

expense of loading and unloading as compared with those elsewhere. In fact at the beginning of July there were at Montreal four large vessels, the Grassbrooke, the Oxenholm, the Assyrian and the Iron Acton, taking on board cargoes of square timber, amounting altogether to 40,000 cubic feet, which had been brought from Quebec. This was avowedly to escape from the restrictions imposed by the Ship Laborers' Society. The bill of Mr. DeGrasbois was intended to remedy this evil, and he has attained his end though without legislation. While the bill was before the special committee that had been appointed, some of the merchants of the city anxious to see its business preserved, persuaded the laborers to make concessions by changes in their rules that would obviate the necessity for the measure. Deputations from the merchants and the laborers waited upon the committee and a long discussion took place. Finally the laborers agreed to amend the rules in several important respects. It was to be the rule henceforth that steamships might use their own steam winches to hoist and lower their timber, but not to move it by steam when on board. In the case of mixed cargoes captains are not to be obliged to take more than a deal gang, but the number of men that he decides to employ are to be retained until the ship is loaded, and any vessel taking one half or less of timber may employ a deal gang if wished. The members of the Society are to be free to work on holidays at the ordinary rates, but if from religious scruples they decline to do so, they are to be allowed their places without objections on the following day. The amendments removed the most objectionable features of the regulations made by the Ship Laborers' Society and the object of the bill being thus virtually secured Mr. DeGrasbois agreed to withdraw. The removal of these restrictions will be a very welcome improvement for the lumbermen who ship timber at Quebec, and the laborers even will soon find that they gain rather than lose by thus facilitating business.

THE Province of Quebec has taken a retrograde step in the management of its forests. The establishment of forest reserves was a regulation that was beneficial alike to the public treasury, the lumbermen and genuine settlers. Now, however, the forest reserves have been abolished in spite of the very sensible opposition of several members of the Legislature. The passing of the new Act does away with the reserves entirely, and permits settlers to locate anywhere where the land is fit for cultivation. A large number of these forest reserves are timber limits leased from the Government by lumbermen, and the passing of this Act permits settlers to locate themselves on these limits, clear land, and use and sell timber on their lots. Lumbermen have paid high prices to the Quebec Government for the privilege of cutting timber on these forest reserves, upon the distinct understanding that the reserves were to be protected from the settlers until such time as the limits should be denuded of all timber over twelve inches at the bases. It is not surprising therefore that the lumbermen are indignant at what they consider a most unjust and aggressive action on the part of the Provincial Government. The only saving clause to the lumbermen in the Act just passed was introduced in the Legislative Council by Hon. Mr. Garneau, giving the lumbermen two and a-half years, after the issuing of any location ticket, to cut off the timber on the lot located, the settler to clear only ten acres for his own use within that time. This clause is certainly an important amendment to the original Act, and the lumbermen in order to protest their interests will now be compelled to hasten the cut of this timber as rapidly as possible, in order to save as much as possible during the brief period allotted them. During the discussion of the Act at the recent session of the Quebec Legislature, it was pointed out that a door was being opened to fraudulent operations such as had formerly taken place, when pretended settlers only remained on their so-called farms till they had stripped them of their valuable timber, and then moved on to some new locality to repeat this device, leaving devastation behind them. These adventurers deprived the public treasury of dues, interfered with the operations of the lumbermen, and did not become farmers. The wise plan is to divide the forest and agricultural lands, and then the greatest value is obtained from the forests, and real farmers are not induced to settle on poor agricultural land when fertile districts far better suited for their purpose are abundantly sufficient. Quebec was ahead of the other Provinces in this respect, but now it has gone back on its own record.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TORONTO, July 9th, 1888.

Editor Canada Lumberman.

DEAR SIR,—In your issue of July we read a letter signed Wholesaler, in answer to one Pinus, and we feel called upon to ask him to draw it mild. He makes assertions and classes dealers so widely that he will have to put on his check line, or he will find that there are people who claim to be retailers

that have paid up their paper last winter and every other winter for the last ten or twelve, as well, if not better than any wholesaler who does business in Toronto to-day. His assertion about fear of contradiction is very loud, and if he wishes to go further we are perfectly willing to take up the gauntlet with him.

He may be right in some cases, but evidently the class of customers he has been carrying are of the lame kind, and he should be ashamed to own up that he is and has been in such company so long. He should make a desperate effort to get into better, as there is no ability required to sell lumber to that class of men, and judging from his harsh remarks this wholesaler must be badly used. As to his remarks that the wholesale men do everything that is necessary for the retail men, all we have to say is that if the retail men were only energetic enough to place themselves in such a position that their credit was as good as the wholesale man (which to our minds is not a very hard job) they would find that the manufacturer would be as anxious to sell direct to them, if not more so, than to the wholesale men, as if the retail man cannot sell his lumber at a profit, and to men who will pay for it, he can keep it piled in his yard, and if the worst comes to the worst he can hand it back to the manufacturer. Whereas, if the wholesale man gets it and finds it slow sale, he is bound to unload, and those people he speaks of who only pay 25% gets it and the manufacturers get 30 or 40 cents on the dollar from the wholesaler, who holds as his share a lot of unpaid notes, and where do you find the retailer? He is the best off; he has the stock on hand, even if unsold, and the wholesaler stands between him and harm. This goes to show you that it lays with the retailer himself to deal with the mill man, who is only too anxious to do so if the mark is good. In conclusion, we would ask wholesaler that when he next throws any slurs on the retailers he will be kind enough to remember that there are as good as he who claim that title, and who feel thankful that they stand as high in the scale as he does. By inserting this you will much oblige.

Yours, respectfully,

DOCKIE.

TORONTO, July 9th, 1888.

Editor Canada Lumberman.

DEAR SIR,—Will you kindly allow me to correct an unintentional error which appeared in my letter in your last issue, wherein I say, "that not more than 25% of so called yardmen's paper was met at maturity during last winter." Whereas I intended to say, "that not more than 25% of so-called yardmen retired their paper at maturity during last winter." There are several firms doing a joint wholesale and retail business from car and dock, as doubtless some others who meet their engagements promptly, and I trust that all such will accept this prompt correction in the same spirit intended by the writer.

Truly, yours,

WHOLESALEMAN.

LONDON, June 28th, 1888.

Editor Canada Lumberman.

Could you or any of your readers inform me of the places in Ontario or Quebec to secure the best grades of Hard Maple, the section of the country where the best quality grows, also how I can procure a copy of the Government Forestry Report?

Yours truly,

JAMES GORDON.

Answer (1)—Those of our readers who are interested in the class of wood referred to above, are in a position to give our correspondent the necessary information. (2)—Write direct to the Crown Lands Department, Toronto, for Ontario Forestry Report and to the same department at Quebec for the report of the Province of Quebec.

New Brunswick Matters.

MADAWASKA, July 4th, 1888.

Editor Canada Lumberman.

By some mishap one or two of the latest numbers of your valuable journal failed to put in an appearance, and we are now looking forward to receiving the July issue.

The winding up of our last winter's operations is being carried on successfully, and the drives, with a few exceptions, have already reached the Fredericton booms. Owing to the late breaking up of the lakes, through which the logs had to pass, operations have been delayed, but on the whole there has been no reason for serious complaint. There has, without doubt, been an unusually large quantity of logs handled since the commencement of operations last winter, and the lumbermen's prospects look bright.

No doubt inside of two years a great reaction will take place in the business of small lumber operators, those who have been engaged in picking up the culling of the larger operators. The work of thinning out our forests has been going on at

such a rapid rate of late years, that before long there will be literally nothing left to cut. As a consequence the trade will rapidly diminish, and heavy losses will be the order of the day.

There is no disputing the fact that we have too many novices engaged in the lumber trade, and as a result they have to pay dearly for their experience. It requires many years of experience to become a successful lumber operator, and among the many requisites necessary is the knowledge of how to economically saw lumber, at the same time placing the proper value on the good article, and how to avoid loss in sawing inferior stock. He requires to thoroughly cruise his limits and exercise enough judgment to know a good chance from a poor one when he sees it, and not say I think it will hold out a good supply. The next thing to be considered is a good camping ground handy to water and advantageous for log hauling. Another, and the next important move, is to select first class choppers and teamsters. The choppers should be taught not to cut a faulty tree, or one too small; if they do charge them with the expense of hauling to the brow. No man is capable of successfully conducting a lumber business of any importance unless he can teach his men their duty from the cook to the stream-driver. What robs our lumber operators more than anything else is the cutting of poor quality and small timber. Instead of quantity the main consideration should always be quality, as one-half the quantity of good timber pays better than double the amount of poor material.

It requires an age to learn the lumber trade, and not a theoretical but practical training is essential to success. I had an old Yankee in my employ at one time who told me that when he had driven oxen for about twelve years he considered that but few if any could excel him, but that after 25 years experience, he had come to the conclusion that his knowledge of teaming was very limited. A good lumberman will sooner or later come to the same conclusion. The more experience he has the more he will find out that he has still much to learn.

P. O. BYRAM.

TORONTO, July 25th, 1888.

Editor Canada Lumberman.

It may be presumptuous for a retail man to reply to the oracle "Wholesaler," but being constituted as we are we will try, in becoming humility, Oh Wholesaler, and venture to express our opinion, even at the risk of being cut in two by a few more old saws, badly set and recklessly set in motion by this wholesale man.

Retail men, one and all, will not buy at the mills—from whom, the mill men or the wholesale purchasers of the stocks? As the lumber must be seen; consequently the lumber must be brought here to be inspected, examined, etc., etc. As the mill men do not, to any alarming extent, send lumber to this point on speculation, it must be the wholesalers who do so. In paragraph number two we are gravely informed that on condition of not going to the mills the wholesale men promise not to break bulk nor sell to consumers. Again in the same paragraph we are told that during the past winter retail men did not retire more than 25% of their paper as it matured and wholesale men had to carry them through.

Observe, firstly, one and all retail dealers decline to purchase at the mills; secondly, that without exception they all require the wholesale dealer to pay the entire freight charges, excess included, still more the wholesale men had to carry 75% of the retailers paper, from all of which we infer that all without exception buy from the wholesale dealers. Such being the admission of "Wholesaler" (*vide communication*) whence the necessity of the condition required and which the most important men in the retail branch decline. In other words, the wholesale men ask the retailers to do what they are not doing. Is Lord Dundreary redivious? This is something "no fellah can understand."

As the wholesale men sell to the best consumers we have, the retailers have the men who possess but small capital and to whom they are compelled to grant renewals, hence the necessity for the retail men in turn requesting renewals. The price to the consumer supplied by the wholesale men being the same as to the retailers we are thus precluded from selling them and are hampered by the wholesaler. We must not raise any objections or we will be treated to the wisdom of the ancients (not by Bacon) in a condensed form.

One esteemed friend in classing the sale of a car of lumber with wholesale transactions is immensely humorous.

While still of the opinion that the R.R. yards should not be kept as a preserve for wholesale men, we are glad to know that they have actually condescended to make an offer to the R. R. Co.; and that they are desirous of paying for what they receive, although, sad to relate, sometimes they pay for more than they get. Unfortunately this occurs frequently in these degenerate days. With this communication, adieu.

PINUS.