

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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The Dominion Exhibition for Winnipeg.

The announcement that a Dominion Exhibition will be held in Winnipeg during the present year comes as a surprise to most people, owing to the general opinion that a show sufficiently comprehensive in character to illustrate the possibilities of this country could not be prepared for before 1905. As pointed out at the institution of the campaign for a Dominion Fair in the April "Farmer's Advocate," there are great advantages to be had by successfully conducting an exhibition of this kind in the West, and while there is reason for gratification over the decision of the Federal Government in granting \$50,000 in support of the proposition, in the short time at the disposal of the Exhibition Board, it becomes the duty of every Canadian, and every Westerner in particular, to bend every energy in the direction of making the exhibition this year a greater success than ever, and as fully representative of Canada as is possible. The Dominion grant will be applied to the erection of new buildings, including a large manufacturers' building; the augmentation of the prize money; payment of freights on shipments, and advertising the Exhibition, especially in connection with the propaganda of the Immigration Department for attracting immigrants to the West.

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association is giving the Exhibition its hearty and active support, and is directing its efforts to making the exhibition of manufactured goods as complete as possible, by impressing upon its members the importance of sending their exhibits to Winnipeg. This was very clearly impressed upon the manufacturers during their Western tour last autumn.

Gold is not from the mint, unless gold be sent there. If we keep good stock we will, by good feeding, send forth good beef into the market.

Are the Lumbermen's Methods of Manufacturing Up-to-date.

Interest is added to your editorial on the "Lumber Combine Inquiry" by the report of a recent meeting of the B. C. millmen and loggers, held at Nelson, B.C., at which mills with a total annual output of 600,000,000 feet were represented. Amongst other business and resolutions passed at this meeting was one to memorialize the Dominion Government to prevent the incoming of American rough lumber by placing a duty on it. The intention to milk the agricultural cow is not at all disguised, and might be allowed to pass only that the live-stock industry of the whole Northwest, as well as settlement, by increasing the price of lumber to farmers, would be hindered.

Freight rates have probably hit the Coast lumbermen, as have such rates the farmers, yet before allowing that the lumbermen are being ruined and driven off the markets, as they say they are, it might be well to look into the matter and find out the reasons for such a state of things. The labor problem is said to hamper the Coast lumberman. Perhaps it has; he certainly uses a lot of the cheaper grades (Japs and Chinese) of labor.

As the statement has been made, and not controverted by the millmen, that Canadian rough lumber is being ousted from the Northwest markets by the U. S. product—which quite frequently was bought in the log in Canada, towed to the U. S. mills and there manufactured, then freighted back to the Canadian market—it becomes of more than ordinary interest to readers of the "Advocate" who are about to build, and even has some interest to those lucky fellows who only need to study the question as one in economics, their farms being already well built.

One statement may be made, and that is that owing to the brisk demand for lumber on the prairies (and the prospective profit to be obtained by manufacturing lumber for that market!), many new mills have been started, both at the Coast and inland, yet prices for lumber on the prairie have not fallen. As is quite frequently the case in other lines of business, some have started with little capital, and doubtless some with little knowledge of the trade. In that trade (lumber), as in others, there are big and little operators, and it is easy to see that under the plea of fostering the weaker ones, by making a minimum price for all mills to sell at, and by limiting or keeping out competition of the U. S. mills, the stronger mills become still stronger. To this minimum price the smaller men must agree or be frozen out, by being undersold, and therein lies the combination.

Such a combination may be held to be defensible from an economic standpoint, if all the methods of economizing in the manufacture of lumber have been exhausted. A little insight into the prices paid for the raw material by the millmen will aid in arriving at a fair understanding of the matter by the farmer.

A business man informed me that he had sold under contract five million feet of first-class logs, for which he was to get \$5.50 per thousand at the camp, and he remarked, "A higher price than I could get to-day, but I contracted early in the season, before the mills were well supplied!"

The millmen paid the stumpage fee to the Provincial Government of fifty cents per thousand, which, together with the cost of towage to the mill, would bring the price of the logs to nearly \$7.00 per thousand, which after being manufactured is placed on the market as rough lumber at \$13.00 a thousand. Querying the same person re the profit thus made, he said, "\$13.00 is too high a price for rough lumber"! Scaling (measuring of the logs) was mentioned, and as this is a chronic grievance of loggers, I state his answer, "The lumber companies like to get 1,500 feet for 1,000!"

Agitation has been made for the scaling to be done by Government scalars. Giving a man Government employment won't make him honest, if he was dishonest before! Curious then to know where the fault really lies between loggers, millmen and the open market for rough lumber, I hinted that further information would be acceptable, and this gentleman informed me that "the reason, in his mind, that the U. S. lumberman beat the Canadian millman, was because his plant was more up-to-date, and the lumber was handled

fewer times"! He sententiously remarked, "Every time a board is handled adds to its cost," a similar reason one often hears advanced for stook threshing. This man stated that he had been in mills south of the boundary line that had only a half to two-thirds of the number of men to be found in many Canadian mills of an equal capacity.

Thinking that it might be well to have further information, I queried another person, interested in a lumber company, about prices paid by his company for logs, and prices obtained for the manufactured article, and whether such prices were paying ones. The price paid for fir logs at his mill, fairly good stuff, although not the best, was \$5.00 per thousand feet, and for 16-foot cedar bolts at the mill, A1 stuff, clear of knots, \$10 a thousand feet. All the mill run of the cedar was put on the cars at \$18.00 per thousand, without being kiln dried; the fir lumber (rough) was sold at the price made by the Millmen's Association, viz., \$13.00 a thousand, and he is well satisfied that his investment was a paying one at such prices. He being an interested party, I did not think it fair to ask his opinion re putting a duty on rough lumber.

An economic question such as this, should be out of the domain of politics; if so, the farmer will not suffer, while the millmen can increase their profits, without closing up the numerous planing, sash and door factories in the prairie towns, by the adoption of more up-to-date methods. It is hardly fair to ask the farming community to stand the cost of experimenting as to the best methods of manufacturing—many farmers (unwisely so) gasp at paying for experimental farms!

"NOMAD."

Domestic Servants on the Farm.

The question of hired help on the farm is one which, according to paragraphs appearing from time to time in the daily press, is always just on the eve of solution. The announcement is made that communities have been discovered—it may be in the "thickly peopled glens" of the west coast of Scotland; in the fastnesses of the mountains of Wales, or surrounding a heretofore undiscovered Irish bog—in every case the intelligence is offered as a solution of the problem of the scarcity of domestic servants in Canada. It is pointed out that these populations are composed of a great predominance of girls; that these girls are all about the right age to make good servants, and that nothing but the lack of transportation keeps them from emigrating to Canada, or some such place, where they are dying to find the very occupation we have to offer them. Sometimes the paragraph goes the length of saying that the Immigration Department has made arrangements to bring drafts of those highly desirable immigrants out to the country, and a regular piecemeal immigration is looked forward to by those in the unfortunate position of requiring help.

The facts are that the scarcity of girls to do domestic work on the farms is just as keenly felt in Great Britain as it is here, and every girl who can be induced to engage in that occupation is being picked up readily. True, the inducements of superior social status offered by Canada has succeeded in bringing many girls to our farms, but only a short time elapses when some lonely bachelor on matrimony bent, comes and brings the neighbor's treasure to his own fireside, and the last state of the house she has left is worse than the first. While this condition exists, the life of the farmer's wife is far from being one of ease or comfort. Women have ever been known to endure hardships with more fortitude and less complaint than men, and hence it is that so little is heard of their difficulties and discomforts in the farmhouse. It is a circumstance in the social aspect of our farm life, however, not only that is to be deplored, but which everyone connected with rural industries should strive to remedy. In the meantime, it is useless to look for a remedy in the way of a sufficient supply of servant girls. The number wanted is far too great to get supplied all at once, or in the immediate future, either by immigration or any other means; and it would be equally useless to hold meetings and pass resolutions on the subject as men do when they have a grievance, or imagine they have one. The only available remedy in sight lies with the individual, and each individual can do his share in making the life of the wearied housewife more comfortable. Little acts done at meal times and little self-denials during the day by every individual amount to a great aggregate in the day's work of the house, and a give-and-take spirit, with kind words and no grumblings, will work wonders in the arrangement of the household, and in the spirit of tranquillity which such will be found to induce.