

The unfairness and anomaly existing in the before described condition is still further intensified by the position that not only is our Canadian home market open and free to the manufacturers of the United States, from whom neither Dominion or Provincial Governments derive any financial support, nor do they aid in the development of our country; but our products are shut out of their country by the duties imposed on them of \$2 per 1000 feet of lumber, and 30 cents per M. on shingles.

It is a recognized fact that the extension of this market and consequent increase of the volume of business done, assists the manufacturer in reducing the cost of production, and it is to this that we look for an improvement in our condition if our own markets are protected from invasion, but it can never be attained under present existing circumstances.

While we have to compete with our neighbors to the south in the markets of the world common to us both, a considerable portion of our product not suited to foreign trade must be disposed of at home, and this our mills cannot do, so that in foreign trade also we are handicapped, as the lumber produced for that branch of the business has to bear to some extent the loss on the other, and producers find themselves loaded with an ever increasing surplus for which it is impossible to find a sale.

On the other hand, the manufacturer in the United States has the markets of the world at large and of Canada open to him on the same terms as ourselves, and in addition has his large home market from which we are practically debarred.

We are not afraid of competing with the United States manufacturer on even terms, that is to say, on the terms of free lumber between both countries, but we must denounce in the strongest terms the unfairness of the one sided relations which now exist.

Instead of the manufacture increasing in our own country, the tendency is towards establishing new plants in adjoining United States territory, and this has already been done, the raw material being derived from British Columbia, manufactured in the United States, and thus has the advantage of both United States and Canadian markets. The inducement towards such a course must be so evident that we trust your Government will see the advisability of taking measures to obviate Canadians being driven to such an alternative.

We would respectfully again urge the propriety and necessity of imposing a duty on lumber and shingles entering Canada from the United States equal to that levied by the United States on the same products when entering the United States from Canada, which at present is \$2 per 1000 feet on lumber, and 30 cents per M. on shingles; to be lessened or abolished when it is made to appear to the Governor General in Council that such course has been taken by the Government of the United States.

We feel that the imposition of an import duty on such terms should be due to our own dignity as a country, would be of general benefit not only to the trade, but to the people and country at large, without inflicting a hardship on any.

We again beg to urge on the Government through you that the unanimous wishes of our

industry throughout the Dominion receive your practical consideration during the coming session of Parliament.

We have the honor to be, Sirs,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed) JOHN HENDRY, President,
HILTON KEITH, Act. Sec'y,

B. C. Lumber & Shingle Manufacturers' Association.

VANCOUVER, B. C., January 16th, 1901.

INCREASED COST OF PRODUCING LUMBER.

The increase in the wages paid in the lumbering industry in the past three or four years has been very marked, as is shown by the statistics published by the Labour Gazette, which we give below. The standard of living has also been raised, and the cost of producing lumber seems to be increasing each year.

The following summary of the wages list of a leading firm on the Georgian Bay shows an increase of nearly 60 per cent. in the wages of woodsmen between 1896 and 1900, as follows:—

IN THE WOODS.

1894-5-6 wages about \$16 to \$18 with board per month.

1897-8	"	18 to 20	"	"
1898-9	"	26 to 28	"	"
1900-1	"	26 to 30	"	"

MONTHLY WAGES (WITH BOARD) OF MEN EMPLOYED IN THE WOODS AND ON THE DRIVES.

DISTRICT.	IN THE WOODS.					ON THE DRIVES.	
	Foremen.	Log cutters.	Teamsters.	Road-masters and Shanty hands.	Cooks.	Tug hands.	River Drivers.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Nova Scotia (generally).....	40	20 to 26	20 to 26	12 to 20	25	.....	1.00 to 2.00 (per day)
New Brunswick (generally).....	50	24	24	20	28 to 30	35	1.75
Quebec (generally).....	40 to 50	18 to 26	24 to 26	19 to 22	25 to 40	20 to 55	30 to 36
Ottawa Valley.....	50 to 75	26 to 28	25 to 26	18 to 24	40 to 45	.....	.....
Parry Sound.....	70 to 75	24 to 26	26 to 28	20 to 20	40 to 50	30 to 40	35 to 40
Muskoka.....	45 to 50	24 to 26	28	24 to 26	40 to 50	.....	10 to 45
Georgian Bay.....	45 to 60	24 to 26	26	22	45 to 50	25 to 75	36
Rainy River.....	75	26 to 30	26 to 30	26 to 30	45 to 50	2.00 (per day)	45
Manitoba.....	80 to 100	26 to 32	26 to 32	25	40	1.50 to 1.75 (per day).	1.75 to 2.00 (per day)
British Columbia.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

In the case of river drivers, the increase has been nearly 50 per cent. in the past two years. Where two years ago they were paid from \$28 to \$30 per month with board, they were paid last year \$40 per month with board.

In the mills the increase in the case of the employees of this firm appears from the following summary:—

	1897-8.	1898-9.
Foreman.....	\$ 2.50 per day	\$ 3 per day
Sawyer.....	2.50 to \$3 per day	3 to \$4 per day
Filer.....	2.50 to 3	3 to 4
Setter.....	30 to \$35 per month	35 to \$40 per month
Edger.....	30 to 35	35 to 40
Trimmer.....	32 to 35	35 to 45
Pilers.....	30 to 35	35 to 40
General labourer.....	26 per month	2.25 to \$1.50 per day
Firemen.....	1.50 to \$1.75 per day	1.50 to \$1.75 per day

The following statement of the wages bill on the Parry Sound district, supplied to the Department by a lumberman of experience, shows that in that region the sharp advance has taken place within the past year:—

IN THE MILL—Average wages per month without board.

	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Sawyers.....	70	70	70	75	85	85
Edgers.....	40	40	40	45	50	50
Setters.....	40	40	40	45	50	50
Filers.....	100	100	100	100	100	100
Book-keeping ..	40	40	40	40	45	45
Foremen.....	75	75	75	75	80	80
Yardsmen.....	25	28	28	28	30	32
Inspectors.....	50	50	50	50	55	55
Engineers.....	45	45	45	45	50	50

IN THE WOODS—Average wages per month with board.					
Foremen.....	\$ 60	60	60	60	70
Log cutters.....	18 to 22	18 to 22	18 to 22	18 to 22	24 to 26
Teamsters.....	20 to 26	22 to 26	22 to 26	22 to 26	26 to 30
Road makers and shanty hands	16 to 20	16 to 20	16 to 20	16 to 20	22 to 24
Cooks.....	40	40	40	40	50
On the Drive.					
Tug hands.....	30 to 35	..	..	..	40
River drivers.....	28 to 32	..	..	..	35 to 40

PREVAILING RATES OF WAGES.

The wages of workmen in the several departments of the lumbering business and in different parts of Canada are set forth in the following tables. In each of the three groups of men there are a number specially skilled who command high wages. Thus in the mills there are men in charge of the saws, the men who make the saws in repairs, and the men who have to use considerable judgment in the matter of selecting lumber of different grades. So also in the woods and on the drives skilled men command relatively high wages. Besides the large mills there are large numbers of small mills engaged in sawing up hard wood and other generally obtained locally and in working up special products. In such cases a somewhat different division of labour is observed requiring separate treatment. A large number of men, especially in central and western Ontario, from which returns have been received, are of this class.

In above table of wages in the woods and on the drives, quotations are given of the amount paid in several of the best known groups of occupations. A number of special cases exist, as for example in the 'square' timber or 'waney' timber camps, where men with a special training in the selection and cutting of the trees required for this class of timber are paid more than ordinary woodsmen. Thus in the Ottawa Valley 'square' and 'waney' timber camps, the 'header' receives \$60 per month and the 'liner' \$40 per month. In addition to the groups of woodsmen above given, there are the 'loaders' who receive \$20 per month. The camp blacksmith usually receives about \$35 per month, and the 'handyman' (carpenter, &c.), from \$28 to \$30.

In British Columbia the divisions of work are different. The following statement shows the wages paid per hour to the several classes of men employed in the woods by a company operating in Vancouver:—

Head skidder, 30 cents per hour; hook tender, 35 cents; undercutter, 30 cents; head faller, 30 cents and 30 cents; second faller, 27½ cents; head loader, 27½ cents; donkey engineer, 27½ cents; bucker, 27½ cents; second loader, 27½ cents.