

CANADIAN LUMBERMEN ON THE DINGLEY BILL.

On Tuesday last a meeting of Ontario lumbermen was held in Toronto. The attendance was large and included representatives of nearly all the lumber concerns in Toronto operating in the Georgian Bay. The main object of the gathering was a consideration of a course to be adopted in view of the proposed American lumber tariff. The meeting was unanimous in its opinions, which are stated in the resolutions which follow. A very distinct declaration was made denying that our lumbermen are willing to pay an import duty of \$1 per 1,000 on Canadian product going into the States, while Canadian logs go into the States free.

Whereas, A bill is now under consideration in the Senate of the United States which provides an import duty of \$2 per thousand board measure on pine, spruce and hemlock sawed lumber, and also an additional duty of 25 per cent. ad valorem in case Canada imposes an export duty on saw logs;

And whereas, United States lumbermen now have access to our forests to cut and export logs to their mills in the United States free of duty;

And whereas, A duty imposed on lumber entering the United States, while logs are admitted free, will be highly injurious to Canadian lumbermen;

And whereas, The forestry conditions of this country and the United States as to white pine and spruce show that these timbers are being rapidly exhausted;

Resolved. 1. That any import duty imposed by the United States on Canadian rough lumber and lumber products should be met by a similar import duty on American lumber and lumber products entering our ports; and also in addition by a corresponding export duty on saw logs and pulp-wood, in order that the product of our forests, cut by Americans, shall not have any advantage in the same market over the similar product when cut by Canadians;

2. That if the ad valorem duty above mentioned be put in force, an export duty on saw logs and pulp-wood, equivalent to such ad valorem duty, should be imposed;

3. That we disavow any and all reports to the effect that we are willing to pay an import duty of \$1 per thousand on lumber entering the United States, while logs go out of this country free of the export duty;

4. That this resolution be sent to the Honorable the Premier of Canada.

BARLEY AND OTHER GRAIN.

Ontario barley, through no fault of its own, has fallen from its former high estate during the last few years. The protectionists of the United States have imposed such duties upon this grain that the maltsters and brewers of that country have been forced to dispense, in a large degree, with the fine barley of this province in making ale and lager. The demand for Canadian barley has steadily lessened, and its price declined from 50 or 55 cents per bushel half a dozen years ago to less than 30 cents to-day. Under these circumstances, Toronto grain merchants have issued a circular to the farmers of Ontario, urging them to lessen the production of barley, and to grow instead more peas, oats, rye, buckwheat, and possibly goose wheat. The circular is as under:—

"During the past four or five years the demand for barley has been regularly decreasing. The high duty enacted by the United States, coupled with the fact that the raising of this grain in their own country has developed so largely that they are compelled to export large quantities to the markets of Europe for feeding purposes, and at very low figures, leads us to believe that it is impossible to grow this grain to advantage in Canada, over the home requirements. As we have experienced considerable difficulty in selling barley to any advantage for some time past, we feel it our duty to call the attention of the farmers to this fact, and advise them to consider whether they ought not to decrease the growing of it. There are still large stocks of both barley and malt in the United States and Canada, which will in all probability have to be carried over until next season, owing to the unsatisfactory state of markets at the present time. Would it not, under these circumstances, be advisable for our farmers to raise other spring grains instead, such as goose wheat, or any other suitable variety of spring wheat, or increase the acreage of peas, oats, buckwheat and rye? The trade and navigation report recently issued shows a further decrease in the exports of barley for 1896, as compared with 1895. The exports for last year and the year before, as compared with those of 1885, show how this once valuable trade has declined:

	1896.	1895.	1885.
Barley, bushels.....	840,725	1,708,570	9,067,895
Total value	\$316,028	\$720,718	\$5,503,838

CANADIAN FLOUR TRADE ABROAD.

The variations of the trade in Canadian flour with the West Indies within the last few years have often attracted attention and been referred to in these columns. After Mr. Adam Brown's visit to Jamaica and the publicity given to Canadian flour at the exhibition there, there was an era of briskness in our flour trade with that island. Then the activity and interest declined, partly because, it was stated, our millers or shippers were careless as to the desires of West Indians, who were accustomed to a certain class of packages, and who did not care to change. The Americans, of course, always alive to getting or retaining trade, catered closely to the wishes or prejudices of the West Indian, gave him the package he wanted, and did business as he wished it done. The Canadian merchant or miller was less careful—he furnished the Jamaican with the same thing he furnished to any one else, and thought it good enough. But this sort of thing was not entirely satisfactory to the customer in the tropics. Besides, Canadian flour was handicapped by railway freight rates, possibly too by water rates as compared with American ports.

Much consideration has, however, been given of late to Maritime ports trade with the West Indies. The Canadian Pacific Railway authorities and the Pickford & Black line of steamers have consulted upon the matter to some purpose. For months the C.P.R. superintendent in that city, Mr. J. N. Sutherland, has been enquiring and corresponding with a view to the development of Canadian trade with the British Indies. "He is a hustler," says a St. John paper, and that is precisely the sort of person St. John appreciates. One result of his "hustling" is that the C.P.R. has given western millers and Ontario manufacturers the same export trade rates to St. John that American roads offer from Boston and New York. Further, this has just been supplemented by Pickford & Black reducing the rates on their steamers from St. John and Halifax to the West Indies to the figures of the American lines. A despatch of Tuesday says Mr. Sutherland is sending Mr. Van Zile, one of the C.P.R.'s ex-divisional superintendents, to the West Indies by the steamer leaving St. John on the 22nd to obtain all possible information of use to Canadian exporters, which information will be scattered all over Ontario and the West in pamphlet form, the object being to wrest the bulk of this trade from the Americans, who now practically monopolize it. There is a market in the West Indies for one million barrels of Canadian flour per year, says a St. John journal, if our millers will put it up to suit the local requirements. The qualification is not unnecessary. We must put it up as it is wanted, if we are to command the trade.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

The Zanzibar clove crop is reported to be only half that of last year. At the present price, the Arab only receives what is equivalent to 75 cents per bale.

A new California product has appeared in Eastern markets in the shape of pickled walnuts. The stock is said to be of fine quality, comparing favorably with the imported.

Since the repeated frosts in Florida, from which the orange growers have suffered so much, great attention is being paid to the cultivation of pineapples, which are known to stand frost much better than oranges.

The steamer "Lunenburg" made a special freight trip from St. John, N.B., to Digby, N.S. last Sunday and Monday, and brought a cargo of apples, which are being shipped to England by a Nova Scotia firm. The quantity exceeded 1,000 barrels.

It is singular that a declaration of war, nay, actual war in progress between Greece and Turkey has not affected the price of currants. Yet this is what our Montreal correspondent writes, adding that while prices are unyielding, the demand is very limited.

The credit system in the larger communities of the States, says an exchange, is gradually giving place to the cash system as far as the grocery business is concerned. In the country districts, on the contrary, the credit system is likely to remain unchanged for some time.

There are abundant supplies of maple syrup and maple sugar in Montreal market, and prices are lower. Sales of syrup were made last week at 50c. per small tin, 55c. and 60c. for large, and at 4½c. to 5c. per lb. in wood. Maple sugar sold at 6½c. to 7c. per lb., and this week is easier if anything.

Although war has not yet affected the price of currants in Canada, war has had a different effect on pineapples. It is reported that as the result of the shifting of the base of operations in the Cuban war to the vicinity of the plantations, the cutting of pineapples in Cuba has been interfered with, and that much uncertainty exists as to the quantity that may be shipped during the next few weeks. It is generally expected, says a New York paper, that the shipments will be small for some time to come.