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Shall Preventive Measures be Adopted to ~~Prevent~~ ^{Against} the Undue Depletion of Canadian Forests?

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DESERONTO, May 31st, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—The pine lumber trade of Canada, to a man, recognize the unfairness of any import duty being imposed by the Washington government upon Canadian sawed forest products entering the United States.

1st Because Canadians have accorded Americans equal rights and privileges with themselves in the ownership and working of Crown timber licenses, and these Americans are aware of the great loss to Canada from manufacturing Ontario logs, etc., in the United States instead of Canada.

2nd. Because American labor, appliances and supplies are largely used in the Canadian woods and in transit, and the cost of taking out, delivering and sawing at Michigan mills, according to Mr. Carroll D. Wright's recent report to the U. S. Senate, is some \$1.62 per M. ft. less than the average cost to Canadian mill men.

The stumpage in Canada averages quite as high as in the United States.

The mills of East Michigan, through their proximity to populous centres and extensive salt blocks, find markets for small cuttings of lumber and mill waste, that give them from 40 to 60 cents per M. ft. of lumber more than is obtained by the average of Canadian mills.

The cost of transportation from the mills to the white pine markets of the United States is also in favor of the mills of East Michigan, as compared to those of the Georgian Bay district.

In Western Ontario alone there are many Americans who have acquired quite 4,300 square miles of Georgian Bay and North Shore timber limits, and yet notwithstanding they are well aware of the facts stated, fully nine-tenths of them are advocates of a heavy duty on Canadian sawed lumber entering the markets of the United States. This duty, if imposed to the extent of \$2.00 as proposed, added to the other advantages named, would then aggregate quite \$4.00 per M. ft. B. M. in favor of Canadian pine sawed in Michigan.

The American holders of Canadian timber limits are aware that the sawmills of East Michigan must close down if deprived of logs from Canada, and that the whole stock of standing white pine trees in the United States even at the rate of the last season's cutting, according to recognized authorities, will last only from five to seven years.

The American holders of standing white pine and other lumbermen in the United States, as plainly expressed by those of their number who gave testimony before the Ways and Means Committee, ad-