

WOOD TRADE NOTES IN LONDON.

A more quiet state of things in the free-on-board trade could hardly exist, the dullness presenting a marked contrast to the business doing now in goods on the spot. Dealers appear to be satisfied that there will be no change in values for some long time ahead. The suspension of work in the London building trade, it is hoped, will be only temporary for the sake of all concerned; but, if it becomes a regular strike, prices of sawn wood are not likely to be seriously affected, most of the orders being now arranged for the work in hand, and the stocks in the docks much below the normal quantity. The sale at Cannon street this week was satisfactory, and a strong upward tendency was noticeable for marketable dimensions, battens and flooring boards specially holding a firm position. The tone of the mahogany and hardwood market is steady. Wholesale business has been brisk and values have been fairly well maintained. Brokers have been making large private sales of American walnut logs and other hardwoods, nearly clearing the stock in first hands.

Pine on spot is moving off very freely in all qualities, and we expect to see, by the time the first open-water shipments arrive here, that the present stock in the Surrey Commercial Docks, as well as at the various mills, will be considerably depleted. Dry pine is still a scarce article, and very good prices are being obtained by those who are fortunate enough to have any in stock. Spruce is as firm as ever, and stocks rapidly diminishing.

MORE LABOR TROUBLES.

The notice issued to the various labor unions to direct the members to leave their work is a further mischievous interference with the general business of the great towns, although as can be easily seen it is primarily directed at the London building trade. The subsequent notice to the country branches of the Building Trades Federation is, of course, intended to cut off any chance of the master builders getting men from the provinces to fill the places of those going out.—*Timber Trades Journal*, May 2.

CANADA'S NEEDS.

Mr. George Hague's views of Canada's needs appeared as follows in the *Globe*:

The needs of Canada may be variously stated.

1. In the political sphere—

To maintain inviolate the connection with the Crown of England, and to aim in political and municipal affairs at as high a standard of honor as prevails there; so that it will be deemed as disgraceful to steal from the public as to forge a note or burglarize a bank.

To endeavor to bring about a free exchange of natural products with the United States, it being evident that such an arrangement would be of equal value to both countries, and would injure no interests in either.

To simplify Governmental and departmental machinery both in Federal and Provincial matters. Canada is enormously over-governed. The municipal system might have been extended so that as Township Reeves constitute a County Council, so the Wardens of these Councils should constitute the Provincial Legislatures. A beginning might be made by amalgamating the Maritime Provinces.

To choose for legislators, according to the directions of a good old Book, able men such as fear God, men of truth, having understanding of the times, and hating covetousness—what was needed 3,000 years ago is just as much needed now.

2. In municipal matters—

Pure democracy having proved a dismal failure in the government of large cities, there is need for a system analogous to that by which other corporations are governed, viz., that those who have most stake in the concern shall have the most votes.

3. In the sphere of business.

That the uses, abuses and dangers of credit shall be better understood and influence action, both in larger and smaller spheres—that men of business shall learn to prosper, as the Rothschilds have done, viz., by minding their own business and keeping out of things they don't understand.]

4. In the sphere of labor—

That men shall cease to be led away by the dreams of impractical theorists and endeavor to grasp those economic conditions which are as certain in their operations as gravitation or the tides.

5. In the sphere of education—

More training and less cramming, more concentration and less diffusion, more thoroughness and less of rambling and shambling through many things half digested.

6. In religion—

More knowledge and appreciation of other men's creeds and beliefs, from whence would be developed a higher charity and a diminution of bigotry and fanaticism.

A TRANSACTION ON MARGIN.

A few days ago, a bucket shop case got an airing before Judge Morgan, in the County Court, in Toronto. The dispute arose over a margin of two cents per bushel, on 10,000 bushels of grain alleged to have been bought in Chicago, by Henry A. King & Co., brokers, of this city, for one J. Dawes, of that city, on which $\frac{1}{2}$ c. per bushel was charged for commission. The plaintiff King complains that he lost \$175 on the wheat bought in his name, and \$25 commission, and suit was brought to recover \$200. He also contends that Dawes was to indemnify him for any loss that he might sustain in carrying out his (Dawes') instructions, to sell the grain. On the contrary, Dawes declares that the sale and delivery of grain were fictions of the imagination. He further pleads that he was unacquainted with the usages of stock brokers, and that the bargain should be "called off" and the suit dismissed because the plaintiffs had made no purchase, and no delivery, and that "their dealings were in reality for the purpose of engaging in gambling and speculation upon the rise or fall of the Chicago wheat market, and that all such dealings, contracts and agreements were and are contrary to law and public policy and morals."

Judge Morgan, like ourselves, evidently has but little, if any, sympathy with this sort of business. He is reported as saying that "Dawes is as bad as the agent, and if they both entered into gambling transactions they should both be in jail." At the same time, however, he gave judgment in favor of the plaintiff, with costs. As we cannot suppose that his sympathy had anything to do in leading the judge to such a decision, we must believe that he found that the law required him to decide as he did.

—The general travelling public will be interested in knowing that an important change has been made in regard to the charge for baggage in storage at railway stations. On Monday next a new schedule of storage charges on baggage will go into effect, as follows: First 24 hours, free; second 24 hours, 25 cents; each subsequent 24 hours, ten cents; no charge for Sundays or Dominion holidays. Heretofore the charge on baggage has been ten cents a week, but the railway authorities claim that a portion of the travelling public have taken advantage of this to leave their baggage an unreasonable time in the hands of the railways, and that the new tariff will have the effect of making people remove their baggage more promptly.

—After long delays, and after the matter was several times discussed by a parliamentary committee and the city council, the Toronto, Hamilton and Brantford Railway debentures, amounting to \$225,000, were handed over to the Bank of Hamilton. Of the proceeds, of which the Bank of Hamilton has become the purchaser, \$75,000 have been placed to the credit of the city of Hamilton in trust, to pay claims against the railway for real property; \$85,000 have been deposited to a trust fund in the bank to secure the claims against Bracey Bros., former contractors, and the balance has been paid to the Bank of Hamilton, to satisfy advances made by it to the Dominion Construction Company.

—On Saturday last while the propeller "Acadia," owned by R. O. Mackay, Hamilton, was passing through the Welland Canal, it took fire, which was caused by electric wires. Its cargo consisted of 21,000 bushels of corn, the property of James Carruthers. The cargo filled

the hold right up to the decks. This made it very difficult for the men to get at the flames, which were confined to the interior of the hull, and ran from stem to stern. The full extent of the damages cannot be discovered until the boat is lightened at Kingston. The surveyors will then examine it.

—The West Coast sealing schooners return to Victoria, B.C., with a moderate catch, which is reported as follows: "Ainoka," 430; "Dora Seward," 377; "Venture," 269; "Victoria," 164; "Kate," 260; "Kilmeny," 100. The "Dora Seward" spoke the "Fawn" on April 28, and the latter then had 420 skins. Many of the sealing men believe that they have made a mistake in not going further south for seals. They instance the case of the "Eppinger," which made the large catch of 1,369 skins, the majority of which were secured off San Francisco. The schooners from the Victoria fleet which cruised in a southerly direction have secured more skins than those that went north.

—Not only are the farmers, but the lumbermen, complaining about the lack of rain. On Sunday last Montreal was visited with a heavy storm, but, so far as we are able to learn, it did not extend very far beyond that city. This spring the thaw has been so gradual that many of the streams have not reached their usual height, consequently a large number of logs will be "hung up." The Keswick Land and Lumber Company's manager in New Brunswick reports that his whole drive, consisting of a million and a half of hemlock, are hung up, with poor prospects of getting them down this season, unless there come heavy rains.

—The Geological Survey staff of Canada will soon be in the field. Mr. McConnell goes first to the Saskatchewan, and then to the Kootenay districts. Mr. McEver to West Kootenay. Mr. A. P. Lowe to Labrador, Dr. Bell to Hudson Bay, Dr. Ellis to Renfrew district, Mr. Fletcher to Cape Breton district, Mr. Faribault to the Halifax, Lunenburg, and Hants counties, Nova Scotia, Mr. Tyrrell to Northern Manitoba, Mr. McInnes to the Rainy River district, Mr. Chalmers to the Eastern Townships of Quebec, Mr. Giroux to the country between Ottawa and Cornwall, and Mr. Barlow to Central Ontario.

—The *Winnipeg Free Press* of May 6th says that seeding is in full swing in Manitoba, the most advanced districts being west of Brandon and Melita; on the Portage plains and in the Red River Valley are where the season has been most backward. While city people are complaining of the late spring, the "farmers are universally jubilant over the prospects for the coming crop. All records for rapid growth are expected to be broken this summer. In every place where it is possible the stubble is being burnt, and the seed put in without ploughing."

—Many of the lobster men on the north side of Prince Edward Island, particularly in the Alberton district, from Kildare to Tignish, lost a vast amount of gear during the last storm, which was very severe on that shore. Many fishermen, says the *Moncton Times*, lost all their traps, and much property was carried away by the ice. The tide is said by many old residents to have been the highest known on the north side since the famous "August gale." Much fishing gear was also destroyed in the Georgetown district.

—One of the shortest wills ever filed was offered the other day at the surrogate's office in New York. It was the work of Andrew Wesley Kent, a lawyer, and was written on a sheet of his office paper. It read: "My Will: I give, devise, and bequeath unto my wife, Nina Kent, all my estate, both real and personal. I appoint her executrix thereof, and revoke all former wills."

—There are, it is stated, fully 1,000 tons of piping of various kinds in the average Atlantic liner, and these tubes, of boilers and condensers, would, if placed in a straight line, extend thirty miles. The condensers will pump up at least 50,000,000 tons of cool water a day. The furnaces will consume no less than 7,500,000 cubic feet of air an hour.

—Mr. Wadland, construction superintendent of the Bell Telephone Company, has been looking over the ground between Sarnia and Chatham, where it is intended to open a new metallic line.