

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN.

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THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

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THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interest of the lumber trade and of allied industries throughout the Dominion being the only representative in Canada of this foremost branch of the commerce of this country. It aims at giving full and timely information on all subjects touching these interests, discussing these topics editorially and inviting free discussion of them 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 upon which it can rely in its operations.

Special correspondents in localities of importance present 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 effecting 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 ten cents per line for each insertion. Announcements of this character will be subject to a discount of 25 per cent. if ordered for three 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.

MR. D. A. MARTIN, agent for Bronson & Weston, Ottawa, does not share the opinion of the many operators, that the logs will be "hung up" in the streams above Ottawa. He recently said, "there will be plenty of water for any stream that there is any quantity of logs on. These streams have been so improved that we hold the water as long as we require. The improvements are put on the streams just for the purpose of keeping up the water supply. People who wag their heads and predict that many drives will be stuck, don't happen to know what they are talking about. The logs will come down all right and they will be out early too."

THE *Saskatchewan Herald* of Battleford, complains that of late years timber has been ruthlessly destroyed along the Saskatchewan, and it fears the effect, if this destruction continues, will in a few years be a deterioration in the climate of the district. The origin of the fires is the clearing of lands. A few acres are to be cleared, but the settler is unable to confine the fires to this limit, and hundreds of acres are burnt over. A remedy suggested is a return to the old law, confining the time for clearing fires to the month of March. Where the preservation of timber is of as much consequence as it is on the southern border of the timber belt of the North-west, the necessity of rigid governmental action to prevent injury being done to public lands is very obvious. The timber is of more or less value, and even though trees do not perhaps increase rainfall, their loss increases floods, secures a less regular distribution of water to the springs, and exposes crops to influences adverse to the growth.

IN our April issue we made mention of an English Land Company owning large timber limits chiefly in the county of Haliburton having at one time failed, but have since ascertained that such was not the case. The Canadian Land and Emigration Co., finding it inconvenient and expensive to carry on their business so far away as London the Shareholders and Directors consented to the management of the old company being located in Ontario. The winding up of the old company and the reformation of it in Ontario was simply to enable them to move the head office from London to Toronto. The change in no way affects the credit of the company, and it is believed it will add strength to its position in every respect. Messrs. Lockart Gordon of Toronto and J. M. Irwin of Peterborough are the active officers of the company.

SINCE our last issue the drought has continued over a large area of the western and northern states and as a consequence forest fires have been very numerous. Wisconsin and Minnesota have probably been the greatest sufferers, although Michigan has sustained heavy losses. Millions of feet of logs were lost on Willow and Apple rivers, Minnesota. It is reported that over 1,100,000 ties, 45,500 piles, 54,000 telegraph poles, 520,000 posts and 130,000 cords of wood have been destroyed on eight lines of road running into Duluth, Min., besides two shingle mills, several small interior saw mills, timber, logs, wood, camp outfits, &c. Reports from fires in Wisconsin come from Ashland, the Chippewa and Wisconsin valleys, Marinette, Cumberland, Hudson and other regions. The Shields saw mill, about 12 miles from Wausau, and about 1,500,000 feet of pine and basswood were burned. In different parts of the state several towns have been partially burned out. From East Saginaw, Michigan, fires have been reported running through the timber in every direction. About 5,000,000 feet of timber valued at \$50,000, belonging to one man, was burned in Tuscola county. What with these forest fires and the lack of water to float their logs, the prospects of the lumber trade in those states, to say the least, are not very encouraging. Canada has been more highly favored, although in some districts there is a scarcity of water yet, upon the whole we have no serious cause for complaint, and so far we have had no forest fires worthy of mention.

DURING the past winter our timber merchants had pretty much their own way in the United Kingdom and a great many of them have made most profitable contracts. The present improved situation is attributable to the fact that for some time past the buyers on the other side have allowed their stocks to continue to lessen, until they were confronted with empty timber yards, and an increased demand for wood goods. All trades have revived in Great Britain, especially that of shipbuilding. Besides the orders now on hand for merchant vessels, about £10,000,000 sterling is to be spent in making additions to the Royal Navy, half of which is to be laid out in private yards. A large spring fleet is not anticipated, as merchants are not inclined to charter heavily for early shipment, knowing that, with the paucity of timber at present in stock in Quebec, vessels would meet with considerable delay, if not being unable to secure cargoes at all. There will no doubt be a large midsummer fleet, and it is stated that several charters have already been made for that period. Vessels will soon have no difficulty in securing cargoes, as the timber that has been made during the past winter is now being rapidly forwarded to Quebec. Present indications are that there will be

a considerable addition of steam tonnage, and that the latter will increase year by year. Business may not reach the proportions it obtained some years ago, but there is a confident feeling that the present season's work will far surpass that done for the last two or three years, as the tone of the markets of Great Britain is extremely healthy. Our timber shippers are fully alive to the situation, as is manifest from the statement published, that the Messrs. Price Bros. have chartered eighty vessels for the season's trade.

OWING to the continued drought there is every indication that a very large number of logs will be tied up in the small streams, giving an additional value to what may be available. The banks will be called upon to carry so much more until another season, thereby enhancing the cost to the lumbermen to the extent of the amount of interest paid. The outlook in Canada, however, is far more favorable than that of Michigan as the copious rains in the east have relieved the anxiety of the lumbermen, the river St. John having reached within a couple of feet of being as high as it was during the freshet of last year. The drives on some of the small streams are out, and logs are coming down with a rush. The small quantity of snow which fell in the state of Michigan last winter has been in the interests of Canada, because not one saw mill in ten in that State has a sufficient supply of logs for the coming season's cut. It is said there are a billion logs tied up in the woods of Michigan owing to the scarcity of water in the rivers to drive them to the mills. Canada has fared much better, yet there are about forty million logs tied up in the Algoma district. There was a large stock of lumber on hand in Canada at the close of last season owing to the dull trade, the result of the Presidential campaign in the United States which paralyzed the markets. The people of the United States must have lumber, and if on account of the lack of water the lumbermen are unable to float the logs to the mills, and the demand exceeds the supply, they will have to look elsewhere for their supplies; and if there is not a veritable boom in the lumber trade of Canada this year prices will be well maintained, if they are not better than former years. The outlook is not discouraging.

THE creditors of Marks, Dobie & Co., Thessalon, some twenty-five in number, representing houses in Montreal, Hamilton, Toronto and Collingwood, have succeeded in making a settlement with their creditors. At a meeting of the creditors it was shown that their total assets amounted to \$105,000, and after deducting all accounts which were at all doubtful, and outside of an amount of \$20,000 owed George Marks, the liabilities remained \$85,000, thus showing a surplus in assets to the amount of \$25,000. The firm offered a settlement of sixty cents, at four, eight, twelve and sixteen months, which was readily accepted by the creditors, who expressed the firm's confidence in the integrity and business ability of the firm. The main cause of the trouble was the wrong estimate of the amount of timber on the limits, there being only about 15,000,000 feet where the estimate presented to the firm by the contractors stated that there were 55,000,000. The rough country which required an extra amount of labor to put the roads, etc., in shape, and the lack of snow during the latter part of the season, was a strong hindrance, the men having to work during the nights to take advantage of the frosty weather. When Marks, Dobie & Co. promised to advance supplies to the contractors the estimates promised fortunes, and the contractors being old lumbermen, the firm accepted