

### THE LUMBERMEN AND THE EXPORT DUTY.

The annual general meeting of the Ontario Lumberman's Association was held in the Board of Trade rooms in the city of Toronto on Feb. 7th last. Notwithstanding the heavy snow storm that was raging at the time the representation of lumbermen from every part of the province was large. Mr. A. H. Campbell, the president, took the chair, the all-important question of the export duty on logs being the first business brought up.

A very lengthy discussion on this subject ensued, but it was evident from the first that the meeting was in opposition to the recent action of the Dominion Government in levying an additional one dollar export duty on logs cut in Canada and then taken into the United States. From the figures contrasting our imports of timber with our exports it is not surprising that the resolutions which follow were put to the meeting and passed almost without a dissenting voice. The resolutions are as follows.

Resolved, That the export trade in long, round timber is an advantageous one for Canada. Timber of this class is not exported for the purpose of being converted into ordinary sawed lumber, and its preparation and delivery at the place of shipment involves the outlay of more money in Canada, as a rule, than its conversion into lumber would; besides the waste in squaring the timber is avoided. The round timber trade is at least as desirable as the trade in boards, in the preparation of which the hollow butted, the shaky and the knotty portions of the tree are left in the woods to rot, while in the preparation of long round timber small hollows in the butt, and the rough portions at the top of the tree are not cut out of the stick. There is as little reason for the imposition of export duty on long round timber as there would be on square or board pine.

That as the exportation of saw logs from the United States to Canada is not obstructed by a duty, the duty on pine and spruce logs exported from Canada to the United States seems unreasonable, from the fact that the exportation of pine saw logs from the United States to Canada greatly exceeds their exportation from Canada to the United States, the value of logs of all kinds exported from the United States to Canada from 1880 to 1888 having been \$4,319,350, while the value of those exported from Canada to the States in the same period was only \$156,741.

That the small export of pine saw logs during the term of years when the export duty was only \$1 per thousand clearly indicates that the danger of towing short logs on the great lakes will always act as a check on the business of exportation, and leave the export trade, as has hitherto been the case, almost wholly confined to long, round timber, which can be rafted in chains and towed with much less risk than short logs.

That the export duty produces irritation and bad feeling, and the movement in the United States to have it removed, and its amount added to the import duty on lumber, will in all probability prove successful at the next meeting of Congress, if not in the present session. That if a plenary duty is once imposed it may be a work of time and difficulty to secure its removal even after the repeal of the export duties. The amount of export duty collected in Canada on pine logs in 1888 was \$935.80 while the value of the pine lumber exported to the United States during the same period was in round numbers \$7,500,000, and to risk the increase of duty on the entire export of pine lumber for the paltry sum of export duty, or for the purpose of preventing the small export trade in logs which might be developed if the duty were removed, seems in the highest degree useless.

That the secretary of the association be instructed to draft a copy of the resolutions, and that such a copy, duly attested by the president and secretary be placed in the hands of a committee who are instructed to wait on the Privy Council at Ottawa for the purpose of presenting it, and of urging the views of the association regarding these matters on the Government.

That the committee shall consist of E. B. Eddy, J. Charlton, J. R. Booth, W. E. Edwards, Jas. MacLaren, N. Dymont, Jas. Scott, E. H. Bronson, A. M. Dodge, W. C. Caldwell, Jno. Waldie, Wm. Caldwell, D. Gilmour, A. McLachlan, H. H. Cook, P. White, A. Fraser, J. Bryson, J. B. Miller, J. Gilmour, H. Robinson, A. Thomson, J. Steward, Jno. Price, J. Gillies, G. B. Hall, J. Cameron, H. K. Egan, A. Baptiste, W. R. Thistle, R. Blackburn, Col. D. Tisdale, H. McCallum, A. H. Campbell and J. L. Burton.

After the resolutions had been read and adopted the following members of the association were elected as the board of management for 1889: M. M. Boyd, J. M. Niven, D. Gilmour, A. H. Campbell, J. McLaren, J. Waldie, J. Charlton, J. L. Burton, E. H. Bronson, W. C. Caldwell, H. H. Cook, N. Dymont.

Acting upon instructions contained in the above resolutions a large and influential deputation waited on the Government on the 21st ult., and urged the abrogation of the export duty. The deputation consisted of Messrs. E. B. Eddy, H. K. Egan, Wm. Hurdman, Hiram Robinson, Wm. Mackie, W. R. Thistle, E. H. Bronson, J. A. MacLaren, J. R. Booth, Geo. Perley and John A. Cameron, Ottawa; Alex. Fraser, Westmeath; H. W. French, Quebec; Dr. Sprague and G. H. Bradbury, Winnipeg; J. L. Burton and N. Dymont, Barrie; James Gillies, Carleton Place; T. B. Colville, Lanark; and A. H. Campbell, Toronto. The following members of Parliament were also present: Messrs. McCarthy, Waldie, Charlton, Cooke, Edwards, White (Renfrew), Cargill, Gilmour and Hale. The interview with the

Government took place in the Privy Council Chamber. The Ministers present were: Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Hector Langevin, Sir Adolphe Caron, Sir John Thompson and Messrs. Abbott, Carling, Costigan, Foster, Haggart, Dewdney, Tupper and Bowell.

The deputation was introduced by Dalton McCarthy and Mr. A. H. Campbell, who acted as spokesman, informed the Government that those present were a committee appointed by the Lumberman's Association to lay before them the resolutions recently adopted with reference to the export duty on saw logs. He then read the resolutions as printed above. Proceeding to urge upon the Government the view taken, he said that the export duty was not put on for the purpose of raising revenue. It was doubtless imposed in order to encourage the manufacture of lumber in Canada and afford additional employment for artisans. This anticipation had not been realized. The result had been that a petition had recently presented to the United States Senate requesting that the duty on lumber coming from places where there was an export duty on logs be raised. This would strike a severe blow at the lumbering trade of Canada. Thus far an important part of the lumber manufactured in this country has been exported to the States. With an increase of duty the trade would be destroyed. A large portion of the lumber manufactured here was of a grade that could not be profitably exported to any other place than the United States on account of the cost of transportation. If the United States levied higher duties upon lumber, the production of this class would have to be greatly reduced. The effect would not be confined to lumbermen, but would strike a blow at Canada. Our own market was a very limited one. The credit of the lumbermen would be injured, and upon credit a great deal their business depended. With the decrease of production, a large number of men in the mills would be compelled to seek employment elsewhere, and would probably go to swell the colony of Canadians in the United States. That this trade was of great value was shown by the fact that the exports of forests and mines during the past seven years reached \$162,642,000 more than a quarter of the whole export for the same period. Lumber was represented by about half this sum. This paid two dollars per thousand or twenty per cent. of its value, on entering the United States. It was scarcely fair to place what was practically a prohibitory duty upon the exports of saw logs, when it appeared that of the 550,000,000 imported from the United States from 1880 to 1888, and in the manufacture of which Canada made all the profit that was to be made, whilst on the small quantity of twenty million feet taken from this country to the United States a heavy export duty charged. He felt it would be a wise action on the part of the Government to take the export duty off sawn logs and lumber altogether.

Mr. Charlton, M.P., said that Mr. Campbell's standing in the business and long acquaintance with lumber interests would make his utterances of value. It would be readily perceived that there was no political complexion to the movement to have the export duty abrogated. It was purely business. The export duty was asked for by the lumbermen of Canada. It was asked for, he presumed, under a misapprehension of the true state of the trade between the two countries, and now it was seen that business would benefit by the removal. The bill before the Senate of the United States provided that the duty upon lumber should be \$1.50 per thousand, but that, when imported from a country having an export duty upon logs, it should be \$2 per thousand. This would subject Canadian lumber to a duty of fifty cents per thousand more than any other country. The bill introduced a few days ago by Senator Baker provided that the duty upon lumber imported from a country that which imposed an export duty should be increased in proportion to the export duty levied. Strong influence would be brought upon the Senate to secure the retaliation upon the Canadian lumber trade. The lumbering interests of Michigan and Wisconsin and the Southern States would seize upon the opportunity to move the United States authorities in this direction. It was altogether likely that the matter would not be dealt with till President Harrison was inaugurated. There was very little difference of opinion among the lumbermen as to the desirability of abolishing the export duty on logs. If matters were different the export duty might be favored, but the threatening aspect in the States changed the position entirely. There was a general impression that the Americans must have Canadian lumber, no matter what duty they pay on it. This was a mistake. Southern poplar was becoming a formidable opponent in the market. These trees grew so rapidly that forests were said to reproduce themselves in 30 years. The tendency was towards making the position of Canadian lumber more and more unfavorable. Hence it was felt that there was great danger to Canadian interests if the course recommended were not adopted. At the meeting of the lumbermen in Toronto only two voted against the abolition of the export duty. All who composed the deputation were in favor of the removal of the duty if the Government would concede it.

Mr. J. R. Booth said that a few years ago that he

was one of those who asked the Government to put an export duty on logs. At that time he was not aware of the large number of American logs that were brought into Canada to be manufactured into lumber. Having heard the real state of things, he thought the duty should be removed. It would certainly be in the interests of the trade, and he could hardly think the Government put the duty on to raise revenue.

Sir John Macdonald:—We were convinced by your arguments Mr. Booth.

Mr. Booth said things had changed, and as the Government had put on the duty in the interest of the trade, they could now remove it with the same object. Whether it would be in the interest of the Dominion he was not prepared to say.

Sir John Macdonald:—How would the removal of the duty affect the small mills which are not owned by lumbermen?

Mr. Campbell:—This would affect the Georgian Bay district more than any other part of the Dominion. That is the only part from which we export logs to any extent. I do not think there are any mills there which are not held by large owners.

Mr. Eddy next addressed the Government. He said that before the meeting in Toronto he was perfectly willing that there should be an export duty on logs. He did not know the extent to which Canada imported logs. He then changed his views, and now believed it would be better if the duty were abolished. He saw no prospect of Canadian lumber ever controlling the American market.

Mr. Bronson said he had supported the export duty, but now recognized that it should be abolished. Canada's market for lumber was the United States, and we should do everything to encourage that trade.

Sir John Macdonald, replying to the deputation said:—This is a very grave question. I do not think we are to be prevented from changing our policy with reference to it, if it is for the good of the country. That is the only question we have to consider. We are aware that this is an important question, and have received representations from both sides and from various quarters. We have the strong authoritative opinion of this association. All that I can say is that we will give full weight to all the remarks made by the gentlemen and the various considerations laid before us, and will act according to the best of our judgment. The result of our deliberations will be communicated to you through the ordinary way of Parliament. I desire to repeat that we will be guided altogether by the consideration of what we think best for Canada under the circumstances, and considering our present relations with the United States. The Premier's remarks were applauded, after which the deputation withdrew.

### Why the Old Man Grew Suspicious.

An old fellow who was running a saw mill down in the southern part of Tennessee had considerable trouble in getting a man who understood the business of sawyer. Finally, when the owner of the mill became wholly discouraged, a respectable fellow came along and asked for a situation. He showed a paper from one of the leading mill men of the country, stating that the applicant was one of the best of sawyers. He was engaged, and when he had been at work about three weeks the proprietor called him one morning and said:

"Mr. Collier, you needn't go to work to-day."

"Are you going to shut down?"

"Yes, so fur ez you ere consarned."

"What! you don't want me any longer?"

"Yes, that's it."

"Why, haven't I been giving satisfaction?"

"Oh, yas, so fur ez yo' work goes."

"Then what is the matter?"

"Wall, I have noticed that you put on too many shirts."

"I don't understand you."

"Wall, yo, change yo' shirts too often. You have been working here now three weeks, an' I notice you put on a clean shirt about every eight days."

"But, my goodness, is there anything wrong in that?"

"To some folks there mouten't be, but thar is to me. A fellar cam along here once and changed his shirt every 12 days."

"Well," said the sawyer, "what else did he do?"

"Run away and married my daughter, that's what he done. Then thar came along a fellar that changed his shirt 'bout every ten days. He ran away with my wife. Then another fellar changed his shirt 'bout every nine days, an' he run away with my pocket book that contained 15 dollars. So I find that the offner a man changes his shirt the whrse he is, an' afearin' that you mout run away with my mule colts, I reckon you'd better go now, while I've got my eyes on you."—*Arkansas Traveller.*