

THE Ottawa river lumbermen have come to terms with the Inland Revenue Department with reference to the arrears of rent for the water power of the Chaudiere. The lumbermen agree to pay all arrears, about \$59,000, on condition that their leases, which expire next year, are renewed for 21 years. This matter of arrears has been going on almost since the time when the Ottawa lumbermen settled at the Chaudiere, and although the yearly rental is but a small amount, the total for so many years has amounted to a good round sum. When the question of settlement was pressed the lumbermen were unwilling to pay up unless recouped for improvements put in by them years ago in order to enable them to utilize the water power. Then they offered to settle if given renewals of their leases for 99 years; finally they decided to accept renewals for 21 years, and now it is understood they will pay the arrears, with a small deduction for improvements, which were necessary to bring the water power to some of the water lots.

WE have now in course of preparation the third annual Statistical Edition of the CANADA LUMBERMAN, five thousand copies of which will be issued February 1st, next, and circulated among the trade throughout Canada, the United States and Great Britain. Arrangements are being made by which every province in the Dominion will furnish a complete budget of news of interest to every man engaged in the lumber, wood-working and kindred branches of trade. The result of the past year's operations and the prospects for the coming season, will be fully set forth, while the list of technical contents will be unusually large and complete. We sincerely hope that every reader of THE LUMBERMAN will consider it a personal duty on their part to send in whatever items of information with which they may be familiar, either as regards their own operations, that of their neighbor, or any matters that would prove of interest to the trade in general. We beg to remind advertisers that during the months of February and March Canadian lumbermen are fitting up their mills for the season's trade; discarding old machinery and putting in new; and for this reason, at no other season of the year will an investment in advertising pay as well. For rates and other information we would direct attention to the advertisement on another page of this issue.

THE supplies for the shanties is a very important factor in a lumberman's operations and one of the most important articles is pork, so the recent interview with the Minister of Customs on this subject is of considerable interest. The pork-packers had already been to Ottawa asking that they should be given further protection by increased customs duties, so about the middle of the month a very influential deputation waited upon the Minister asking that the duties should remain as they were at least, even if they were not reduced. One strong point made by the speakers was that the "heavy mess pork," which was the grade chiefly used by the lumbermen, was not produced in sufficient quantities in Canada to supply the demand, and therefore the proposed protection was useless to the farmer, while adding to the cost of the lumberman's commissariat. Between the somewhat different interests of the farmer, the packer and the lumberman, the Minister seemed puzzled how to act and would not commit himself. From some of the questions he asked it may, however, be reasonably anticipated that he will move at least some way towards the views of the trade without being afraid of interfering with the farmers. While discussing this subject it was evident that the minds of the members of the deputation were busily engaged on another theme, for it kept coming to the surface. This was the question of the increase of the export duty on saw logs. There seemed to be no objection, but the contrary, to the change in itself, but some of the deputation feared that our neighbors might retaliate by raising their import duty on sawn lumber, while others stoutly maintained that they did not care if the duty of lumber were raised. There seemed to be a general agreement that the export of our pine logs must be stopped, and one gentleman who had recently visited Michigan described

how he had seen thousands of Canadian saw logs being converted into lumber on the Saginaw. Suggestions were made that the Provincial Government might stipulate in their leases that the logs must be sawn in Canada, when an export duty would become unnecessary. To show the weight of this deputation a journal calculates that its members represented an invested capital of twenty million dollars.

No definite answer has yet been given by the Dominion Government to the application to them to put an export duty on elm logs. The case is similar to that of pine logs, the export duty on which has not only been maintained, but has been substantially raised by the Ottawa authorities in pursuance of their policy of preventing the exportation as logs, and forcing the manufacture and consequent employment of labor to be retained in Canada. The application of this sensible theory would demand an export duty on elm logs just as much as on pine logs. Foreign mill owners are carrying off this timber abroad to supply their mills, thus taking from the Canadian mill owner his material, giving the employment and profits to foreigners, while in some cases these elm logs come back again to Canada to be used in a manufactured form. There is no good reason why this advantage should be given to foreign competitors with our own people. More opposition is, however, offered to an export duty in this case, because the elm timber is largely in possession of private land owners, while the pine is chiefly owned either by the government or by their lessees, the lumbermen. The farmer having on his farm a comparatively small quantity of elm timber now sells it to the United States mill owners, and he finds that a export duty would put an end to this business leaving him in the hands of the Canadian mill owners with the prospect, as he thinks, of his being able to obtain only a lower price. This, however, is not the case, for the Canadian mill owners are willing to purchase at fair rates, and when they no longer saw the logs carried abroad before their eyes they will be encouraged to extend their operations, so the farmer would not be victimized, and he would gain more than any other portion of the community by the presence of a flourishing industry close at hand and increasing the demand for his produce. We hope the government will stand firm, and will put their policy into effect in regard to elm logs.

ONE very important occurrence of the past month has been the delivery of the judgment of the Judicial Committee of the Imperial Privy Council in the great case of the Queen vs. The St. Catharines Milling and Lumber Company the judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada being confirmed and the appeal of the defendants below being dismissed without costs. Thus this long litigation carried from court to court is at length terminated, the highest tribunal of the realm and the final authority having decided that the Dominion of Canada does not own the land and timber in the disputed territory of Northwest Ontario and had no right to grant licenses, the Province having the beneficial interest, subject to the Indian title and therefore to the cost of extinguishing the claims of the aboriginal inhabitants. The Privy Council in fact took the view that the Indians only enjoyed the right of use for hunting, fishing and so forth, their title being only an incumbrance on the Provincial property. The company is therefore left without any valid right to its limit. Of course it is too early yet to know how the Provincial authorities will deal with the company in these circumstances and with others in the same plight, for this was a test case determining a number of others. It is certainly a case in which there is a moral claim for liberal treatment and for recognition of the position of the company which acted in good faith, dealing with the authorities who were in possession of the property. There is the more reason for fair and even generous treatment as the refusal of the Privy Council to award as usual the costs of the appeal against the unsuccessful party is an acknowledgment that it was a moot point and one that ought to be brought to the courts to determine, so laymen might well be at fault when lawyers and even judges were doubtful. It

should also be taken into consideration that for a time at least there was an understanding that the titles given by the unsuccessful authorities should be recognized by those who gained the day, all pecuniary benefits being of course transferred to the party ascertained to be the rightful owner. It may of course be anticipated that now the Province of Ontario has secured its rights to this property it will as soon as possible proceed to apply its usual laws and regulations to this district. There is a likelihood too that no very long time will elapse before a public sale will be called of the limits in this region, and as there is some fine timber still left, this opportunity of acquiring a limit at first hand will be awaited with considerable interest as there will not be many more such chances in Ontario.

## SPLINTERS.

## A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

THE Dominion Parliament has been called to meet on the last day of January.

THE town of Owen Sound, Ont., has voted a bonus of \$15,000 to the Polson Iron Works Co., of Toronto, to assist them in enlarging their dry docks and ship-yard at that place. The company have among their present list of contracts the building of a new steel steamship for the Canadian Pacific railway.

MR. R. R. DOBELL, a leading lumberman of Quebec, is at present engaged in organizing a company with a capital of \$2,000,000 to undertake the laying of a telegraph cable from Blanc Sablon at the Straits of Belle Isle to a point on the coast of Scotland or Ireland.

WE overlooked drawing attention last month to the advertisement of Messrs. W. R. Thistle & Co., of Pembroke, which appears in another page of this issue. This firm have already commenced winter sawing in their Chalk River timber mills, and are open to receive orders for building and dimension timber, ship decking, red pine, car lumber, flooring, etc.

A RECENT change in the tariff will be of considerable benefit to one of our Canadian industries. An Order-in-Council has been passed placing upon the free list hickory felloes, sawn to shape, but not further manufactured. As it has been difficult to get this class of wood in Canada of late years, manufacturers of carriage woodwork have pressed this change upon the government.

A REPORT has been received from the Inspector of Mounted police in charge of the patrol now stationed on the Manitoba frontier to prevent timber stealing by Dakota settlers, in which he States that already five Dakotans have intimated to him their intention to settle in Manitoba in the spring, as they cannot continue to live in Dakota without fuel, which they have hitherto been in the habit of helping themselves to in Canadian territory without saying even as much as by your leave.

THE exports of lumber last year formed twenty-six per cent. of Canada's total export trade, the figures being in round numbers, total exports \$77,000,000; products of the forest, \$20,000,000. Of these \$20,000,000, some \$9,353,000, or forty-five per cent., went to the United States, and about an equal amount, or \$9,454,000, was exported to Great Britain. Last year lumber formed twenty-eight per cent. of Canada's total exports to the United States.

NOTICE is given of the proposed incorporation of the Ottawa and Montreal Boom company, to improve the navigation of the Ottawa river from the Chaudiere falls at Ottawa to the northeasterly end of the island of Montreal, and either by one or other or both of the channels to the northwest of the said island, to facilitate the transmission of rafts, timber, saw logs, railway ties, cedars and other timber on the said river and the various rapids thereof, with power to construct, purchase or acquire any booms or piers in the part of the said river, etc.