

ture is necessary to enable their mills to compete with United States lumber producers in foreign markets, the minister says, "it should be borne in mind that much of the competition in the West Indies and South America consists of Canadian lumber exported via New York and manufactured by people who are subject to the enforcement of the statutes from which the petitioners ask to be released. The argument that the existence of the lumbering industry is threatened by representing that it would be a fatal blow to the district were the mills to shut down, is not well founded, since the mills in many districts of Canada and in the United States exist and multiply where the law is enforced. A certain expenditure according to circumstances and the location of the mills, must of course ensue; but there is nothing to show that this expenditure would be excessive." Arguing in favor of the permanent preservation of the fishing interests he concludes by saying, the enforcement of this enactment prescribed by the statutes, means but a relatively insignificant expenditure during the time the mills may be in operation; while to the community at large it means, coupled with the other regulations, the permanency of valuable fishing interests long after the mills have ceased to run, and for these reasons he considers it advisable to maintain the decision already conveyed to the petitioners. Now that the minister has seen fit to sit squarely down upon the saw mill owners on the La Have river in Nova Scotia, and also on the saw mill owners on the Otonabee river in Ontario; the country will wait with breathless anxiety to see what he will do in regard to the reckless throwing of saw dust and mill refuse in the Ottawa river.

WE learn with regret that the well-known lumber firm of J. K. Post & Co., of Oswego, N. Y., has made an assignment for the benefit of their creditors. The failure is said to be a heavy one, nearly \$200,000 being involved. For years past the firm has been favorably known to the lumber markets of the country, and its financial standing was high; as a consequence the failure has caused a great deal of comment in Ottawa lumbering circles, as several lumber merchants of that city are among the creditors. For a couple of years previous to the death of J. K. Post, which occurred in July last, the firm had a number of heavy losses. Mr. James Moir, lumber merchant, of Albany, N. Y., has also made an assignment. The complication in Mr. Moir's financial affairs had origin, it is said, in his purchase less than two years ago of a large block of Canadian lumber, which he had to dispose of at a loss. The present crisis was precipitated by the failure of J. K. Post & Co., of Oswego, with whom Mr. Moir was involved to a greater or less extent. Mr. James Moir's name has been very popular among the lumbering firms where he had business dealings, and his paper has always been met as soon as due. It is reported that the Ottawa lumbermen have claims against J. K. Post & Co and James Moir amounting to nearly \$100,000, and that the failure of the former has affected the firm of T. W. Holmes, for whom F. W. Avery is agent at Ottawa. The Canadian creditors of James Moir include the Canada Lumber Company, of Carleton Place, the Rathbun Company, Messrs. Pierce & Co., J. R. Booth and W. W. Cooke of Whitehall, who purchased a large amount of Mr. E. B. Eddy's lumber.

THE American Forestry Congress and the Pennsylvania Association held joint meetings in Horticultural Hall, Philadelphia, during the month of October, the two amalgamating under the name of the American Forestry Association. Mr. Landreth, president of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, welcomed the delegates in a very interesting and felicitous address. In the absence of Gov. Beaver, the president of the Congress, Hon. H. G. Joly, of Quebec, the first vice-president, responded to the address of welcome in a very graceful and business-like speech. He said the friends of forestry do not wish to prevent the cutting of timber for use. They only desire to prevent the unnecessary waste by careless or other injudicious methods of managing forests and cutting them off. He added that

there should be no antagonism between the forestry people and the lumbermen, but they should work together in harmony to secure a future permanent supply of timber by the continued reproduction of the forests. Hon. Carl Schurz followed in an earnest address. Referring to the devastated lands of the East, now barren wastes, and their people in poverty, and to Spain, once strong, industrious and prosperous, now short and struggling, he said "The laws of nature are the same everywhere, and there never has been a people or country so great or prosperous as to be able to defy them." He recommended that wherever the forests cover the head waters of the great rivers they be kept in possession of the government. At the Congress sixteen states were represented by delegates appointed by the governors, and there were representatives from some of the agricultural departments and societies. Mr. Joly was commissioned by the government of the Province of Quebec to represent it. Mr. B. E. Fernow, the chief of the forestry division of the Department of Agriculture, at Washington, represented the government of the United States, and read an elaborate paper on "Methods of Forestry Reform." On a later day of the meeting Mr. Fernow introduced resolutions to the effect that the Association should petition the National Congress to pass an act withdrawing from sale all forest lands on the public domain, until a commission, to be appointed by the President of the United States, shall examine all the forests which belong to the nation, and report which regions ought to be kept permanently in woods. The commission also to report a plan for a permanent system of forest management by the government. These resolutions were vigorously opposed by Mr. Lemon Thompson, a well known lumberman of Albany, N. Y., on the ground that it would be contrary to the national usage, and to the genius and spirit of republican institutions, to have the government engage in such a business enterprise. He also thought that the forests would be much better protected if the land is sold to individual citizens, and managed by them as their interests require. He said this system of individual enterprise had built up the prosperity of the country, and he was opposed to such change as putting millions of acres of forest lands into the hands of politicians and office holders to be managed by them. The resolutions were finally adopted. Mr. E. E. Russell Tratman, of Brooklyn, read a valuable paper on "Economy in the Consumption of Railway Timber". Prof. Prentiss, of Cornell University, read a short paper on "The Hemlock". He described it as one of the slowest growing of all our trees, and said it is being everywhere rapidly cut off, while no effort is made to have it grow again by protecting the ground or the young trees. He thought after the pine, the hemlock was the most valuable of our trees. The meeting was well attended, and the papers and discussions were more practical and solid than the average in previous meetings of the national organization. The time and place of the next meeting was left to the Executive Committee to decide. Cincinnati and Quebec were both mentioned as likely to be chosen.

SPLINTERS.

A NEW United States custom station has been established on the South Shore of the Lake of the Woods near the mouth of Rainy Lake River for the purpose of stopping depredations on United States forests in Minnesota.

THE tonnage of vessels arriving at Liverpool, England, from Canada during September was 41,997 tons, against 21,421, or nearly double the tonnage arriving during the corresponding month of last year. Eighty per cent. of these vessels were engaged in the lumber and timber trade. The aggregate tonnage arriving in Liverpool from Canada, from January 1st to September 30th, was 386,536 tons, against 305,583 tons in 1888, and 284,024 tons in 1887.

THE Yellow Pine Association, at the meeting held at Montgomery, Ala., on Nov. 14 fixed the prices of lumber hereafter, until further notice, as follows; Standard sills, 26 to 34, feet, \$10; same, 35 to 36, feet,

\$11; \$1 extra for each inch and over 10 inches; car decking, \$9; heart face decking, \$10; car heart sills, \$50. Run of logs, including all sizes and lengths up to 24 feet, for house building purposes, \$8.50 per M.; all lengths over 24 feet, add 50 cents for each two feet additional; weather boarding, resawed, \$10; weather boarding, not sawed, \$12.50; sheathing, \$7. Above prices f. o. b. at mills.

THE forest rangers employed by the government of the province of Quebec assembled in Hull, Nov. 15, in accordance with a request from the commissioner of crown lands, to receive instructions from Mr. J. B. Charleson, superintendent of rangers, with respect to lumbering operations for the winter. Mr. Charleson pointed out that during the last year the provincial revenue from crown timber dues had increased over \$350,000 through careful watching, but remarked that there was still some leakage which he hoped the rangers would succeed in stopping. The administration of the crown lands department, he said, was purely non-political, and every employee of the department was required to do his duty, showing neither fear nor favor, and that no man who failed in the thorough performance of the duty assigned to him need expect political preferences to help him.

A DEPUTATION consisting of Messrs. W. G. Perley and H. Robillard M. P's, Mayor Erratt, Ald. Durocher and Mr. John Stewart, mining engineer, recently waited upon Sir Hector Langevin, at Ottawa, and asked that the government grant a site upon which smelting works could be established. Mr. Perley explained the object of the deputation, and said the lumbermen had agreed to furnish fuel for the manufacture of iron or steel, and that it was desirable to get a location for such works near Ottawa. The government, he pointed out, had land which was not being used which might be devoted to the purpose. Sir Hector promised that the question of granting a site should receive consideration. A number of capitalists are prepared to take up the matter and start a company, but the character of the undertaking will depend upon the amount of capital furnished.

A MAMMOTH CONCERN.

The Rathbun Company's Extensive Industries at Deseronto, Ont.

Deseronto is a charmingly situated, and thriving business town on the Bay of Quinte. It has a population, according to the last census, of some 3,500 souls, possesses 5 churches, and has a Salvation Army barracks. It also boasts a fine Town Hall, Public School buildings, High School in course of erection, and which is expected to be opened early in 1890; police station, gas works, two newspapers, public square with band stand, banks, 5 Mutual Benefit Associations, several good hotels, etc. There is also in the centre of the town a large tank, with a capacity of some 700 barrels, exclusively kept for fire protection purposes. The town is governed by a mayor and 9 members of the council. The finances of the town are in a fairly good condition. They have no interest in arrear, and the levy upon the inhabitants for the year 1889, including all purposes, was only 17 mills on the dollar. The Indian name "Deseronto" (Thunder and Lightning) seems to have been well applied; for when it is considered that only 38 years ago, this was a small hamlet, it must be admitted it has grown with thunder and lightning rapidity. Now, it may be asked, what has all this got to do with the "Hub" of the lumber world? Everything! for this flourishing town owes its very existence and present prosperity to the family and firm of the Rathbun Company.

Some forty years ago Mr. Rathbun came to Deseronto, then a small hamlet as before mentioned, and commenced operations by erecting a saw mill with a capacity of only about 50,000 feet a day. In those early days matters did not run as smoothly as they do now in Canada, and only a slight conception of the intrepidity, dash, energy and indomitable perseverance of this pioneer of the lumber world can