

BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

[Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

The question in which the lumbermen of this province are most interested in at the present time is the securing of an import duty on lumber and shingles coming from the United States. To this end the aid of the provincial Legislature was asked, and recently the Premier introduced in the House the following resolution:

"Whereas the manufacture of lumber and shingles in this province forms one of the most important industries and furnishes employment to a large number of mechanics and laborers, who constitute an important portion of the population of the province; and whereas a large proportion of the supplies used in connection with the business is subject to customs duty, which largely increases the cost of production; and whereas lumber and shingles under the customs tariff of the Dominion are admitted free of duty; and whereas competition from the United States in the markets of the Dominion, since the removal of the customs duty, has deprived this province of a large part of the business formerly done in these products; and whereas the mining developments in the Yukon and northern part of British Columbia make it probable that important settlements and sea ports will be established on the northern coast during the present year, in which there will be an immediate and large demand for lumber and shingles, for the supply of which, under the present Canadian tariff, our lumbermen have no protection against the competition of the United States saw mills; and whereas, under the custom laws of the United States, a heavy duty is imposed on lumber and shingles from this province, which prevents shipments from this province into the United States markets, the duty in the United States being on undressed lumber \$2 per M, on flooring \$3.50 per M, and on shingles 30 cents per 1,000; and whereas it seems to be unjust to this important industry that while a large proportion of the supplies used by those engaged in it are required to pay duty, the products are not protected by any duty, and while the neighboring markets in the United States are closed against this province because of the heavy duty imposed, the markets of Canada are free to the products from the United States; Be it therefore resolved, that an humble address be presented by this house to the Lieutenant-Governor, praying him to move the Dominion government to take such steps as are necessary with the view of protecting those engaged in the manufacture of lumber and shingles in this province by imposing a duty on lumber and shingles imported into the Dominion of Canada equal to the duty charged by the United States on imports of these articles from Canada, in order that this important industry may be placed upon such a footing in competing with the neighboring mills in the United States as will compensate them for the disadvantages set out in the preamble to this resolution."

Speaking to the resolution, the Premier pointed out that the lumber industry was one of the most important in the province, and he hoped that every member would vote for the proposed measure. Speeches in favor of the resolution were made by Messrs. Rihet, Semlin, Kennedy, Graham, Smith, Cotton and Hunter, and against the measure by Messrs. Sword, Forster and Macpherson. Mr. Sword thought that the remedy was to take off the heavy duties the lumbermen had to pay for their supplies. He took strong exception to the position that because the United States put on a heavy duty Canada should follow suit. It was not taking high enough ground in the matter. Mr. Forster claimed that the measure would put a heavier tax on consumers, and Mr. Macpherson made the weak argument that it would show Canadian mill men to be less capable than those of the United States. When the vote was taken the three members above referred to stood alone against the measure.

The lumbermen of British Columbia have petitioned the government for a uniform compulsory system of scaling. The petition, which is signed by 132 lumbermen, is as follows:

The petition of the undersigned lumbermen of the province of British Columbia, humbly sheweth:
That your petitioners have been laboring under a want of system in scaling logs and timber, to the detriment of the timber trade and those relations of confidence which should exist between the buyer and seller
That a uniform compulsory system of scaling should be adopted, alike just to the government, the buyer and seller, the cost thereof to be borne by the three interested parties in equal proportions. Scale of costs to be fixed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council or by statute.
We are of opinion that any competent person situated obtaining the recommendation of three responsible lumbermen, who is capable of passing the necessary examination under the provisions of the "Official Scalers' Act, 1894," or like provisions, shall be entitled to an appointment as "Official Scaler."
That official scalers should not be paid by salary, but only by fees for work actually done.
No scaler to employ under wages of buyer or seller to act as scaler.
Particulars of scale, as per form annexed, to be delivered to government agent, buyer and seller.

In case either party objects to the scale, he may immediately call in the services of a second scaler; if they do not agree the two scalers may name a third whose measurement shall be final and binding upon all parties.

FORM OF SCALE.

(1) Vendor		(2) Where cut						
(4) Registered Mark of Scaler								
No. of Logs	Scaler's Mark	Length	Diam.	Conts. 1st Chg	Conts. 2nd Chg	Conts. 3rd Chg	Culls	Remks.

NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER.

[Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THE season for shipping lumber has now opened, and although the year is certain to be a quiet one, several vessels are now loading at different ports. There appears to be a scarcity of tonnage, some steamers having refused 45s. on deals from St. John to British ports. This will probably further curtail shipments.

The thirteenth annual meeting of the St. John Log Driving Company was held at Fredericton on April 6th. Among the lumbermen present were the following: W. H. Murray, of St. John; F. H. Hale, M.P., Woodstock; R. A. Estey, J. A. Morrison, and D. F. Fraser, jr., Fredericton; G. A. Murchie, Calais; R. A. Nixon, Houlton; C. A. Moore and W. S. Henry, Woodstock; W. A. McCallum, Houlton; B. F. Mallett and W. F. Cunliffe, of Fort Kent; Robert Kent, Hon. Jas. Holly, C. F. Woodman, F. D. Miles and J. Fraser Gregory, of St. John. The following were elected directors of the company: W. H. Murray, president; G. A. Murchie, vice-president; J. Fraser Gregory, secretary-treasurer; R. A. Estey, W. B. Mallett and Harry Hilyard. It was proposed that the driving of logs should hereafter be done by the corporation, the lumber to bear the expense, on the principle of which the Southwest Miramichi Driving Company operate, instead of being let to tender. The proposition seemed to meet with a hearty reception from several people, but the larger operators, who control the largest number of votes, defeated the motion. In the afternoon the tenders for driving were opened, and the contract awarded to Duncan McIntosh and Robert Aiken for a term of three years. Their tender is a bonus of 22 per cent. of the advertised rates, which amounts to four and two-fifth cents per thousand for driving from the upper points, namely, Grand Falls and Aroostook.

The Upper Southwest Miramichi Log Driving Company held a meet in Fredericton on March 30th. After routine business there was an election of a board of directors for the year. The old board—M. Welsh, Timothy Lynch and E. Hutchinson—were re-elected. At a later meeting of the directors Mr. Welsh was elected president and J. H. Barry secretary-treasurer. Messrs. Welsh and Lynch were appointed to look after the driving operations for the coming year. The company drive the logs and tax the lumber for the cost from the different points between the Forks and Hayes' Bar, a distance of 41 miles.

ST. JOHN, N.B., April 21, 1898.

PUBLICATIONS.

The story of the Swiss Government's purchase of the railroads, as authorized by the recent referendum vote, is told in the American Monthly Review of Reviews for April, by Mr. J. R. Macdonald.

It is not necessary that one should visit the west coast of the United States to know something of the lumber industry. In the special number of the West Coast and Puget Sound Lumberman, recently issued, is to be found data and illustrations which give a splendid idea of the magnitude and importance of the lumber industry of Washington, while considerable space is devoted to Oregon, California and British Columbia. The number is an attractive one, with green cover, and a liberal amount of advertising.

The twenty-first anniversary special issue of the Timber Trades Journal, of London, Eng., discounts all former attempts of the publishers, Messrs. Wm. Rider & Sons. It contains over 300 pages, the special feature being a very complete description of the export pine trade of the Southern States, to which sixty-six pages is devoted, and which was compiled by their special commissioner, Mr. Edwin Haynes, who, it will be remembered, visited Canada last year for a similar purpose. Other features make the issue extremely interesting and instructive.

THE FACTS DISPUTED.

VANCOUVER, B.C., April 5th, 1898.

To the Editor of the CANADA LUMBERMAN:

DEAR SIR,—In your March issue a person, C. H. May, vouches for the yarn about an alleged English mill superintendent. These are the facts: No person connected in any official capacity whatsoever took a valet to Takush Harbor at any time; no Englishman was sent out to fill the position of mill superintendent. Seeing that your correspondent's alleged facts are not facts, and that they appear in your Eli columns, you can infer what you like about the rest of his story.

Yours faithfully,
ALBERT F. GRIFFITHS.

[The story referred to was not sent in by a correspondent, but appeared in a west coast lumber exchange, to which credit should have been given. THE EDITOR.]

PERSONAL.

Hon. R. R. Dobell, of Quebec, returned from England last month.

Mr. Samuel Campbell, mill owner, of Hartland, N.B., died last month, after an illness of a few weeks.

Mr. Dorat Lemieux, son of Mr. Jos. Lemieux, lumber merchant, Hull, Que., was recently married to Miss Bertrand.

The death occurred on March 30th of Mr. E. L. Sewell, a retired lumber merchant of Quebec, at the age of 51 years.

Mr. Edward S. Waycott, book-keeper for Alex. Gibson & Sons, of Matysville, N.B., died recently, at the age of 44 years.

Mr. E. C. Grant, of the Ottawa Lumber Company, returned on April 1st from a business trip to Great Britain. He will probably visit Germany this summer.

Thos. Mackerel, representing the well known lumber firm of Watson & Todd, of Liverpool, Eng., recently arrived in Ottawa, to look after spring shipments.

Mr. Joseph Lemieux, the well-known lumber dealer of Hull, Que., was recently presented by his townspeople with an address, accompanied by a parlor set and a gold mounted pipe, on the occasion of his fiftieth anniversary.

Mr. W. A. Hadley, of the S. Hadley Lumber Co., Chatham, Ont., left on April 7th for Duluth, British Columbia and San Francisco, in the interest of the company. Before returning he will visit the Southern States.

By telegraph from Florida the death was learned recently of Mr. John D. Gilmour, who retired from the lumber firm of Gilmour & Co., of Trenton, about five years ago. He was a gentleman who was held in very high esteem.

Mr. C. J. Smith, general freight and passenger agent of the Canada Atlantic and the Ottawa, Arnprior and Parry Sound Railways, has been promoted to the position of general traffic manager of these two roads, and Mr. J. E. Walsh has been appointed general passenger and baggage agent. Mr. Smith is a young man to have attained such prominence in the railway world.

In a letter to the CANADA LUMBERMAN, Hon. J. K. Ward, of Montreal, states that fifty-three years ago on the 15th of March last he first went to work in a saw mill, and that he expects to finish up his connection with the same this year. Now 78 years of age, and for more than half a century connected with the lumber business, is quite an unusual record. It is our earnest wish, as well as that of lumbermen in general, that Mr. Ward may be permitted to enjoy the fruits of his labors for many years to come.

Mr. Robert Swim died at Doaktown, N.B., on March 21st. He did quite an extensive lumbering business, entirely on the south-west branch of the Miramichi river and tributaries from 1870 to 1893, when he sold out his lumber business, timber lands, stores and saw mill to Swim & Co., consisting of F. D. Swim, Alonzo Kelly and Henry Swim. He became the second largest stockholder in the South-west Boom Co., which position he retained until his death. This stock was quite remunerative. After selling out his lumbering business in 1893, he built a wood-working factory and connected with it a carding mill, which he owned and operated also. In 1895 Alonzo Kelly sold out his interest in the business of Swim & Co. to F. D. and Henry Swim, who have owned and operated it since under the name of H. & F. D. Swim.