

and in giving this protection to a Canadian leading industry, surely the Americans will not be so ungenerous as to deny us a right which they claim for themselves. We are very far from believing that the American import duty on Canadian lumber was imposed for the sole purpose of skinning the Canadian lumbermen but rather in the interest of protection to American mills. Retaliation, of which we hear so much talk, will not bring about the "desideratum so devoutly to be wished," as it is too boyish a question to command the consideration of statesmen. The placing of a prohibition tariff upon Canadian lumber would undoubtedly cause an embargo to be placed upon the exportation of logs to the States, and this would mean, "no lumber, no logs," thereby throwing the Americans upon their own resources for a log supply. If our friends on the other side of the line would only bottle up their acrimony and show a disposition to do the fair thing instead of playing the role of the American hog, there would be no trouble in settling the controversy. The repeal of the import duty would bring about the abolishing of the export duty on logs, and therein lies the solution of the whole question.

A SENSATIONAL despatch emanating from St. Paul states that Canadian lumbermen are stealing timber and logs from the pine lands on the Minnesota side of Rainy river, and that congress will be asked to adopt rigorous measures to put an end to such depredations. Despatches of like character should be received with very little credence, as it is very doubtful if any Canadian lumberman every obtained any pine logs from American territory by dishonest means. Mr. John Mather, of Ottawa and Winnipeg, owns some lumber mills at Keewatin and some timber areas on both sides of the Rainy river. Mr. Mather says that the number of logs cut yearly on the Minnesota side of the line and brought into Canada to be sawn into lumber is very small.

MESSRS. E. D. Davison & Sons., of Bridgewater, N. S., are out in a lengthy article in reply to the Hon. C. H. Tupper on the sawdust question, in which they set up the claim that saw dust does not injure the fish, and that the law is violated elsewhere. They say in conclusion, "we have only to say that we see no argument in your communication that shakes our conviction that no damage is being wrought to any industry or person by the fall of saw dust into La Have river. At the same time, as soon as the law is enforced impartially we are ready to conform to the new order of things; but we object decidedly to being forced to tear down our mills merely to gratify the love of revenge of the parties at the head of the movement against the milling interest on this river."

THE Hon. Mr. Tupper's Bill to amend the Act respecting the protection of navigable waters will be a surprise to those who have been milling on exempted waters. The throwing of saw dust or mill refuse into any navigable stream, or any part of which flows into navigable waters, is prohibited, and every person violating the Act is liable to a penalty of \$50 for the first offence, and for each subsequent offence to a fine of not less than \$100. Any river, stream or water, or part thereof, which is at present exempted, shall continue to be so exempted for one year from the date of the passage of the Act, and no longer; all of which means that twelve months after it has become the law of the land saw dust or mill refuse cannot be thrown into any navigable river or stream in the Dominion. But Mr. Tupper's Bill has not passed yet, and if it does it will not be without the most strenuous opposition from the lumber trade.

WORD has been received by cable that the Imperial Privy Council has dismissed the appeal of the Chaudiere lumbermen against Antoine Ratte the Ottawa river boatman. Ratte first sued a number of lumber firms in the Chancery Court, asking for damages for loss sustained through the saw dust, and also for an injunction to prevent the mill men depositing any more saw dust in the river. In the course of the

trial in Canada it was arranged that Ratte should not press for an injunction but would be content with damages. The lumbermen defended the action on technical grounds. In the first court Judge Proudfoot upheld the lumbermen's contention and dismissed Ratte's action. Ratte appealed to the whole court, which reversed Judge Proudfoot's decision and ordered an enquiry as to damages. The lumbermen carried the case to the Court of Appeal, but that court maintained the Chancery Court's decision against them. The lumbermen then took the case to the Privy Council, and once more judgment is given against them. Mr. Ratte has now simply to prove the extent of the damages sustained.

THE chief business of the Dominion in lumber is with Great Britain and the United States. Our lumber exports last year aggregated in value \$23,043,007, which is a better business than we have done since 1884, when the exports were over twenty-five millions. Of the twenty-three million dollars worth sold last year, twenty-one million dollars worth went to Great Britain and the United States, the latter taking rather the larger quantity. Next to Great Britain the Argentine Republic is our best customer. That country takes half a million dollars worth annually, whereas in 1884 it took but \$282,000 worth. In 1884 we sent to Great Britain \$13,742,000 worth of lumber, and \$9,883,000 worth to the United States, since then the British exports have gradually diminished and the United States exports have increased until last year, when we sent to England lumber to the value of \$10,197,000, and to the United States to the value of \$11,043,000. England has many sources of supply and Canada has many formidable competitors for the English trade, while on the other hand Canada is the nearest purchasing market for the American dealer. The British trade is almost entirely in timber and deals, while the higher value of the exports across the line are largely accelerated by the circumstance that we send large quantities of lumber partly manufactured. At the opening of the present season in the woods the outlook for next year was not very propitious owing to the absence of snow, but latterly the out-look is much brighter as the soft weather has been confined to Southern Ontario. Operations in the woods in the North have been going on fairly well, although in some of the camps a number of men have been laid up with the influenza. There is no doubt but the danger line has been passed, and a large out-put of logs may be expected. Logging has been very good in the Maritime Provinces and a good trade during the coming season is confidently looked for. The threatened action of the United States Congress with regard to the import duty on lumber may have a depressing effect upon the trade, but it is not yet certain that the duty will be increased.

#### SPLINTERS.

IN view of the contemplated establishment of the China Mail Steamship Line, extensive wharf and dock accommodation at the outer Harbor of Victoria, B. C., is about to be undertaken, with a view of furnishing every facility for the larger steamships to call at that port on their inward and outward passages.

IT is the experience of a good many that the lumber trade of Toronto is in better shape now than it was this time last year. There has been altogether too much building of late years, and as a result there will be a perceptible dropping off in this line the coming season. Over-hauling and repairing the older classes of buildings is now the order of the day, and many improvements are being made in this line.

CONGRESSMAN McCormack, of Pennsylvania representing the lumber interests, has made an arrangement before the Ways and Means Committee, against any reduction of the duty on lumber, as he claims the margin of profit, particularly on hemlock and spruce, was hardly a living one. He stated the competition was confined to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, although some cheap grades of pine also came in competition from other districts in Canada.

WE are in receipt of the Christmas number of the *Lumber World*, published at Buffalo, N. Y. It contains 114 pages, is profusely embellished, and is a fine specimen of the typographical art. The journal has an immense advertising patronage, and is in fact a veritable encyclopedia of woodworking machinery. It has every appearance of being a paying concern.

THE estimates for the season's cut of lumber in the Ottawa district show that though fewer logs are being taken out this year, there is a large increase in the amount of square timber being made. This year the estimated number of logs to be cut is about 4,000,000, as compared with 4,750,000 made last year, showing a decrease of nearly three-quarters of a million logs. The estimate for square timber to be made is 8,000,000 cubic feet, showing a very large increase over last year.

WE learn from the London *Timber Trades Journal* that Mr. R. G. Goodday has retired from the timber agency business which he has successfully carried on for the past eight years at Paris, Havre, and latterly in London, has decided to go into the Canadian trade. He has entered into partnership with Mr. Ernest W. Benson, of Quebec, and under the style of Goodday, Benson & Co., will at once commence the business of shippers of pine and spruce, with a speciality of hardwood lumber.

ACCORDING to the tables of the trade and navigation of Canada for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1889, recently furnished to the press, we find that forest products were exported to Great Britain to the value of \$10,197,529, against \$8,932,177 in 1888, an increase of \$1,565,352. We sent the United States last year wood products to the value of \$11,043,023 against \$10,622,338 in 1888, an increase of \$420,685. The total exports of Canadian produce exported to Great Britain and the United States last year amounted to \$77,201,804, of which \$23,043,007 were forest products, against \$21,302,814 in 1888.

#### HOME AND FOREIGN TRADE REVIEW.

Office of CANADA LUMBERMAN,  
Jan. 31st, 1889.

Business has been very quiet at Toronto during the month. There is really no news of importance to report as yet. Everything is as flat as can be just now. The weather to date has not been favorable to lumbering and if the winter should continue mild the crop of logs harvested will be less than usual and have a tendency to stiffen prices. The outlook for the trade this season is by no means flattering. The South American market, particularly that of the Argentine Republic is demoralized, which will have some effect on prices and Americans are not expected to purchase as much this year as last. Most of the firms which handle pine deals did an unsatisfactory business last year, and as a consequence this product will probably be curtailed this year. Operators in the Ottawa valley should the weather be favorable, intend getting out about the same stock as last winter with perhaps an increase in the amount of square timber, or altogether probably nine or ten million cubic feet. It is expected that about the same quantities of oak and waney board pine will be imported from Michigan, Wisconsin and Ohio, or about 1,500,000 cubic feet. There has been no recent transactions in the Quebec timber market of any importance, the demand being confined to small lots for local consumption. Reports from merchants now canvassing the European markets, indicate that they have met with fair success in making sales for delivery the coming season. Some of the mills have succeeded in disposing of their cuts, but we find it very difficult to get the exact figures. The high rates realized at the recent provincial government sale of timber limits must have the effect of stiffening prices.

Several timber vessels have already been chartered on the other side for early sailing to the port of Quebec. More than the usual activity is reported in the sawlog business, along the route of the Lake St. John railway this winter, and the quantity of logs