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ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED ON APPLICATION

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interests of the lumber trade and of allied industries throughout the Dominion, being the only representative in Canada of this foremost branch of the commerce of this country. It aims at giving full and timely information on all subjects touching these interests, discussing these topics editorially and inviting free discussion by others.

Special pains are taken to secure the latest and most trustworthy market quotations from various points throughout the world, so as to afford to the trade in Canada information on which it can rely in its operations.

Special correspondents in localities of importance present an accurate report not only of prices and the condition of the market, but also of other matters specially interesting to our readers. But correspondence is not only welcome, but is invited from all who have any information to communicate or subjects to discuss relating to the trade or in any way affecting it. Even when we may not be able to agree with the writers we will give them a fair opportunity for free discussion as the best means of eliciting the truth. Any items of interest are particularly requested, for even if not of great importance individually they contribute to a fund of information from which general results are obtained.

Advertisers will receive careful attention and liberal treatment. We need not point out that for many the CANADA LUMBERMAN, with its special class of readers, is not only an exceptionally good medium for securing publicity, but is indispensable for those who would bring themselves before the notice of that class. Special attention is directed to "WANTED" and "FOR SALE" advertisements, which will be inserted in a conspicuous position at the uniform price of 15 cents per line for each insertion. Announcements of this character will be subject to a discount of 25 per cent. if ordered for four successive issues or longer.

Subscribers will find the small amount they pay for the CANADA LUMBERMAN quite insignificant as compared with its value to them. There is not an individual in the trade, or specially interested in it, who should not be on our list, thus obtaining the present benefit and aiding and encouraging us to render it even more complete.

TO VISITING LUMBERMEN.

Lumbermen visiting Toronto are invited to use the office of the CANADA LUMBERMAN as their own. We shall take pleasure in supplying them with every convenience for receiving and answering their correspondence, and hold ourselves at their service in any other way they may desire.

ONTARIO CROWN LANDS.

THE total receipts from the Crown lands of Ontario during 1896, as shown by the annual report of the Department, was \$925,262.93. Of this amount the sum of \$812,421.78 was derived from woods and forests, made up as follows: Timber dues, \$712,443.87; ground rent, \$54,457.91; bonuses, \$45,520. The output of saw logs in the winter of 1895-96 is shown to be the largest in the history of the province, the quantity of pine logs alone reaching 904,379,710 feet B. M., against 800,565,355 feet the previous season. The operations in square white pine were also conducted on a more extensive scale, the figures being 1,128,606 cubic feet last year and 873,304 cubic feet in 1894-95. Pulp wood shows a gain of 4,000 cords, nearly all of which was taken out in the Western timber district. The cost of fire ranging was \$31,396.90. Three serious fires occurred during the year, one in the vicinity of Lake Wahnapiatae, where three or four million feet of timber were damaged, and two in the neighborhood of Biscotasing. The damage at these two latter fires was first estimated at 61,000,000 feet, but the quantity was afterwards found to be much less. Reference is made to the improved condi-

tion of the European markets, and the opinion is expressed that Canada will shortly become independent of the United States so far as the disposal of her forest products is concerned.

GRADING LUMBER.

MORE forcibly each day is the fact impressed upon us that the lumber trade of Canada, and especially of Ontario, is suffering from the lack of uniform inspection rules. In the absence of such rules, each manufacturer and dealer is allowed to make his own inspection, with the result that he frequently suffers loss in the classification of his stock, and buyers scarcely know what to expect when ordering a certain grade. The rules as adopted by the lumber section of the Toronto Board of Trade may be good so far as they go, but they are not explicit enough, while the lumber section of this board may now be said to be a thing of the past.

There appears to be no definite understanding among the trade as to what constitutes the different grades, and quite frequently we are asked for information on the subject. In the case of a legal dispute with a customer in New York, where licensed inspectors are employed, the Canadian dealer is placed at a decided disadvantage. In reply to the question of the court, the latter is obliged to admit that the lumber was graded by an inspector engaged by him for the purpose, who is unable to show any proof of his qualifications, while the person who made the inspection in the New York market produces certificates showing him to be a properly qualified inspector. The effect of this upon the decision is evident.

By the proper grading of stock the manufacturer also would realize greater returns. With a little care and a better understanding as to what constitutes the various grades fewer disputes would arise, and the relations between buyer and seller would become more friendly.

The attention given to the question of grading by United States lumbermen is worthy of notice. One of the most active associations in this direction is the Mississippi Valley Lumbermen's Association, which has established a Bureau of Uniform Grades. Licensed inspectors are employed by the Association to inspect all lumber, and a charge of one cent per thousand feet is made, which is sufficient to defray all expenses in connection with the work. Printed inspection rules are furnished to all members of the association.

PROTECTION FOR LUMBERMEN.

THE communication printed elsewhere in this number referring to the system of licensing cullers in vogue throughout Ontario, as adopted by the Department of Crown Lands, is worthy of the careful perusal of every lumberman. The statements contained therein clearly show that lumbermen are sometimes subject to much inconvenience as well as financial loss as the result of inaccurate measurements by cullers, while the government must at times stand to lose a considerable sum in timber dues. In the case reported by our correspondent, the time occupied in making a re-scale to ascertain the correct measurement prevented the delivery of the logs to the purchaser at the specified time, and consequently the sale was cancelled.

From the different estimates arrived at by the licensed cullers, we must conclude that the

system presents opportunities for a diversified opinion which should, as far as possible, be eliminated. As each culler is sworn to proper returns, it would seem that the different results arrived at are largely accounted for by the allowance made for defects, and if this should prove to be the case we feel satisfied that the Department of Crown Lands will make every possible effort to remedy the matter as far as possible when convinced of the necessity of doing.

In this connection we desire to emphasize the necessity of united effort on the part of lumbermen in order to obtain any needed relief. Where in the United States there are associations representing every branch of the trade, lumbermen of Canada have scarcely an association worthy of the name, if we except the Western Retail Lumbermen's Association of Manitoba. The timber lands in Canada being largely under the control of the provincial governments, it is not so expedient to organize a Dominion association. Probably an association in each province would be the most feasible.

Organizations in every branch of industry in the past met with strong opposition by those who believed their existence to be solely for the purpose of advancing prices to an exorbitant figure. This, to our mind, is not the object of the most successful associations. When the question of maintaining prices on a proper basis may justly receive some consideration, there are many other questions of general interest, as the one referred to above, which would be more directly within the scope of an association, and which would require united effort to attain results. We trust that ere long the lumbermen of Canada will realize the necessity of banding themselves together to consider matters of general interest to the trade. Circumstances point to the desirability of taking initiatory steps in this direction at once.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A BILL has been passed in the United States Senate, and now awaits the signature of the president, making it a misdemeanor to recklessly or maliciously set fire to any timber, underbrush or grass, or to negligently leave any fire burning near timber on public lands. The punishment for infraction of the law is two years' imprisonment or \$5,000 fine, or both, and all Federal courts are given jurisdiction.

THE courts of British Columbia will shortly decide the question of the ownership of timber and mineral claims. Several parties have been buying merchantable timber from mineral lands wherever it could be obtained, and they have expressed that the claims will be determined by the wood before the timber is required for other purposes. Hon. Col. Baker, Minister of the Interior, having been appealed to, has given his opinion that the matter will have to be decided by the courts.

THE development of the mines of Canada has created quite a local demand for lumber in the vicinity of their operations. In British Columbia, particularly in the vicinity of Rossland, local mills are unable to supply the required quantities to meet the requirements of the building purposes. In the construction of