

AND THE THINGS OF THE WILD

If I want to steal your stories and sing your songs, it is only fair and decent for me to come over and burn a Canadian candle while the wheels go round. If an American manufacturer wants to work up your raw material, compel him to come across. The idea used to prevail that the big plant came to Canada for cheap labor. That is not so to-day. The International Harvester Company pays precisely the same scale of wages in Hamilton and Chicago, and still saves thirty cents on the first cost of producing a certain machine in Canada. Whatever the answer to this, it is certainly no reflection upon Canadian workmen. Speaking now as a Canadian to Canadians, (I'm at least a half-breed), I say let Americans and American capital come and assist in turning to account the rich resources of the Dominion, and in developing your country, but let them do their developing above the boundary; there should be no striking below the belt.

The story of the swimming saw log is interesting and instructive. To offset a two-dollar tax, on Canadian pine, the Dominion imposed a two-dollar export duty on logs. To remove the latter, American lumbermen had the duty on lumber repealed, when the Dominion reciprocated by removing the duty on logs.

Later the southern lumberman had the duty on lumber restored, but with a club in hand. They said, in substance, "The duty on lumber is two dollars, but if Canada puts the duty back on logs, it will be four dollars.

In order to prevent the exportation of logs to be worked up on the other side, and at the same time side-step the big stick—that is the threat of another two dollars on lumber—the Ontario Government made a new regulation. They said, you can have all the logs you can pay for, but you must manufacture in Canada. That, in substance, is Ontario's answer, and it seems to one who is not an expert in such matters, that Quebec would do well to follow Ontario's example.

Having solved the saw log problem, you will have to do something soon to protect your pulp and tie-timber. You own railways—national and provincial; you are paying forty cents for ties that could be had three years ago for twenty cents, because of the American demand, and instead of diminishing, the demand is increasing, for there is no panic on this continent—only a slight attack of Commercial Hysteria, aggravated by the approach of a Presidential election. Up here it's a sort of "sympathy strike."