

But Mr. Bennett's figures arraign only his own friends, namely, the Dominion Government, as his arguments and figures apply only to the abolition of *export duty*, an act of the Dominion Government exclusively. They have no force or application to the Provincial Government, for the reason already given that the logs were cut on old limits sold before the question of the "manufacturing condition" ever arose, and it is not in the power of the Government or the Legislature to impose such further condition upon limits which were sold free from it, and none of the logs exported were cut from limits recently sold.

It is said our forests are being depleted, but according to Col. O'Brien and other good authorities, our timber resources have been added to by from 30 to 50 per cent. in the new market afforded for our coarser grades of lumber, which were formerly wasted or burnt up.

It is said that Canadian labor is adversely affected, but it is well known that employment at good wages was never more plentiful in the new parts of the Province, and that good markets have been afforded for all the settlers can raise. The American lumbermen employ almost wholly Canadian labor in taking out the logs, indeed in many cases they contract with Canadians to take them out.

As stated above, the quantities exported are also grossly exaggerated. Last year's export has been put at from four to five hundred million feet board measure, whereas as a matter of fact only 235 million feet board measure were exported from Ontario lands last year. (See Report of Commissioner of Crown Lands.) There are about 20,000 square miles subject to timber license in the Province, of which only about 1,700 are owned by Americans who are not mill owners in Canada. As regards the limits sold at the 1892 sale, (and this is the only sale in which the absence of the condition of sawing in the country is or can be attacked by the Opposition), of the 683 miles sold Canadians bought 555 and Americans 78 miles.

It is claimed that a large number of mills have been shut down which formerly manufactured logs taken from limits the logs from which are now exported. Midland, Parry Sound and Byng Inlet are cited. The only large mill at Midland shut down on this account is Mr. Miscampbell's, the Tory M. P. P. for East Simcoe, who was paid a bonus to surrender his contract to saw the logs of the Emery Lumber Company in Ontario. The only mill shut down at Parry Sound, is the Midland and North Shore Lumber Company's mill, that Company having sold its limits to Americans. At Byng Inlet there were formerly three mills, two the Georgian Bay Lumber Company's and one Burton Bros. One of the Georgian Bay Lumber Company's mills was burnt down a few years ago and not rebuilt; the Burton Bros. mill was burnt down last summer. Another mill is being built there, perhaps on a smaller scale, as the limits are nearly cut out. The third mill at Byng Inlet was operated last season and probably will be this summer. The net result is that two mills have been closed down on account of the export of logs. On the other hand, one large mill has been erected by Moiles Bros. on Lake Huron, and another large mill is in process of erection by the Cutler, Savidge Co., near Spanish River, and other large mills are projected in view of the removal of the export duty on lumber going into the United States. If matters are allowed to rest until the United States tariff is passed, it is confidently expected that sawn lumber will be free of any duty going into the United States, in which case the incentive to take logs over there to be manufactured will be removed and a number of new mills will probably be put up on the north shore of Lake Huron, and the quantity of coarse lumber marketable still further largely increased. Should, however, any action be taken to re-impose the export duty on sawlogs and the United States markets be closed to us, as they will most certainly be, instead of one or two mills being shut down, nearly all our large mills will be shut down and disorganization and chaos brought about.

The question of the export duty on logs has within the past few days been again under the consideration of the Dominion Parliament. All the lumbermen in the House, of which there are a considerable number on both sides, spoke strongly and unanimously against re-imposing an export duty on logs until it was seen if the United States would admit Canadian lumber free, as is proposed