

limits held on the 20th ultimo. The conditions governing the sale of the limits contained the following clause: "The said timber berths will be sold subject to the further condition that no license for the cutting and removal of pine trees shall issue after the expiration of ten years from the 30th of April next, and that all pine trees remaining on the limits after the expiration of ten years from the 30th of April next shall be the property of the Crown." This is the first instance in which a clause of this character has been embodied in the regulations governing the sale of timber limits. It is one of paramount importance to the province and to the public, particularly in view of its relation to the forestry problem.

Heretofore the licensee of a timber limit could, by paying the annual ground rent, maintain the limit in his control for an indefinite period. In some instances the limits have been purchased entirely for speculative purposes, the licensee paying the ground rent and renewing his license each year, relying for his returns upon the growth of the young timber on the limit. This prevented the government from applying any system of reforestation to the property. In other cases lumbermen have taken off the most valuable timber, but still retained possession of the limit, without, however, adopting the necessary precautions against fire. As a result the young timber has frequently been destroyed.

Under the new regulation the land will revert back to the government at the expiration of the ten years lease, when, it is only reasonable to expect, all the timber of value will have been cut off. The government will then protect the young timber from fire by employing the necessary fire rangers. In this way, the timber supply will be perpetuated. This new condition will also, we believe, have a tendency to reduce the quantity of timber offered to the public by the government, as in order to realize the full value of the timber, the quantity sold to be taken off the land within ten years will have to bear some relation to the demand for timber products during that time.

There is little doubt but that this provision will be embodied in all future licenses for the cutting of timber on Crown lands. So far, then, as timber lands sold heretofore are concerned, the government will be placed in a position to apply a practical system of forestry. The next question to be considered, therefore, is the perpetuation of the supply on Crown lands sold previous to the adoption of the ten-year clause in the regulations. A partial solution of this question might be found by putting into effect the recommendations made by the Ontario Forestry Commission in their preliminary report presented to the legislature in the spring of 1898. Clauses 3 and 4 of the recommendations read as follows:

"3. That for all unworked limits on which the ground rent shall be two years in default on the termination of the present license year, the license shall not be renewed, but that the berths held by the Crown as forest reserve."

"4. That license holders be not allowed to cut any trees for logs smaller than will measure 12 inches across the stump two feet from the ground, unless under special forest conditions, with the sanction and under the supervision of the district forest ranger."

It must be gratifying to the members of this commission that the government have taken a

step in advance of the recommendations. In their final report which will be laid before the House at the forthcoming session, a line of policy will no doubt be outlined which will greatly assist the government in their further work of reforestation.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

In this issue will be found an article contributed by one of our readers outlining a method of piling clear red pine so as to prevent staining. This is a problem to which much consideration has been given, and the publishers are indebted to the writer for discussing the question in our columns. It is our wish that other readers also should submit their views, and that THE LUMBERMAN may become a means by which those actively engaged around saw mills may learn of the methods and experiences of others and profit thereby. Contributions on practical subjects are solicited.

BRITISH importers of wood goods from Canada complain that inconvenience as well as expense is sometimes caused owing to the vessels from the St. Lawrence arriving at destination before their papers. It is difficult to understand why this should be the case, as mail steamers almost invariably make greater speed than freight vessels. There is a possibility that the papers are not always dispatched with promptness, and it so, we would suggest that shippers give this matter the attention necessary to avoid further complaints. But a more certain remedy would be the inauguration by the Dominion government of a fast steamship mail service.

#### WEST INDIA ISLANDS.

Writing to the CANADA LUMBERMAN from Grand Turk, Turk Islands, West Indies, Mr. W. Stanley Jones says: "There are very few merchants dealing in lumber in this small place, the principal being Messrs. Frith Brothers, J. D. Murphy, and myself. The trade being small, it is not advisable to solicit consignments from your manufacturers. The small lots imported are always paid for as soon as received. The total quantity of white pine and spruce lumber imported last year (1898), was only 136,950 feet, of which 50,459 feet came from the United States and the balance from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. From 1894 to 1898 (5 years) the whole quantity imported was 639,830 feet, an average of 127,966 feet annually. Of this quantity Nova Scotia and New Brunswick furnished 416,176, or about 65 per cent. You will see by these figures, which are correct, as they come from the blue book, that the business is small, as compared with other West India Islands."

Writing from St. Kitts, West Indies, Messrs. S. L. Horsford & Co. say:

"The lumber in this Island has fallen off very considerably during the last few years. Formerly there was a large demand for spruce boards for heads of sugar hogsheads, but bags having taken the place of the latter, there is now very little enquiry for this description of lumber. For building purposes, preference is given to New York white pine shipping boards, though possibly a good deal of what is shipped as such is really Canadian lumber. The ordinary Nova Scotia white pine, however, which in former years was almost exclusively used for building as well as for heads of molasses puncheons, is not now enquired for, and when imported is neglected in favour of the so-called Albany boards shipped from New York. In the matter of scantling, yellow pine from Florida is still exclusively used for framing. There is no enquiry for spruce scantling or deals."

"On the other hand, there is a growing demand for spruce and cedar laying shingles, in bundles of 250, a large quantity of these having recently been required owing to the damage to the labourers' houses by the late hurricanes, and there is nearly always a fair sale for them."

#### MAPLE BLOCKS WANTED.

Mr. John Mitchell, of Liverpool, England, has been in Canada recently purchasing maple blocks. These maple blocks, which are about 26 inches long and 6½ inches through, are used in England for the making of rollers for wringing machines. These machines are manufactured of iron, with wooden rollers two to each machine, and as some 350,000 are manufactured yearly in England, there are required 700,000 rollers. Formerly sycamore was the wood used as rollers, but this becoming scarce in England, as an experiment Canadian hard maple was tried and it proved a success.

Canada does not, of course, supply all the maple required, as there is considerable export from the United States. Much of the wood that is sent from Canada, however, is secured in three counties—Huron, Bruce and Grey—as they seem to produce just the class of hard maple that is suitable. We understand that there is also a large quantity of hard maple in the province of Quebec, particularly in the Eastern Townships, which abound in all kinds of hardwoods. The rollers require the choicest hard maple, and according to Mr. Mitchell, the demand for these blocks has resulted in an advance in the price of maple, in some instances from \$10 to \$12 per thousand having been paid for the logs.

#### THE LIVERPOOL STAVE MARKET.

A correspondent furnishes to Barrel and Box the following answers to questions asked concerning the stave market at Liverpool, Eng.:

Query No. 1—I estimate the value of staves used in this market at from £250,000 to £300,000 per annum. It would be difficult to give an approximate estimate of the number of staves used, as a portion of those imported are sold on the basis of St. Petersburg standard of 165 cubic feet, while others are sold in bundles called shooks, each shook containing the sufficient quantity to make a cask, and others again are sold per mille of 1,200 pieces.

Query No. 2—The kind of staves in greatest demand are made from oak, elm and fir timber.

Query No. 3—Oak staves are largely imported from the United States, Russia and Austria; elm staves from Canada; fir staves from Norway and Sweden. The cost to consumers of oak staves is from £10 to £25 per mille of 1,200 pieces, according to size and quality and point of production; elm from £1-10s to £2-10s per mille of 1,200 pieces; fir from £6-10s to £7-10s per St. Petersburg standard of 165 cubic feet.

Query No. 4—The larger portion of oak staves used in this market are preferred in their roughly rived state (not manufactured or dressed). Elm staves are used, manufactured and shaped in the same condition as used in the United States, and the fir staves roughly sawed, flat and square edges.

Query No. 5—Oak staves are used from 26 to 72-in. long, and varying in thickness from ½ to 3-in.; elm from 20 to 33-in. long, and varying of about the same dimensions as oak.

Query No. 6—Oak staves are preferred in thickness from ½ to ¾-in.; fir staves are required rived from timber reasonably free of defects, and which has been felled in the winter, or at a time when the sap is most inactive. Elm and fir staves should be cut from reasonably clear timber.

Query No. 7—Supplies of nearly all classes are at present about equal to the demand. An exception may be made in the case of elm staves, the scarcity of which is driving consumers to the use of fir staves for the time being.

Query No. 8—By far the larger percentage of oak staves used in this market comes from the United States of America.

As regards other information not called for by the above questions, it may be of interest to your government to know that the oak staves used in most English breweries are obtained from Russia, and at prices considerably in advance of those paid by other consumers for United States staves. The reason of this is that the Russian timber is said to be free of tannic acid (which affects the color and taste of the beer) than is the oak timber from the United States.

When the pointer of a steam engine vibrates violently, the cock in the pipe connection should be partially closed in order to prevent it, as such action will do the gauge no good, to say the least.