

a further grant of money is required to be expended there to make the channel sufficiently deep to enable vessels navigating its waters to use it at all times. Therefore the Commissioner is asked to cause a sufficient sum to be placed in the estimates of the next fiscal year to complete the improvements required. The deepening of this channel will be of great benefit to a very large number of the residents of the districts of Muskoka and Parry Sound, as well as to mariners, lumbermen and others.

UNITED STATES Consul Murray states that the amount of American long lumber shipped to the States from the port of St. John for the year ending September 30, 1887, was 96,385,000 feet, and of short lumber, such as laths, pickets, shooks, staves, shingles, etc. an amount equal to 25,000,000 feet. The amount of lumber manufactured from English logs shipped to the States during the same time was 50,000,000 feet, making 171,385,000 feet of American and English lumber shipped to the United States from this port for the year. Shipments for the same year to all foreign ports, including deals, lumber, ect., was 180,000,000 feet. Total shipment for the year, including American and English lumber, 301,385,000 feet.

THE TIMBER DUES.

On the day before the late sale of Ontario pine limits a very influential deputation of lumbermen waited upon Mr. Pardee, the Commissioner of Crown Lands. Their request was certainly most reasonable, namely, that the Government should give some permanency to the terms on which the limits should be held, and should guarantee the purchasers against another sudden and unexpected raise of the dues and ground rent. It was unfortunate that Mr. Pardee did not see his way to accede to this reasonable request, though he remarked that the recent increase had been the first for twenty years and that there need be no apprehension of a further increase for a considerable period. This assurance may be sufficient for holding purposes, but the misfortune is that it gives no valid, unimpeachable security such as a banker requires when he makes advances. Confidence in timber limits as such security had already been somewhat shaken by the increase of dues in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and the statement of Mr. Pardee is hardly calculated to give stronger assurance in this respect. It is not too late even yet for Mr. Pardee to make the present dues unchangeable for some fixed period and thus make timber leases a more staple security.

The following report of the interview between the lumber men and the premier of Ontario, with regard to the timber dues, appeared in the Toronto Mail

A deputation representing the lumbering interests of Ontario waited upon Hon. Messrs. Mowat and Pardee yesterday afternoon. The subject upon which they wished to ascertain the views of Ministers was the increase in the Crown dues and ground rent made by an Order-in-Council last spring which comes into operation this winter. The former fees were 75c. per thousand feet Crown dues and \$2 per square mile ground rent. These fees have been increased to \$1 for Crown dues and \$3 ground rent.

The lumbermen held a meeting previous to their waiting on the Ministers, at which a statement of their case, drawn up by Mr. A. H. Campbell, was agreed upon, and where it was also determined to form an association to be known as the Ontario Lumbermen's Association. The drift of constitution was adopted and the entrance fee fixed at \$10.

The gentlemen then proceeded to Mr. Mowat's office, where the Premier and Hon. Mr. Pardee, Commissioner of Crown Lands, were ready to hear their grievances. Among those present were:—A. H. Campbell, Toronto; Jas. Scott, Waukegan; John Charlton, M.P., Lyndoch; David Gilmour, Trenton; Allan Gilmour, Trenton; M. Burton, Barrie; J. M. Irwin, Peterboro'; M. M. Boyd, Bobcaygeon; W. T. C. Boyd, Bobcaygeon; John Macdonald, Albany; C. McLachlin, Arnprior; E. H. Bonson, M. P. P., Geo. H. Perley, M. P., Powell, E. B. Eddy, W. R. Thistle, Ottawa; J. B. Miller, Parry Sound; Jas. McLaren, Buckingham; Robt. Thomson; Hamilton; Alex. Fraser, Westmeath; N. Dymont, Barrie; H. H. Cook, M. P., Toronto; J. S. Hatton, New Lowell; J. M. Deilar, Midland; Thos. Murray, M. P. P., Pembroke; J. R. Booth, Ottawa; E. D. Moore, Ottawa; John Davidson, New Lowell; John McArthur, Toronto; Wm. Christie, Toronto; R. H. Klock, Ottawa.

It would be difficult to conjecture just how many millions this convocation of lumber Kings represented. There were several millionaires amongst them anyway.

Mr. Campbell opened the lumbermen's case by reading the paper that had been approved of at the meeting in the morning. This paper, ably and comprehensively stated the views of the lumbermen concerning the equity of the matter and the proper policy to be pursued by the Government in dealing with its

timber lands. He took the ground that the purchases at the sales of timber limits held had been made upon fixed and well defined conditions. The bids were made on the basis that the Crown dues were 75 cents per thousand and the ground rent \$2 per square mile. Full value for the limits had been paid on that basis. To increase the dues and ground rent, therefore, now, was to impose on the purchasers in excess of their value and in excess of the amount they would have paid. He furthermore questioned the legality of such an action and had no doubt whatever of the decided lack of equity in such action. The Government should restore that confidence and put an end to doubt and uncertainty by declaring that the present scale of dues and ground rent should be maintained and unalterable for a fixed term of twenty years.

Mr. James McLaren pointed out that the dues could be so increased as to be tantamount to a cancellation of the lumberman's lease. He cited the case of the Province of New Brunswick, where the Government by raising Crown dues to \$1.50 and the ground rent to \$8 on spruce lands had stopped the cutting of timber in that province altogether except on private lands. He asked that before the sale an announcement fixing the rates and dues for a term of years should be made.

John Charlton, M.P., stated that at the various sales of timber lands held, especially at the last one in 1884, the universal impression was that the charges for dues and ground rent were of a permanent character, and upon this basis bids were made. This view of the case was stated in implied and not in expressed terms by the Crown Lands Commissioner himself, and the bonuses paid amounted to the full value of the limits upon the basis of the charges then levied. Within eighteen months of the date of the last sale the Government advanced the Crown dues 33 per cent. and the ground rent 50 per cent. This action had provoked a considerable degree of indignation on the part of lumbermen, and many felt disposed to characterize it as a piece of sharp practice. It had been urged in justification of the advance that Crown dues in Quebec were considerably higher than in Ontario. To this he answered that the cost of placing lumber in the American markets was from a dollar to two dollars per thousand less from Quebec than the cost of placing lumber in the same markets from Ontario. The difference in dues had also to a large extent been equalized by the higher rate of bonuses paid in Ontario, that government having received as bonuses on its various sales a sum exceeding \$1,700,000, which was greatly in excess of the amount received as bonuses in Quebec for a corresponding area. It should be borne in mind that calculations as to establishing a business in lumber must necessarily cover a term of years, as a mill could not be erected and adequate returns obtained for the investment in less than 10 or 15 years at least. This alone should make it apparent to the Government that for a term of years charges should be made of a permanent character, and not subject to arbitrary change. One effect of the Government policy had been loss of confidence and great shrinkage in the market value of limits. Lumbermen in the great majority of cases were dependent upon bank loans for a portion of the capital used in their business, and in this respect any action of the Government impairing the security they had to offer for money advances would be disastrous to them in its effects. The impression generally entertained that lumber was advancing rapidly in value was an erroneous one. Year by year the Canadian lumbermen found the northern limit at which he was driven from the field by the competition of Southern yellow pine coming nearer to him, and for the last two or three years a notable change had taken place in the market for the better grades of lumber through the introduction of yellow poplar from the south which stood high in public favor, and was rapidly supplanting the better grades of white pine for finishing lumber and had actually reduced the value of clear stuff, white pine lumber, from \$4 to \$6 per thousand in New York and other eastern cities. Owing to the deterioration in the quality of logs from year to year, the average value of our mill cut in Ontario was actually less than seven or eight years ago.

After some further discussion, Mr. Mowat, in reply, said it was the duty of the Government to consider the interests of all parties, the interests of the lumbermen as well as those of other parties, and they had endeavored to do so. They had endeavored to act fairly in this matter. In regard to the suggestion that the power which the Government have of raising the dues may be exercised unfairly, he said he thought the general feeling is that, so far, that power has not been unfairly exercised. The same suggestion might be made in regard to all the powers of parliament. Heretofore the changes had only taken place at long intervals, and under circumstances which he thought, received public approbation. The fact that an increase had taken place in the dues recently was an assurance that an increase will not be made again very soon. It might be possible for the Government on further enquiry and consideration to name a period within which no increase shall be

made, but up to the present they had found it impossible to do so. They could not, therefore, make any change in regard to the present sales.

It was quite evident that the reply was not satisfactory to the members of the deputation.

The Government Sale of Timber Limits.

The sale of timber limits by the Ontario government, on December 15th, drew the largest gathering of lumbermen ever convened at one time in Toronto. It is stated that the lumbermen representing Canada attending the sale were worth \$23,000,000, while the Americans present represented a capital of \$20,000,000. The bidding as a rule was fairly brisk, and the result seems to satisfy both the Government and the purchasers. Following is a list of the buyers and the amount paid for each parcel:

Biggar tp.—Berth 1, 20½ sq. m. at \$3,100, Thos. and Wm. Murray, Pembroke	\$ 63,162 50
Biggar tp.—Berth 2, 11½ sq. m. at \$3,100, T. H. Moffatt, Pembroke	34,487 50
Bishop tp.—Berth 1, 13½ sq. m. at \$2,100, Wm. Cook, Toronto	28,218 75
Ballantyne tp.—Berth 1, 22½ sq. m. at \$5,500, Albert Pack, Osceola	123,062 50
Ballantyne tp.—Berth 2, 14 sq. m. at \$2,350, Martin Brennan	32,900 00
Ballantyne tp.—Berth 3, 19½ sq. m. at \$2,600, Jos. Riopelle, Ottawa	49,725 00
Ballantyne tp.—Berth 4, 12½ sq. m. at \$850, Thos. Mackay, Pembroke	10,306 25
Butt tp.—Berth 1, 16½ sq. m. at \$900, Alex. Fraser, Westmeath	13,725 00
Chisholm tp.—Berth 1, 22 sq. m. at \$3,000, Robt. Thompson	66,000 00
Canisbay tp.—Berth 1 2½ sq. m. at \$500, Alex. Barnett, Renfrew	1,312 50
Devine tp.—Berth 1, 17 sq. m. at \$4,300, Alex. Fraser, Westmeath	73,100 00
Devine tp.—Berth 2, 13½ sq. m. at \$2,100, Alex. Fraser, Westmeath	28,350 00
Devine tp.—Berth 3, 11 sq. m. at \$4,200, Alex. Fraser, Westmeath	46,200 00
Devine tp.—Berth 4, 11½ sq. m. at \$3,000, Alex. Fraser, Westmeath	34,875 00
Hunter tp.—Berth 1, 16½ sq. m. at \$3,500, Alex. Barnett, Renfrew	57,550 00
Hunter tp.—Berth 2, 12½ sq. m. at \$4,600, Alex. Fraser, Westmeath	55,775 00
Livingstone tp.—Berth 1, 8 sq. m. at \$6,350, Callahan & Montrose, Alpena, Mich.	50,800 00
Livingstone tp.—Berth 2, 13½ sq. m. at \$4,200, Albert Pack, Osceola, Mich.	55,650 00
Livingstone tp.—Berth 3, 11½ sq. m. at \$3,400, P. H. Spohn	37,825 00
Livingstone tp.—Berth 4, 9 sq. m. at \$2,100, N. Dymont	18,900 00
Livingstone tp.—Berth 5, 8½ sq. m. at \$800, W. J. Smith	6,700 00
Livingstone tp.—Berth 6, 9 sq. m. at \$800, N. Dymont	7,200 00
Livingstone tp.—Berth 7, 7½ sq. m. at \$1,350, N. Dymont	10,462 50
Lawrence tp.—Berth 1, 15 sq. m. at \$3,300, Alex. McArthur, Toronto	49,500 00
McLaughlin tp.—Berth 1, 17½ sq. m. at \$3,400, Alex. Barnett, Renfrew	58,650 00
McLaughlin tp.—Berth 2, 12½ sq. m. at \$4,400, Alex. Barnett, Renfrew	55,000 00
McClintock tp.—Berth 1, 14 sq. m. at \$2,500, Isaac Cockburn, Gravenhurst	35,000 00
McClintock tp.—Berth 2, 12 sq. m. at \$2,500, Longford Lumber Co.	30,000 00
McClintock tp.—Berth 3, 8½ sq. m. at \$2,300, Longford Lumber Co.	20,125 00
McClintock tp.—Berth 4, 10½ sq. m. at \$2,000, Isaac Cockburn, Gravenhurst	20,500 00
McClintock tp.—Berth 5, 9½ sq. m. at \$1,600, Isaac Cockburn, Gravenhurst	14,800 00
McClintock tp.—Berth 1, 1½ sq. m. at \$1,050, Longford Lumber Co.	11,550 00
Pentland tp.—Berth 6, 11 sq. m. Wm. Mackie, Ottawa	400 00
Wilkes tp.—Berth 1, 13½ sq. m. at \$900, Wm. Mackie, Ottawa	12,375 00
Wilkes tp.—Berth 2, 15½ sq. m. at \$1,700, Wm. Mackie, Ottawa	26,350 00
Wilkes tp.—Berth 3, 17½ sq. m. at \$4,000, T. H. Moffatt, Pembroke	71,000 00
Nightingale tp.—Berth 1, 1½ sq. m. at \$600, Thos. Murray, Pembroke	975 00
Grand total	\$1,312,712 50

—The cabinet and furniture factory of Mr. Phillippe Valliere, Quebec, was destroyed by fire Dec. 4th, entailing a loss of over \$100,000. The works were well equipped with valuable machinery and tools, and there was a large lot of walnut and mahogany lumber, and some 30,000 chairs, all of which was destroyed. The extensive stores and showrooms adjoining, containing about \$200,000 worth of goods, were saved, but considerably damaged. Mr. Valliere who is one of the wealthiest citizens of Quebec and does probably the largest business in his line there, will commence rebuilding his factory immediately.