

represent, a refusal to meet their wishes in this particular, can only be taken as an evidence of unblushing selfishness, and a lordly intimation that the Grand Trunk Railway Co. rule the roost, and go elsewhere if you can.

COMMENCING with the present number we begin the publication of a series of practical articles from the pen of Mr. Anson A. Gard, a gentleman well known as a member of one of New York's largest lumber firms. Mr. Gard has passed through all the different stages of a lumberman, from wielding the axe in the forests of Ohio, up through the sawing of the lumber to its disposal, and therefore can claim a practical rather than a theoretical knowledge. The information contained in the article in the present issue of THE LUMBERMAN on "Walnut Logs and How to Prepare Them," will well repay the time taken up in its perusal, while the tables will serve as a permanent help to all loggers. The second article, which will appear in our next issue will be on the subject of Hardwood lumber and its manufacture.

MR. FLEMING has finished his examination of the Ottawa river in connection with the sawdust difficulty, but it is understood that the report will not be made public for some time to come. The investigation, it is said, will go to show that the sawdust is not injuring the river to the extent that has been stated. The intention is to lay the matter before the Government at its next session with a view to counteracting the effect of statements made before the Senate committee last session. The lumbermen say that should the Government undertake to deprive them of their exemptions under which they carry on their business at the Chaudiere, all the inducements they now possess for remaining in Ottawa will be removed. The lumbermen are evidently serious in their threat of withdrawing from Ottawa if the government should restrain them from throwing the sawdust into the river. The proposal to the government to compel mill owners to erect burners and burn all their sawdust has raised not only the mill owners but the whole city in arms against the suggestion, as they find that insurance rates will be raised from 50 to 100 per cent. according to locality, in all parts of the city, if the erection of burners is insisted upon.

MR. EDWARD JACK, a writer on subjects relating to the timber and lumber business, in a letter to an American exchange, charges that for years the Quebec government has been constantly and systematically defrauded in the matter of stumpage dues by the under-estimation of the quantity of timber cut on the various leases held by individuals under the government. The government of the province, this writer says, is about granting the sum of \$24,000 this year, in order to give effect to the modifications which they have made in the tariff of ground rents and timber dues, and which are going to produce a considerable increase in the revenues from woods and forests. In the course of a speech delivered in the Quebec legislature last session the crown lands commissioner stated that the investigations ordered by the government showed that the old system of accepting the declarations of the lumber merchants and their employees had led to the perpetration of fraud to the prejudice of the provincial revenue: that enormous quantities of timber cut on crown lands had paid no dues to the government, and that in certain sections of the province the pillaging of the crown forests has been systematically carried on without hindrance in any way from the officers of the department employed for the purpose. The new regulations have been framed to prevent these frauds in future.

THE LUMBERMAN is again called upon to report another heavy failure among the Toronto wholesale lumber trade. The firm who in this case have been compelled to succumb to the pressure of hard times is that of Manhard & Co. who are well known to the trade of both Canada and the United States, although they have only been located in Toronto but a few months, having moved to that city from the town of Brockville. At a recent meeting of the creditors of the insolvent firm a statement of their affairs was submitted, showing their liabilities to be \$53,000 and the assets purely nominal. A few unsecured creditors, whose accounts were incurred since the retirement of Mr. Doodridge, of Brockville, from Manhard & Co., and who have not Mr. Doodridge's name on their paper, made a request that he (Doodridge) should assign and join hands with the insolvent firm. This it is understood Mr. Doodridge refused to do. It was stated at the meeting that the nominal assets consisted of furniture and book debts, all of which amounted to less than \$10,000. It was further reported that \$26,000 of the liabilities were preferred and secured creditors. Everything went to show that the unsecured creditors' prospects were gloomy in the extreme. The meeting adjourned without arriving at any definite decision.

THERE are five saw mills between the summit of the Rocky Mountains and Revelstoke, B. C., a distance of 150 miles. The mill men complain that they are unable to run their mills to advantage, owing to the excessive freight rates charged on the C. P. R. The rate is \$135 per car to points east of Regina, which is about the same rate as is given the coast mills, though the haul in the latter case is much longer. West of Regina the country is not largely settled, and there is not much demand for lumber. In time as the western part of the territories gets settled up, the mountain mill men will have a good market for their lumber closer to their mill, but in the meantime the timber is undergoing great destruction every year from forest fires. The railway company has lately made a reduction in rates from the mountain mills to Calgary, but this will not greatly improve the position of the mill men.

Two interesting test cases will be argued before Judge Burbridge of the Exchequer court shortly concerning the importation of lumber into Canada. For some years past Messrs. McGome & Co., Toronto, and Messrs. Hazelton & Co., who have had contracts for constructing cars for the Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk railways, have been importing into Canada quantities of manufactured oak lumber to be used in the construction of railway cars. This material it appears, has been invoiced as rough lumber and has been allowed to enter the Canadian Customs free of duty. The Customs department now contend that the lumber in question should have been entered as manufactured lumber on which a duty of 20 per cent. is chargeable, and they have accordingly entered actions against both of the above firms for an amount covering the duty chargeable on all the lumber entered by the firms in the past. The importations are spread over a period of several years, and the amounts involved are upwards of half a million dollars. The defendants claim that they can put in a strong defence. This case will be watched with the greatest interest, especially by importers.

FROM almost every lumber district in Canada we learn of unusually large numbers of men being sent to the woods. Such information furnishes a foresight into the probable cut for next year, which is evidently intended to be very large. It is evident that with each succeeding year the lumber cut is being largely augmented. Whether or not this wholesale slaughter of our forests is brought about by a clamorous spirit for hasty wealth or a fear of another increase in stumpage is a question of which those most directly interested are better capable of answering. This apprehension on the part of the lumbermen is certainly well founded, as when the last increase was put into force an effort was made to induce the Provincial Government to engage that a further increase would not be made for a specified number of years. This request, though a very reasonable one, was refused, and as a result lumbermen holding limits are inclined to make the most of their opportunities by cutting the timber as rapidly as possible. Although a lumber scribe but seldom drops into poetry a four-line stanza may briefly depict the situation.

O, woodman, cut that tree.  
Leave not a single bough,  
It will put five dollars in my inside pocket  
Then why not cut it now.

How to keep a lumber camp free from noxious insects, says the *Lumberman*, is a matter of vital importance to the welfare of the men and their value in the hard labor required from them. If the men's rest is broken in upon, their work is rendered just so much the poorer. It is therefore a question of dollars and cents to the owner of a camp, that is to be kept free from fleas, bugs and lice. When these pests take possession of a bunk camp, it is almost impossible to get rid of them, and a word or two relative to the building of the sleeping arrangements for the men will not be out of place. It will pay to provide cedar boards with which to build the bunks. No vermin can stand cedar. In the bottom of each bunk, cedar boughs should be spread and oil of cedar plentifully sprinkled upon the bed clothes. This is far superior to all insect powder, and if occasionally renewed and applied will keep the bunk camp clean. Remember, that the sounder the rest obtained by the men the better they can labor, and these little non-essentials when attended to, will keep your men in a fit condition to give you a full return for the wages you pay them. This they cannot do, however willing, if their rest is broken. Now see that your foreman attends to this, and you will find the hints here given will be money in your pockets.

THE threatened retaliation would considerably interfere with the business of some in the trade who would have to seek fresh means of reaching their market. At present however there seems to be no great haste at Washington to take any decisive step, so there is no certainty whether the threat will be carried out or not. A subsidiary branch of the dis-

ussion that has arisen between the two countries is as to reciprocal equal use of their respective canals. It is certain that the free use by Canadians of the canals in the United States, notably in the State of New York, has not been permitted, and this having been pointed out as a contravention of the Treaty of Washington there is a possibility of the equal use being accorded if some amicable settlement should be arrived at. The forwarding of lumber by canal without transshipment would be very convenient for some Canadian lumbermen and would increase their profits. This, however, is another uncertainty. Most uncertain however is the tariff question. It would be hard to guess who may be elected President, and even then the tariff policy that might be adopted by either party in case of success is by no means certain. That and several other questions of moment are all postponed, that is their settlement, not their discussion, till the Presidential election, with all its excitement, is over. The day is not far distant now.

MR. HOTCHKISS, the United States consul at Ottawa, as was mentioned in our last issue, has supplied a very elaborate report to the State Department at Washington of the Canadian lumber industry. His chief object appears to be to consider what would be the effect of the remission of the \$2 per thousand duty on Canadian lumber imported into the United States. He comes very decidedly to the conclusion that the change would not have the effect desired by its advocate of cheapening lumber to the consumer. So far, he argues, the import of Canadian lumber has had no influence in fixing the price at other points, the quantity being too small in proportion to the total supply. He calculates, apparently with considerable care, that the increased import would not be sufficient to change this position. To his mind the importance of the influence of imports of lumber into the United States and the quantity of pine available has been over estimated. According to his view the figures show that if all the lumber sent into the United States from Canada was placed in the Chicago market it would supply but one-quarter of the requirements of that market alone and but one-half of the quantity handled in either Tonawanda or Buffalo. This quantity, even allowing for any probable increase, would be, he holds, too insignificant to fix the price. This, he says, is made by the United States manufacturer, and in so doing he is not influenced by the Canadian supply in any degree. If the duty of \$2 were removed it would not affect the price in the United States, because it has never been a factor and would still be unfelt, so no lower price would prevail in the United States than heretofore and no different net results would be experienced by their manufacturers. The Canadians, he thinks, on the other hand would lay down their lumber in the United States market at \$2 less per thousand and would obtain for it the same as the United States manufacturer, so the result would be a clear gain to them of the \$2 a thousand thus remitted. He does not think that the Canadian lumbermen would long retain this advantage. He explains at length the system of letting limits in Canada and dwells especially on the power the Provincial Governments have of augmenting the rentals and dues, instancing the recent increases. The conclusion he draws is that not a May pay day would elapse before a further increase in the dues by order-in-council would be announced in sums sufficient to absorb the \$2 per thousand into the Provincial treasuries. Thus, according to Mr. Hotchkiss, it is neither the United States consumers nor the Canadian lumbermen who would get the benefit of the \$2 remission but our Provincial Governments. As to another important point he assumes that free lumber implies free logs. He thinks however that only a few mill owners on Lakes Huron and Michigan who have exhausted their supply of logs would avail themselves of this by rafting across the lakes, believing that in most cases the mills would be transferred to a location nearer the timber in preference. Not only, in his opinion, would this be more economical, but it would give them a better chance of supplying the English market, which draws and would probably continue to draw, chiefly from Canada, and he gives figures showing the importance of this trade. Consul Hotchkiss seems to be very positive in his views as to the effect of the remission of the duty, but it is certain that he would not find everyone agree with his opinions. We notice that Mr. Blaine, in delivering addresses in regard to the Presidential election in several lumbering centres in Maine, when dwelling on the tariff question assumed positively that the free importation of Canadian lumber would reduce the price by the amount of the duty, which would thus not benefit the Canadian lumbermen but the United States consumers, while the United States lumbermen would also have to accept the lower price. This was not only the view of Mr. Blaine but it seemed also to be the opinion of the interested audiences whom he was addressing. There was also a manifestation of the same difference of opinion on this point in the debates in Congress on the Mills Tariff Bill.