

the President's message that "the question of rights" is to be referred to arbitration, nor to a mixed Commission, but to a Commission composed of citizens of the United States. It is hardly possible that so complicated a question can be decided in such a way. It is well known that during a long period of years there has been an international dispute on what is known as the head-land question. We are not aware that the Americans have pretended to any right to fish in Canadian waters, that is, within three miles of the shore. It has, however, been claimed that American vessels can, without any violation of the rights of British subjects, enter bays and creeks, provided these are over six miles in width. This claim has never been acknowledged, the contention on the British side being, that the three-mile limit must be calculated from the headlands at the entrance of the bays. The actual settlement of this long-disputed question has been postponed, owing to the United States having acquired by treaty the right to fish in Canadian waters, first under the reciprocity treaty of 1854, and then under the treaty of Washington, in consideration of a money payment.

The President professes to be anxious that the richly-stocked waters of British America should be opened to United States citizens "on enduring conditions," but he is well aware that the last attempt made to negotiate failed through the refusal of the Senate to entertain a proposition which had received the sanction of the Governments, both of the United States and of Canada. All difficulty on the subject would be removed if the fishermen of the United States would confine themselves to their own waters, but this, judging from past experience, they will not do. The President has given fair warning to the Canadian Government of the policy likely to be adopted by the United States, and we cannot believe that there will be a repetition of the vacillating policy which was adopted after the termination of the old reciprocity treaty. A considerable expense will necessarily have to be incurred, but this will be merely temporary. Whenever the American fishermen find that it is impossible to trespass on Canadian rights their Government will be convinced of the necessity of coming to terms. The old reciprocity treaty was a measure which gave general satisfaction, and was terminated at a period when there was great irritation in the United States, owing to a supposed sympathy with the South on the part of Canadians.

The Americans were most unreasonable at that critical time. They must have known that, both in England and in Canada, the sympathies of the majority of the people were with the North, but because a minority favored the South it was insisted on that friendly relations should cease and that the treaty should be terminated. It is difficult to imagine how the Americans can obtain those "enduring rights" in the Canadian fisheries which the President desires, unless through the medium of a treaty.

#### LUMBER RESOURCES OF CANADA.

The lecture delivered on Monday evening last by Mr. J. K. Ward on the lumber resources of the Dominion, under the auspices of the Y. M. C. Association, afforded gratification and instruction to an appreciative audience. Before proceeding to notice the subject treated by the lecturer, we purpose devoting a brief space to his remarkable career, which he referred to in an autobiographical notice at the conclusion of his lecture, in support of his advice to young men to make themselves independent of the world by acquiring in their youth some trade that will enable them at all times to earn their means of support. Mr. Ward, who is a native of the Isle of Man, served an apprenticeship to the trade of a carpenter and joiner, after which he emigrated to America to seek his fortune. He landed in New York with half-a-dollar in his pocket, and spent about ten years at various employments in the United States, before taking up his abode in Canada, where he first settled at Maskinonge; and after working hard for ten years, was induced to lease the large mills at Three Rivers, which he afterward purchased, and which he ran for a number of years, doing a very large and profitable lumber business.

It is interesting to learn that so long ago as the year 1866 Mr. Ward shipped 116 cargoes of lumber to Peru, the West Indies, Buenos Ayres, United States and England, by way of Quebec. There was no necessity for obtaining Government subsidies for the vessels, which carried Mr. Ward's lumber, or discriminating duties in the countries to which it was shipped. Mr. Ward bore testimony to the labors of the late Mr. James Little, whom he termed the pioneer lumberman of Western Canada, in the cause of forest protection. That gentleman whose death, at an advanced age, took place quite recently in this city, commenced his lumbering operations about the year

1833, in the Niagara district, in the old Province of Upper Canada, and was the first to introduce the white pine of the Grand River into the markets of the United States. At that time it was not difficult to overstock the Western markets in the United States.

We infer from Mr. Ward's remarks that there cannot be anything like implicit reliance placed on the statistics of the lumber trade. It appears that Ontario has under license, 18,000 square miles, paying to the Government \$547,000 for timber dues and ground rent. Quebec has 48,500 square mile under license, giving a gross revenue to the Province of \$663,596, so that Ontario obtains, in the form of revenue, \$30 per square mile, while Quebec gets only \$14. British Columbia appears to be a great lumber country, the quantity of hewn timber made last year being about double that made in the older provinces. It is, however, an extraordinary circumstance that the value of the forest exports of the Pacific Province was only \$362,171, which is but a small portion of the amount credited as produced by the census. It appears that in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick there are 75,500 miles under license, and about 7,000 square miles owned by private parties. We should infer that Mr. Ward is not so apprehensive as the late Mr. Little and others as to the timber supply being exhausted. He estimates that there still remains in Ontario and Quebec a supply that will last fifty years.

Mr. Ward bore his testimony to the merits of the Quebec Commissioner of Crown Lands, Hon. Mr. Lynch, who has been zealous in his efforts to promote the lumbering interests of the country. Public attention has been aroused to the importance of preventing, so far as it may be found possible to do so, the destruction of the Canadian forests, and Mr. Lynch has co-operated most cordially in the movement. Mr. Joly also has been unsparing in his efforts in the same cause. The importance of the industry may be judged from the fact that the exports have reached \$24,000,000, while it is estimated that the home consumption of the Dominion is equal to about two-fifths of the whole output. We ought not to omit to notice that Mr. Ward referred to several of the pioneers of the lumber trade, such as Philemon Wright, the Hamiltons, John Egan, Mr. McLachlan of Arnprior, and many others. As we have said before, Mr. Ward's lecture is a valuable contribution, which we venture to hope will appear in a more enduring form.