of government timber, and nearly everything was sold. The sales realized \$72,961, and the leases hold for 25 years. Of the total \$6,000 is for new berths not sold at the last sale. In 1883 the old berths realized \$38,000 for a ten-year lease. At the same rate they should have realized \$95,000 less the discount for present value, or nearly \$28,000 more than they did for the 25 years. In the main the sales were confined to a few hands. Senator G. B. Snowball came in for 438 square miles, paying an average of \$15 a square mile. The Bank of Montreal, which was forced into the bidding in an effort to protect itself, paid \$7,179 for ten berths of varying size, aggregating between 50 and 60 miles at about \$130 a mile. Ernest Hutchinson, of Miramichi, was one of the new bidders, securing about 240 miles at a price of over \$10,000. A contrast of this sale, as also that of Quebec, with the Ontario crown lands sale, all held within a year, is very marked. Minister Hardy was in extreme good luck.

INDICATIONS point to a severe winter in the States for the laboring classes. It is well known that in all large cities at the present time the plaint of the unemployed is fast becoming serious. The statement has been made in the press that in Chicago alone there are 70,000 fewer people under employment to-day than when the World's Fair was first opened. The explanation is probably to be found in the reaction from the inflation that existed in all classes of business when the Fair was projected. Everywhere, the anticipations of even those who were moderate in their expectation of results from the Fair have been largely discounted, whilst those who went wildly mad in their anticipations of the big things that were sure to take place may well ask themselves, where am I at? What will take place when the Fair is closed will give thoughtful citizens of the Republic much concern. The depression from all accounts, will be felt in part in lumber circles. The word from Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin is that there is comparatively little call for men for the woods, and that wages will range from \$5.00 to \$8.00 a month less than a year ago. The highest wages offered now is said by a Michigan correspondent of the Northwestern Lumberman to be \$14 to \$20 a month against \$18 to \$28 a month last year. The effect of these conditions, if they continue to prevail, which seems altogether likely, is almost certain to be felt in Canada. Our Ottawa correspondent in his letter this month intimates that few men have as yet been employed for the shanties for the reason that an influx is anticipated from the States, and wages will thus be lowered. Fewer men and lower wages would seem to be the outlook.