



DEVOTED TO THE LUMBER AND TIMBER
INTERESTS OF THE DOMINION.

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PETERBOROUGH, Ont., JAN. 1, 1886.

THE Rainy Lake Lumber Company, of Rat Portage, Ont., and Winnipeg, Man., have made an assignment.

THE schooner A. J. Ryan, laden with lumber from Toronto to Brockville, went ashore at Oak Point, during the snow storm recently. The lumber was shipped by the Rathbun Company.

A FIRM in New Brunswick has secured a large order for logs from a Boston concern, and will transport them next spring in rafts by sea, as was done two years ago in floating logs to New York.

THE Timber Trades Journal says that Messrs. Bryant, Powis & Bryant have as usual arranged the prices for Gilmour's cut of next year. We are given to understand that the quantities and specification of this celebrated pine stock will be about the same as last year.

As a sample of the method of making money that has attended some of the pine lands traffic in Wisconsin and Michigan, a sale at Eau Claire is given. Thomas Carmichael paid \$8,000 for a tract of 880 acres, four years ago, and has just sold it for \$40,000.

YOUNG Canadians complain that this season, says the Northwestern Lumberman, they came over the line to work in the logging camps, expecting to get from \$26 to \$30 a month, as formerly, and are surprised to have but \$16 to \$20 offered, and must show a certificate of vaccination to boot.

BURNHAM & STILL's mill, East Saginaw, Mich., together with 200,000 feet of lumber, was burned December 10th. The origin of the fire was supposed to be incendiary. The mill was valued at \$22,000. The lumber was owned by different parties, and valued at \$3,600. The mill was insured for \$15,000.

MR. ANDREW ALLEN has been elected president of the Montreal Lumber Co., the annual meeting of which was held recently. Directors chosen for the ensuing year are:—Messrs. An-

drew Allan, Hugh A. Allan, Andrew A. Allan, O. D. Brydges, Jackson Rae, John Molson and Mr. Morris.

A CLOSE estimate of the lumber on the docks about Muskegon Lake places the total amount on the docks at from 92,000,000 to 100,000,000 feet. This estimate is from reliable sources and can be relied upon, as the situation on December 1st, 1885.

THE schooner Joseph Souther, at New York from Satilla, reports that on December 6th she passed a wreck with two topmasts out of water, heels up, and hanging by rigging. Soon after they passed considerable wreckage, deals, planks, etc., which leads to the belief that a lumber-laden vessel has been totally wrecked.

THE output of the Chaudiere mills, near Ottawa, Ont., this season, was 227,000,000 feet. Good lumber has sold well, but coarse has been slow to move. The season's trade has, on the whole, been considered good. Small and coarse logs, once left in the woods, to feed forest fires, are now taking to the mills for sawing.

THE newspapers of Winnipeg and the districts to the westward frequently mention what they term the building boom that is prevailing in numerous towns. The wheat crop of the Canadian Northwest begins to tell on the improvement of the country. It is likely that next spring it will be found that a large amount of lumber will be wanted along the Canadian Pacific and its branches.

HERE is something of interest to parties who are operating, or propose to operate, in the Spanish River district of Ontario. The Sable & Spanish Boom & Slide Company has applied to parliament for an act to confer on the company named the right to attach booms to the shores at the mouth of Spanish River, at points south and east of Rock Island, and to construct and maintain piers from a point or points on the north shore of the river, to the island, and from the island south and east to the main shore, and to use booms in connection therewith. Of course the company asks the right to collect tolls on logs and timber run through the works.—*Northwestern Lumberman*.

CONCERNING the failure of the Rainy Lake Lumber Company, of Rat Portage, Ont., a Canadian financial journal says:—"The Rainy Lake Lumber Company, limited, of Rat Portage and Winnipeg, is one of the many enterprises of great promise which began with the golden area of the Northwest, and drooped with the waning fortunes of the boom. The capital was \$350,000, in 3,500 shares of 100 each, of which \$312,000 was understood to have been paid up. Among the chief promoters were Messrs. J. Ross, C. P. R., contractor; L. J. Dawson, M. P.; W. J. Alloway, and Hugh Sutherland. During the boom the assets of the company were estimated roundly at \$1,000,000, and the local bank that knew them felt proud that they could boast of such a customer. Mr. Sutherland, who was the president, retired some time ago. The company had been endeavoring for some time past to issue bonds, but without much success, so that the recent assignment took no one by surprise. To add to their troubles their hands struck last June, as their wages were somewhat in arrear. The liabilities are in the vicinity of \$200,000."

OUR TIMBER RESOURCES.

DISCUSSING the proposal to increase the duty on logs exported from Canada, the *Lumberman's Gazette* says:—

"There would not be much gained by the adoption of such a prohibitory tax, except that the timber resources of the Dominion would be preserved. If there is any danger of such a tax being imposed Michigan men will cease purchasing Canadian timber limits and they will remain on the hands of the Government totally unproductive. The limits which Michigan men are purchasing are in a portion of the Dominion which will not very soon be brought under settlement unless the lumbermen prepare the way, which they will not soon do if the

matter be left to the development of the Canadian lumbermen."

THE *Gazette* has not an adequate conception of the energy of the men engaged in the lumber business in Canada, or of the capital invested, or capable of being employed in that trade. If it were a fact that the timber limits purchased by the Americans would remain unproductive if not sold to them, it would still be worth considering whether it would not be better to allow them to remain unproductive, or unremunerative, far the present, than to allow American lumbermen to drain our resources, to the disadvantage of our own manufacturers, while the timber resources of their own country were preserved and held until their value would be enhanced by the stripping of our limits.

BUT the position of the custom rates present the question in another light. The Canadian export duty on logs is half of the American import duty on lumber, which gives the American manufacturer who purchases Canadian limits and conveys the logs across the lines to be manufactured an advantage over the manufacturer who turns the logs into lumber in Canada and exports the manufactured article. The question is not, therefore, whether the limits are to remain unremunerative for a time, and increase in value, or be sold to Americans, but whether the Canadian authorities will so arrange the export duty on logs as to place the home manufacturers in as good a position as the Americans so that in the competition for business they will not, by custom duties, be placed at a disadvantage. The opinion that the timber limits will not be utilized at all, unless by Americans, is absurd in the face of the amount of capital employed in the lumber business in Canada, but even if the limits would not be stripped as quickly if left to Canadians alone the country would receive additional immediate benefit by having the lumber manufactured here and the prospective advantage of the increased value of the standing timber.

THE *Northwestern Lumberman* states that the stumpage is higher in Michigan than in Canada. This, if correct, would appear to neutralize the disadvantage of paying duty on lumber were the Michigan lumbermen to manufacture only the timber in their own state, but when they cut timber in Canada the stumpage is the same and when they carry the logs to Michigan and cut them there the duty is less.

THIS a question which should receive ample consideration and immediate attention, as it is not only the lumbermen themselves that are interested, but the whole country. As the lumbermen are primarily interested, however, they should take the initiative in endeavoring to have the disadvantage under which they are placed at present removed, either by increase of the export duty on logs or by some other means.

IN this connection the result of the negotiations for reciprocity will be awaited with interest.

LUMBER AND TIMBER.

THE outlook for sawn lumber is by no means unpromising. American advices show some good features. Building has been very active in American cities. Brooklyn, for example, has built 3,665 houses in eleven months of the present year against 3,050 in twelve months of last year. The tone of the Chicago market is firm and inquiry still frequent; but the abrupt closing of the season of navigation makes it nearly certain that the year's receipts will fall below those of last year. The *Northwestern Lumberman* predicts that values will remain steady till the February trade begins. Respecting the Saginaw Valley the same authority says:—"This fall find the logs in the Au Sable which will be hung up in 'pickets' and 'jams' less than 15,000,000 feet. Last year there was hung up, when the season ended, over 80,000,000 feet. This, of course calls for a large cut of logs the coming winter. Besides a small amount of logs to commence on next season, the docks contain not over 45,000,000 or 50,000,000 feet of lumber, being over 20,000,000 less than last year."

DEMAND for white pine in New York continues good, both for local use and export. House-builders and furnishers there are very busy, and buy in large quantities. Prices for

yellow pine are very low and the trade being done in that article is small compared to the total capacity of the market. Lumber stocks in Albany are fairly assorted, but are estimated at a fourth below that of last year. A prominent dealer of that city places the November distribution from that city at 20 per cent. over the same month of 1884. Dealers are feeling confident, prices are not only sustained but advancing. In Boston, too, according to advices second week of the present month, the increase in price is felt more perceptibly every day.

WE hear from Ottawa that Gilmour & Co. have made definite arrangements for the disposal of the coming season's cut of their deals at satisfactory prices and we are told of one or two other mills which have arranged a basis with buyers for their whole "mill run." A topic of current conversation in lumber circles at the capital is the sale, now said to be about consummated, of the Levi Young estate to G. A. Grier, of Montreal, and R. A. & J. Stewart, of Newry, Ireland, and St. John and Miramichi, New Brunswick. The price mentioned is \$600,000. Application for incorporation as a joint stock concern has been made in the proper quarter by Messrs. Bronson & Weston, well-known Ottawa mill men. It is stated, besides, that another long-established concern in the manufacture of wood goods will follow suit before long.

THE timber market is at present comparatively stagnant; the season having closed, but little indication is given of present activity or enhanced prices. There is, however, in the minds of well-informed persons, a feeling that the spring will witness an improvement. This view is strengthened by the recent advance in the value of iron. The supply at Quebec is, besides, said to be distinctly less than in former seasons. Hardwood timber and lumber remain unchanged in price. The feeling is upward in maple, basswood and black ash, which are used for furniture making, but no change in price will be made till after the first of January proximo.—*Monetary Times*.

CUTTING PRICES.

Cutting of prices is a suicidal policy for all concerned; it never does any one any good, not even the purchaser, for he more than loses in the quality of the goods the small amount of cash that he is supposed to make on the purchase. Generally, however, the laborer that produces the goods is the first one to lose in this process. The manufacturer feels that he is obliged to lower his prices in order to compete with his rivals, and, as the cost of the goods is already as low as it possibly can be to allow any degree of profit, he finds that the easiest way to come out whole is to reduce the wages of his workmen, and this is the process usually employed. The only safe plan is for our manufacturers to combine and arrange a basis of rates for goods, according to the cost of production, allowing a reasonable profit, and then to stick to it. This is the safe plan, but we are afraid it will be a long time before they can be made to realize the destructiveness of the present plan to all concerned sufficiently to abolish it.—*The Furniture Worker*.

Improved Machinery.

NEVER before were the wood workers and lumber manufacturers of New England more anxious to secure the latest improvements in wood-working machinery. Future profit in the manufacture of lumber must consist in the most intelligent working up of the odds and ends, in reducing the bulk of the sawdust heap and the slab pile, and in the employment of such machinery as shall show the minimum labor bill and the maximum quality manufactured. The saw mills of the East are far behind those of the West in economical appointments and in actual capacity for business. The successful wood-worker of the future must keep abreast of the practical improvements of the day.

It is Simply Marvellous.

Mrs. Theron Burr, of Adrian, Michigan, writes that West's World's Wonder or Family Lotion cured her daughter of Rheumatism which she had been afflicted with from childhood. It is infallible. Price 25 and 50 cents per bottle. And sold by J. D. Tully.