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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.

#### BIRCH TO THE FRONT.

VARIOUS circumstances go to show that birch is rapidly forging to the front as a wood that will be in strong demand in the future. The opinion of a Canadian lumberman was quoted in our weekly issue of a fortnight ago, that the time was near by when birch would hold a more firm position on the market than is the case with lines of hardwood that to-day are looked upon as being first in the list. As a cabinet wood birch is certainly coming into increased demand. Furniture manufacturers find that it fits in for their work in many desirable ways. To quite a large extent it is taking the place of cherry, and is susceptible of a degree of polish that enables it to fill a popular place where the price bars out cherry. One hardwood dealer, whose experience covers a knowledge of all classes of domestic hardwoods, has said that birch, with its susceptibility to a hard, highly polished and beautiful finish, even excels mahogany and is vastly better than oak, walnut, poplar, and, of course, the softer woods. Messrs. McRae & Co., of Ottawa, have found it to be better than any other wood for their special use in "mahoganizing," "ebonizing," etc., by their patent process.

A good-sized straw, that may be taken as showing which way the wind blows, is found in the statement made by Hardwood, of Chicago, that immense quantities of birch in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are likely to pass into the control of Boston capitalists. These men are evidently taking a long view, and see that there is a good future ahead for this wood. An important question is, to what extent birch is to be found in any considerable quantities in Canada. An answer is suggested in the action of the Boston capitalists, here reported. This wood is found also in generous supply in the eastern sections of Ontario, and Quebec. An examination of the hardwoods that still exist throughout many of the counties of Ontario show that birch is there in, perhaps, as large quantities as any other class of timber. The mistake ought not to be made, however, of sacrificing this wood as though the supply was absolutely endless.

#### LUMBER A TRADE BAROMETER.

GOOD reason exists for the hope of business men that the lumber industry will show an encouraging revival this year. To what extent other lines of business rest upon the lumber industry can be, to some extent, understood, when it is known that according to the census of 1891 there are 34 industries or occupations which depend entirely or in part upon wood or timber as their raw material for manufacture or commerce. The total number of these is 17,577, all told employing 95,741 hands, the manufactured articles from which represent within a fraction of a hundred millions of dollars. The census figures are \$95,029,828. Chief among these industries, according to the census report, the number of employees, and value of output, are:—

TIMBER INDUSTRIES.	FACTORIES.	HANDS.	VALUE PRODUCTS.
Agricultural implements.....	234	3,656	\$ 4,406,397
Cabinet and furniture makers....	1,169	6,957	4,471,742
Carpenters and joiners.....	2,494	5,702	3,893,910
Carriage-makers.....	3,143	8,703	5,799,082
Cooperages.....	1,430	3,277	1,808,929
Sawmills.....	5,390	42,085	38,509,052
Sash and blind factories.....	356	2,878	4,872,302
Shipyards.....	227	4,454	3,557,258
Shingle factories.....	801	2,389	776,998
Planing mills.....	66	633	992,201
Broom and brush factories.....	91	957	762,884
Match factories.....	22	1,062	511,250
Wood-turning establishments....	80	604	431,797
Carving and gilding works.....	82	500	516,675
Trunk and box factories.....	49	626	677,877
Shook factories.....	35	80	228,785
Stave factories.....	31	265	168,520

The list does not include boat builders, basket makers, pump factories, pail and tub makers, and other lines of manufacture in which wood plays the leading part. Nor is there included in the list the car and locomotive factories of the Dominion, which number 17, and whose output is valued at \$3,956,000 and employ 3,154 hands.

When lumber is slow, as it has been the past year, a large percentage of the industries here named, are not working nearly up to their full capacity, or as in many cases, no work whatever is being done. The current market conditions, a principal feature of the WEEKLY LUMBERMAN each week, have shown that since the new year, manufacturers who use wood, and have done little active business for some time past, have either started their factories on full time, or are making preparations so to do almost immediately. This is one reason why enquiries of the past few weeks in lumber are increasing.

Lumber may be recognized as a safe commercial barometer. If the trade of the next six months will show that largely increased shipments of forest products have been distributed throughout the various provinces of the Dominion, and as is the case with lumber, in a large degree, to countries beyond its borders, of necessity it follows that business in many other ways is moving actively and encouragingly, for lumber is not bought, simply to be stored away. No class of raw material goes more quickly into manufacture than does lumber. It is, therefore, to be easily understood why banks, monetary institutions and capitalists take a roseate view of affairs when the report comes to them that business in lumber is reviving.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

A MONTH ago an opinion was expressed in the ELI page that the red cedar shingles of British Columbia were lessened in durability because of being kiln dried. This month on the same page is published a reply from a Pacific coast shingle manufacturer who is disposed to challenge Ontario criticism. It is natural, perhaps, that white pine shingle manufacturers should resent this intrusion, as they may deem it, of red cedar shingles into Ontario. But this is a free country. What we want to get at are the facts in the case. Mr. Scott speaks plainly from his point of view. It is to be remarked that the criticism of Mr. McBean of last month is joined in by Buffalo dealers, who are raising the complaint there that the Washington territory red wood shingles are being injured by excessive kiln drying. On the other hand it is claimed that at the best this trade is in its experimental stage, and will come down to a system soon.

If a large output meant always a paying business, Washington territory shingle manufacturers might lay claim to possessing the cake. The shingle shipments of that State for 1894 will not run far from 12,500 cars, or

about 2,000,000,000 shingles. And yet there is, perhaps, no other district in the United States or Canada, and in a year when unprofitable trade was the rule all round, where business was more completely demoralized than in Washington territory. Big sales of shingles were made—that seemed to be the one ambition of the trade. But with hardly any exception sales were placed at a price that meant that the heavier the shipments the greater the loss. The trouble did not end there. Shingles were cut to such prices in Washington, and were shipped everywhere at this cut price, that every other market shared in the demoralization. Over and over again efforts were made by combinations to stem this current of unpaying business, but the combinations never held together any length of time. The hope will be that these things will improve in the right direction in 1895.

WITH the bicycle fever at its height the manufacture of wheels is proving a growing industry in Canada. True a large number of wheels are imported, but the demand is great enough to permit of this and at the same time allow of a large consumption of the home article. Those who favor a protective tariff are asking why additional encouragement should not be given to the manufacture of bicycles by placing a heavy duty on the imported wheel. The lumber industry has an interest in the bicycle manufacturing from the fact that rock elm, and hickory, but more particularly the former, has proven an excellent wood for the rims of bicycles. A large quantity of this wood, is, as a matter of fact, being shipped to Europe for bicycles. This is a good thing for the lumber business in, at least, a restricted degree. It would look as though bicycles had come to stay and the bottom is not likely to fall out of the trade, as has been the case with other fads, if we may so call them, where wood has been used. For a time an immense quantity of wood was used in the manufacture of roller skates, but then the craze did not last long, the same as when everybody, young and old, men and women, in Canada, as well as in the States, ran wild over base ball. The statistics show that at one time the lumber consumed in this manner was something very large, but it also suffered the fate of other fads of the kind, and wood in the manufacture of base ball clubs does not cut any large figure nowadays.

IT is time that an official announcement had been made from Ottawa concerning the exemption of boom sticks from duty. The new ministry under Sir Mackenzie Bowell has been installed in office and business is supposed to be running along in proper shape. Of course, there is no immediate hurry in the matter, so far as the rafting of logs is concerned. This is not the season for that kind of business. The point, however, is this: the matter should not be allowed to remain in abeyance, as a delay in settling the question is open to a wrong interpretation by the Washington authorities. The treasury department of the United States has made a rule exempting boom sticks from duty when coming from Canada, and this on the lines of tariff legislation is supposed to carry with it the understanding that when such action should be taken by the United States our government would reciprocate. We believe it will. The United States government, on the other hand, is dilatory in righting the matter of the duty on red cedar lumber. There is no doubt whatever, and the Michigan deputation who visited Ottawa in connection with boom sticks made the admission to the Minister of Finance, that it was never intended that a duty should be placed on red cedar lumber. This delay is exasperating to lumbermen in British Columbia, and has already been the means of the mills there losing considerable trade, besides possessing a disheartening influence. The LUMBERMAN has a letter from one of the largest concerns on the coast saying: "We have had a contract for a considerable amount of cedar clap boards offered us by communication in the United States, and although we have delayed the matter for the past two months we are still unable to close until we know how this thing is to be decided." There is as little reason for delay at Washington as there has been at Ottawa. Let both governments now get down to business, for business needs all the encouragement that can be given it.