

the sister colonies, Japan, China, West Indies and other sections. Our banking facilities are, with the keen competition and the desire for business, available and applicable for all essential purposes. The question, therefore, is: Are our people lacking in the necessary enterprise, or are our rail and steamship rates prohibitory?

I have very carefully read the report of the meeting of Ontario lumbermen, and I am astonished at the want of unanimity characterizing the same, when matters of such vital importance to their interests are now so prominently engaging the attention of our people. Our American neighbors set forth an exemplary and striking example, inasmuch that when any question arises in their country indicating a necessity for general action in the protection of American interests in any department, they are at once unanimous; whereas in Canada, if momentous questions arise involving general interest, it is as a house divided against itself, section against section, province against province, and while we are wrangling, our astute neighbors slip in, and either legislate or combine for protection and American aggrandizement to our detriment.

Again, we have this export log duty, a very serious feature, before us to-day. Does it not occur to those who are in authority, and to all directly or indirectly interested, that while we are wrangling and differing, where active effort and unanimity are essentially necessary, that our American neighbors are actively securing the most valuable concessions and privileges from our governments, sending in their own labor to cut, and actually supplying such alien labor with their necessities from the States, and enacting alien labor laws to the exclusion of Canadians from their country, and also shipping our logs to their own mills in the States, and manufacturing from our Canadian raw material to supply the very markets which Canada should, and could, practically control, or at least largely supply. The government may be very carefully considering, as the Hon. J. M. Gibson puts it, but at the same time note the significance of the fact that special notice is taken of the deputation of American owners of limits pressing their views upon our own Ontario government. We may well ask for an explanation from this same Ontario government. Reverse the position and imagine, if possible, such a Canadian overture to the United States.

It appears from Mr. Bertram's resolution and remarks supporting the same that it was considered necessary to restrict the exportation of saw logs, and the Ontario government was requested to so amend the pine timber regulations that all pine timber cut under license in the province of Ontario SHALL BE MANUFACTURED IN CANADA. The government, I observe, informed the deputation that the government entertained the opinion "that during the currency of the existing licenses such action as was proposed by the resolution of the meeting of Aug. 19th could not well be taken," and also "that the government was very carefully considering what policy should be adopted with reference to the logs cut after the expiration of the existing licenses, and it was hoped that in a short time the public would be made aware of the course which may be determined upon." It seems from what Mr. Bertram says, that six days after the Michigan gentlemen and Mr. Charlton were here (Sept. 7th), that the Americans and their appliances were into the bush, so that they (the Americans) seem to have received from our Ontario government that which is almost invariably denied to Ontario people, viz., a prompt, intelligent, definite answer. Mr. Bertram in a very marked and practical manner recognized what is due to the Americans who had invested in Canadian limits, but very properly directs attention at the same time to the duty owing to Canadians interested and to the Dominion at large.

The crisis is, indeed, a grave one, and the results of to-day, necessitating Canadian protection, are but the outcome of the conditions created by the Americans themselves, and an appeal was made to the Ottawa district and other sections for joint action in the interest of the Georgian Bay district and Western Ontario; so that the sawing of our lumber should not be taken from Ontario and carried on in Michigan, and be the means in the near future of enforcing upon those who succeed the present employers to go to Michigan for employment and business.

Allow no logs to be exported from Canada at all, and have inserted in all licenses granted hereafter, in the general interest of our country, that all timber on the crown lands of Ontario shall be sawn, made into square timber, or otherwise manufactured, by Canadian labor in Canada.

If the government, as Mr. Beck stated, has the power to raise the dues on all pine timber on crown lands without giving notice, they have assuredly the power to enact the foregoing, and thereby, at least, put us on equal footing with the Michigan lumbermen.

The present season, with the elections at hand, affords a most favorable—in fact, a signal—opportunity for pressing for this important condition, and to have the Dominion government amend the Act so that the export duty on our logs going to the United States would be equivalent to the duty charged on our lumber. They (the Americans) want our lumber and must have it; therefore, take advantage of the opportunity and protect our Canadian interests. It may disturb to an extent our relations with the Americans for a time, but with opportunities such as we now have for developing new industries in pulp manufacture, it will afford an impetus to the disposition of English capitalists to invest their surplus capital in Canada.

The Paper Trade Review, of London, England, says: "There are at present several Canadian schemes being projected with British capital, and if such a step was advisable, British papermakers would be prepared to form themselves into a combination and erect extensive chemical and mechanical pulp works in Canada or elsewhere from whence to draw their supplies. British papermakers and financiers are following the example set by American manufacturers in acquiring timber lands in Canada." This should be practical evidence that we are not entirely dependent on our American neighbors, but, to the contrary, that a plethora of capital can be obtained to develop such new industries in Canada and provide employment for thousands of our men and boys.

Mr. Hammond, of Algoma, informs us that "thirteen million five hundred thousand dollars' worth of logs and timber were exported last year from Canada to the United States, and a very large proportion of this was logs, which were towed to the United States mills, and an enormous business done on that side in slabs from tree tops never scaled and sold as fuel. Much of the product manufactured there was sent back here free, and our mills had, of course, to compete. This is manifestly unfair to our farmers, laborers, millmen, traders, manufacturers, and every industry in this country, BUT IT IS A SOFT SNAP FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES. By compelling and encouraging home manufacture an impetus would be given to our farmers, settlement would be promoted, the manufacturers would profit, and trade generally would be improved." Surely this should be suggestive.

With the improved condition of affairs in Manitoba and the Northwest, and the abundant crops of last year, and good prices, there is such a demand for lumber that the mills are taxed to their utmost capacity. Farmers are prosperous, and it means an active demand and decided opportunities to the lumber manufacturers of north-western Ontario. Georgian Bay and Algoma should be able to satisfactorily compete for this trade as against Duluth. Here again is the opportunity for the C. P. R. to assert itself, in favorable rates, as against the 500 miles of transportation from Duluth; let them reduce their 18 cents or 20 cents' rate from Port Arthur to a rate similar to a same distance rate in eastern Ontario, and this immense trade is at the command of Ontario, as manufacturers and shippers in Midland, Parry Sound, Penetang, Byng Inlet, Spanish River, French River, Thessalon, and all other millers in the district would capture this trade from Minnesota. It rests with the C. P. R.

Mr. Waldie, in stating that if the Ontario government took no action a very great injustice would be perpetrated on the lumber interests of the Georgian Bay, is eminently clear upon the point, particularly when he set forth the almost startling fact that they have facilities in the Georgian Bay district for taking out 400,000,000 feet of logs, but that out of that 400,000,000 feet, under existing circumstances, not 100,000,000 feet will be manufactured in Canada, and half the mills on the Georgian Bay will be standing idle, and that the wealthy and old established firm of Cook Bros., with their wealth, extensive limits, ample means and mills, have closed their mills and sold their logs to Michigan. His statement that he did not want to see the sons of our prominent lumbermen compelled to follow the logs to Michigan and become residents there was timely. This is, and will be, the result if our governments do not awaken to the serious consequences that their inactivity and want of comprehensive action will undoubtedly lead up to.

Lumbermen never had a more desirable opportunity for presenting their grievances to the governments, both

federal and provincial, than they have at present, the elections being so close at hand and a marked desire asserting itself for a change of policy in the general interest of the province and Dominion. With the wealth and influence of the lumber interests in Canada, and the co-operation of manufacturers, storekeepers, farmers and our financial institutions, coupled with our railways and steamships, and the many other interests in different districts almost dependent on the lumber trade of Canada, there should be a collective force with sufficient weight to compel an earnest, complete, and intelligent consideration and necessary protective action. Let those interested have but the courage of their convictions and make public their desires, and the voting element of the Dominion will undoubtedly endorse and assist them, and I feel we can rely on the valued columns of the CANADA LUMBERMAN to assist us also.

"CANADA FIRST."

THE LOG SCALING QUESTION.

To the Editor of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.

SIR,—My attention having been recently called to a letter in your issue of April, 1897, entitled "Different Results in Scaling Logs," and signed "Lumberman," I ask permission to reply thereto, although I am somewhat reluctant in going into the public press in connection with my duties, and would not have troubled you on this occasion if "Lumberman" had stated all the facts in connection with this important matter. But such is not the case, as he seeks to leave the impression that he has been harshly dealt with by the officers of the Crown Lands Department, "who either do not understand their business or wilfully overmeasured the logs in question, in order to build up a reputation for themselves at his expense." Consequently, I am compelled, in justice to the Crown Lands Department, scalers, general public, myself and fellow ranger, to request the publication of this letter.

"Lumberman" states that he purchased 18,878 pieces saw logs from another firm, but he omits to state that he purchased these logs upon a contract, at a high price, which called for a choice and superior quality of logs, to be scaled by "Lumberman's" scalers; and when the time arrived to inspect the logs on the skids, it was then ascertained that the logs were not equal to what the contract called for. These are the facts as stated by "Lumberman" to the writer. What was the duty of "Lumberman" under these circumstances? Was it not their duty to reject all logs which were not equal to the quality called for by the contract, give an accurate measurement for the logs so accepted, and separate scale of the rejected logs, in order to return the same to the Crown Lands Department for the purpose of paying the Crown dues thereon? But for some reason, unknown to the writer, "Lumberman" and his scalers did not pursue this course, but decided to reject nothing but what they considered worthless logs, and measure the balance in such a manner as would produce results equal to the logs called for by the contract. Having conducted the scaling in this manner, I could not accept a scale on behalf of the Crown Lands Department which scaled out all the coarse lumber.

You will observe, Mr. Editor, when it was proposed to make the returns and pay the Crown dues upon that scale, it was my duty as an officer of the Department to object to the measurement made and insist that the logs be properly measured, in order that a proper and honest return might be made to pay the Crown dues upon. In fact, at the time the re-measurement was being proceeded with, "Lumberman" admitted to the writer that I was justified in recommending a re-measurement of the logs in question, as his scalers had scaled the logs in such a manner as to make them equal to the logs called for by the contract, which was not a fair measurement to the Crown Lands Department, and he distinctly stated that the firm selling the logs should have made a separate scale for the purpose of return to the Crown Lands Department, and upon which the Crown dues should be paid.

"Lumberman" also states that the logs were scaled by a licensed culler. True, but he omits to state that the culler was assisted by an assistant who, on two occasions, failed to pass the necessary cullers' examination, once previous to the scaling of the logs in question and once since that time, and at present he is not in a position to scale logs cut upon the Crown domain, only as an assistant. The returns sworn to by the culler and his assistant set forth that they had scaled 18,145 pieces saw