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J. S. ROBERTSON, EDITOR.

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interests of the lumber trade and of allied industries throughout the Dominion. Under 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 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 this 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 BILL.

ON another page of the LUMBERMAN we publish the views of a number of prominent lumbermen on the proposed changes in the United States tariff making lumber in a large measure free. We also place elsewhere the editorial comment of Empire and Globe, as representative of the two great political parties holding opposing views on the tariff question.

The subject has been prominent in the trade discussion of the month. About the middle of November a despatch from Ottawa contained the announcement that the Government were seriously considering the matter of reimposing the duty on logs, and alarm was felt in certain lumber quarters, and there were members of the trade who did not hesitate to express themselves strongly on the imprudence of this disturbing element being thrown into business at the present time. It was not many days, however, before news came from Washington that the Ways and Means Committee had brought down their long-expected tariff bill, and in this lumber was placed on the free list. The exception is made of manufactured or planed lumber on which a duty of 25 per thousand will be exacted. Otherwise the bill, as covering the requirements of a free lumber bill, is quite complete. Spruce, which had been taxed before, is on the free list, and by this step what was considered by many an invidious and inexplicable distinction in the tariff as between pine and spruce, has been removed.

Whilst lumbermen are in some measure still divided in their opinion on the benefit, if any, likely to come to Canada from the proposed changes, there is no doubt that the measure is in a very general sense acceptable to the Canadian trade. The Finance Minister, Hon. Mr. Foster, has said himself in a recent interview that any movement in the direction of reimposing the log duties would be contingent upon the United States continuing their present heavy duties on Canadian lumber and pulp. The proposition is now in a different direction, and the bill, if it becomes law, will have re-

moved the ground for action by the Canadian Government.

The bill may not become law, and certainly not without opposition from the lumbermen of the Southern States and some other points. But the committee have no doubt weighed the case carefully, and late despatches state that the disposition in Congress is to hurry through the measure, so that in its various details it may become law in March.

Quite likely by another issue of the LUMBERMAN some developments may have taken place and a more perfect knowledge obtained of the exact interpretation of the measure. Any views from our readers will gladly be given place in these columns.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

SHINGLE men in the Puget Sound country have experienced some difficulty lately in securing cars enough on the Northern Pacific. The trouble is being overcome by the completion of the Soo line, which gives the Canadian Pacific a line of its own to Minneapolis and St. Paul, enabling it to haul lumber and shingles east.

A DULUTH despatch reads: "Careful estimates show that 235,000,000 feet of logs are being cut this winter by the lumbermen of this district, besides some 50,000,000 feet that are put in by local men for outside mills, the Meyerhausers, the Rat Portage mills and others. About 124,000,000 feet of logs are on hand, giving about 350,000,000 feet for the mills next summer."

J. W. HOWRY & SONS, of Saginaw, Mich., who recently bought a large tract of timber near Peterboro' Ont., will, it is said, erect a saw mill at or near Peterboro, and by building a short line of railroad will connect with a line running to Toronto, and will move the manufactured product to market that way. They are at present building two large shanties near the Peterboro' limits, and will give employment to a large number of men.

With the enormous railway development now going on in South Africa it is believed that there might be a good demand for Australian woods for sleepers and other purposes. Mr. Walter D. Davis, of Western Australia, who has recently been in South Africa pushing trade in Western Australia jarrah and karri timber says he obtained at Durban a photograph of some piles, formed of karri wood, showing them to be as sound and solid as when driven in twelve or fourteen years ago.

OTTAWA lumbermen are rapidly completing plans for the winter's work. Messrs. Bronson & Weston have nearly all their men up the river which they will send this year except positions for a few of their reliable mill hands. Their shanties are on Big Lake Schyan, Rockliffe, Mattawa, Quinze and the northern tributaries of the Madawaska. There are two shanties in each of these districts. Mr. J. R. Booth continues to send up large gangs of men to his valuable timber limits in the Nipissing district. Mr. Booth's other shanties are pretty well scattered. Messrs. Buell, Hurdman & Co. will have about the same number as last year scattered in their different shanties up the river.

THE loss of the steamer Fraser on Lake Nipissing, to which reference is made in our news columns, was a lumber casualty of more than ordinary sadness. There is a pleasure in all this sadness, however, in noting the very ready and kindly manner in which the owners of the vessel, Messrs. Davidson, Hay & Co. have set about to relieve the bereaved relatives. In this work of love they have had much practical sympathy extended to them by residents of Toronto and elsewhere. Wm. Ryan, commission merchant, Toronto, subscribed \$200; W. R. Johnston, wholesale clothing, Toronto, \$100; Messrs. Geo. S. Thompson & Co., lumber merchants, Lindsay, \$100; and others besides these have been thoughtful in a like direction. Storekeeper Douglas, who was one of the drowned, left a widow and six children. Two of his daughters have been placed in the position occupied by their dead father at Cache Bay.

CONSIDERABLE interest has been manifested in the sale of timber limits at the Crown Land Office, Fredricton, N. B., during the past month. Among the purchasers were the Muskoka Mill & Lumber Co., of Toronto, who acquired rather more than 200 miles of limits. Other buyers were Kilgour Shives, A. E. Alexander and George Moffatt.

ENCOURAGEMENT is given to lumber shippers in British Columbia by Mr. J. A. Curtis, of New South Wales, who has been visiting the Pacific coast, and whose views on lumber matters are given in our E.I.A. page. He says that ten-elevenths of the lumber that reaches that Australian colony comes from the United States. He would like to see the sister colony Canada control the major part of this trade. It is pointed out, however, that in order to do this British Columbia lumbermen must improve their methods. The lumber will need to be more carefully cut and dried, and doors and other articles must be made in a style to compete with those made in San Francisco. This is a condition of success in any business and we have no doubt that our western brethren will do all that is needed in these respects.

A MECHANIC who has occupied a number of responsible positions, in which he had followed others in conducting manufacturing operations, and been obliged to accept things pretty much as he found them, shaping his course largely to suit what had been previously done, got to wishing finally that some day he might happen to be the first man in a new enterprise where he could lay out things according to his own ideas, and have none of what he regarded as the mistakes of others to either continue or correct. He finally secured such a place, and after some experience in it, declared that he had never before fully understood the difficulties of the pioneer, his multitudinous chances for mistakes, and for leaving the bars down for future criticism by others. He now thinks it is easier to follow after others, do as well as you can, and then have your predecessors to blame for shortcomings; all of which again illustrates the truth that each man best appreciates the difficulties of his position, can in the nature of things never fully appreciate the difficulties of others, and is apt to conclude that they haven't any to speak of.

THE fact that a number of United States lumbermen owners of considerable timber limits in Ontario, met together in the city a few weeks ago, gave rise to less or more speculation by the newspapers as to the purpose of the meeting. These might have come together for consultation touching various matters of business in which they would have a common interest, but a despatch which was immediately sent broadcast throughout Canada and the United States stated that it was the unanimous opinion of the meeting that the duty imposed on Canada on lumber imported into the United States should not be disturbed. A Michigan correspondent of the Northwestern Lumberman commenting on the report remarks: "The report may be true, but if the retention of the duty will have the effect of inducing the Canadian Government to reimpose the export duty on saw logs, there is no question that Saginaw valley lumbermen who depend upon Canada for logs will not stick for the retention of the \$1 duty on imported Canadian lumber. At least this opinion is expressed by a number who have been seen on the subject. And it seems to be the opinion among them that if the lumber duty is retained, it will result in some action on the part of the Dominion authorities to prevent the continued export of logs." This comment, taken along with the statement made by the Hon. Mr. Foster that if lumber is not made free by Congress the Dominion Government are likely to re-impose the log duty, seems to size up the situation just about as it exists. Among those present at the meeting in question were A. K. McIntosh, of the Shepard & Morse Company, of New York and Burlington, Vermont; E. T. Cannington, of Bay City, president of the Spanish River Lumber Company; H. A. and J. F. Batchelor, of Saginaw; Thomas Cranage and S. G. M. Gates, Bay City; Green B. Peck, of Cleveland, Ohio; John M. Howry, Col. T. A. Bliss, and John Quinn, the representative of ex-Gov. Alger.