

THE Canada Lumberman

MONTHLY AND WEEKLY EDITIONS
PUBLISHED BY

The C. H. Mortimer Publishing Company
of Toronto, Limited,

CONFEDERATION LIFE BUILDING, TORONTO.

BRANCH OFFICES:

38 ALLIANCE BUILDING, MONTREAL.

310 MCINTYRE BLOCK, WINNIPEG.

21 GREAT ST. HELENS, LONDON, E. C.

The LUMBERMAN Weekly Edition is published every Wednesday, and the Monthly Edition on the 1st day of every month.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:

One Copy, Weekly and Monthly, One Year, in advance, \$1.00
One Copy, Weekly and Monthly, Six Months, in advance, 50
Foreign Subscription, \$2.00 a Year.

ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION.

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interests of the lumber, wood-working and allied industries, being the only representative in Canada of these important interests. It aims at giving full and timely information on all subjects touching these interests, and invites free discussion by its readers.

Special pains are taken to secure for publication in the WEEKLY LUMBERMAN the latest and most trustworthy market quotations throughout the world, so as to afford to the trade at home and abroad information on which it can rely in its operations. Subscribers will find the small amount they pay for the CANADA LUMBERMAN quite insignificant as compared with its value to them. There is not an individual in the trade, or specially interested in it, who should not be on our list, thus obtaining the present benefit and aiding and encouraging us to render it even more complete.

Advertisers will receive careful attention and liberal treatment. For manufacturing and supply firms wishing to bring their goods to the attention of owners and operators of saw and planing mills, wood-working factories, pulp mills, etc., the CANADA LUMBERMAN is undoubtedly the cheapest and most profitable advertising medium. Special attention is directed to "WANTED" and "FOR SALE" advertisements, which are inserted in a conspicuous position on front page of the Weekly Edition.

HARDWOOD INSPECTION RULES REJECTED.

The outlook for the adoption of national rules for the inspection of hardwood lumber throughout the United States and Canada is much less promising than a few months ago, events having taken an unexpected turn. A brief history of the movement is necessary to an understanding of the situation. The National Hardwood Lumber Association was organized in 1896 for the avowed purpose of securing the adoption of uniform grading rules, its membership being composed of both the wholesale dealers and manufacturers, with the former predominating. The rules for which they sought recognition were adopted by dealers in all parts of the country and by the Wisconsin Hardwood Manufacturers' Association. They did not, however, meet the ideas of all manufacturers, some of whom, about two years ago, organized the National Hardwood Manufacturers' Association, with the intention of framing rules more in the interest of the manufacturer. The advantage of having but one set of rules being recognized by both associations, a joint committee was appointed to fix upon a uniform basis for the inspection of all kinds of hardwood lumber. This committee framed a new set of rules, which were to receive the sanction of a majority of the members of each association before becoming effective.

The National Hardwood Lumber Association held its annual meeting on May 22nd last, and declined to adopt the rules arranged by the joint committee. A resolution to amalgamate the two associations was also rejected. Thus the adoption of national rules is far from being accomplished, as the breach between the dealer and the manufacturer would appear to have been widened by this action of the association. There are some dealers, among whom is Hon. J. N. Scatcherd, of Buffalo, who claim

that, lumber being produced at so many different points and shipped to so many different markets, it is almost impossible to formulate a set of rules which would prove acceptable to manufacturer, millman and consumer. Whether this is the case time alone will tell.

Canadians have been watching with much interest the outcome of the agitation and plans for uniform inspection of hardwoods across the line, and which it is intended shall eventually extend to Canada. One or two informal meetings of the hardwood dealers have been held in Toronto for the purpose of taking similar action for a limited district, but the business is in such a crude state that much discussion and diplomatic adjustment will be necessary before anything tangible is arrived at. It is earnestly to be hoped that the matter will not be permitted to drop, as recognized rules even for Toronto and Western Ontario would be better than the entire absence of definite rules, as at present.

CONDITIONS INSPIRE CONFIDENCE.

Within the past year the opinion has been many times expressed that the crest of the wave had been reached in the present era of commercial and industrial prosperity in Canada and the United States. Evidence has not been lacking of late that this prediction was well timed. There has been a falling off in the consumption of many commodities, prices of which have shown a gradual decline for some months past. The decline in the price of iron and steel products has been, we think, more marked than in almost any other class of material which enters into construction work.

There are already indications that the bottom has been or will soon be reached in the declining tendency of iron and steel prices. The reaction has been of a healthy character, and has proceeded without serious disturbance to either capitalists or the laboring classes. It has, on the other hand, permitted construction work to be undertaken at a moderate cost, a condition which is certain, sooner or later, to lead to industrial activity. In the United States, where slackening of trade has been the more pronounced on account of a Presidential election five months hence, building operations are more active than at any time in the past two years. In Canada the reaction has been scarcely noticeable except for the dumping policy pursued by certain United States manufacturers. Building is flourishing throughout almost the entire Dominion. In the city of Winnipeg alone buildings to the value of over \$5,500,000 have been built this year or are in course of erection, and in British Columbia there is activity in the same direction. Generally speaking, the enlarged building operations are not in the nature of a boom, as speculative building is at a standstill, except perhaps in Winnipeg, to which point many Americans have been attracted. The buildings are needed for the accommodation of the people and must be erected almost regardless of cost.

Crop prospects are favorable to good business conditions. The United States is promised an abundant yield of wheat, corn and cot-

ton—the three leading staples. From the Canadian North west comes the report of very favorable weather conditions and prospects for a heavy production of No. 1 wheat. With these predictions fulfilled, a substantial impetus would be given to industrial and commercial development.

Still another factor is favorable to improvement in trade, namely, a fixed tariff policy. The budget speech of Hon. Mr. Fielding, Minister of Finance, clearly shows that there is to be no change of principle by the Dominion Government in respect to the tariff. The Republican National Convention has chosen Hon. Theodore Roosevelt as the standard-bearer of the party, and present indications point strongly to his election. The platform adopted by the convention declares adherence to the system of protection, rates of duty to be adjusted only when conditions have so changed that the public interest demands it. Thus, it would appear that the existing tariff laws of the United States will rule for another four years.

Summing up, there is reason to anticipate an improvement in business during the next twelve months. The uncertainties which have existed and which have induced capitalists to pursue a conservative policy in respect to new undertakings are gradually being removed, and a more confident feeling is sure to develop.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

There is a good deal of misconception regarding the properties of Mountain tamarac, or what is known in the western part of the United States as larch. It has been confounded by many dealers and contractors with the inferior eastern swamp tamarac, a very poor class of lumber. The western product is of a very rich even color, greatly resembling cedar, although the grain is not so pronounced. It furnishes one of the best of high grade finishes, not taking second place to fir or any other high grade Coast lumber. It is not so hard as fir, but takes a very fine polish, and is easier to work, being especially well adapted for flooring, mouldings, and wainscoting. All the Winnipeg factories are very anxious to secure it in clears.

The appointment of Dr. Clark to the position of forester for the Ontario Government has raised a question as to the duties of this office. The opinion has been advanced that it is a preliminary step towards the application of a practical forestry system to the extensive forest reserves which have been set apart by the Government and which will doubtless be increased at each favorable opportunity. Hon. Mr. Davis, Commissioner of Crown Lands, announced some time ago that it was proposed to sell the timber on these reserves as it matured, under the direction of the Crown's forester, and it may be that Dr. Clark's duties will be the supervision of this work. It is to be hoped that in perfecting their forestry system the Government will give due attention to the preservation of the hardwoods, which are in steadily increasing demand and which furnish the raw material for many of our largest furniture and other factories.