

We learn that Yellow Pine, Oak and Elm from this country, though light in stock, has not moved off freely in England of late. Prices do not appear tempting to consumers, but the high freights and scarcity of winter stocks in Quebec made prices in England compare very moderately with those asked by Canadian shippers for next season's supplies. Merchants over the water seem very reluctant to face up to the advanced rates demanded for the next season's spring shipments, and business cannot fail to be difficult all round, although shippers seem to show adequate reasons for the high figures demanded.

COLONEL GEORGE TYLER, of Burlington, Vt., who represents a large American lumber company, gives it as his opinion that there will not be an advance in the price of lumber got out in the Ottawa Valley. He states that there are large stocks of such on hand in all the lumber States, especially among the western men. Their money, he says, is invested in better lumber than is manufactured at Ottawa, and they rely for their profits on the first quality. There is stock enough carried over to prevent any corner in the market, and the demand could not catch up with the supply for two years, even if there was not a log cut in the bush during all that time.

PETITION after petition is being presented to Congress urging retaliation on Canada for imposing an extra duty on logs. They hail from all over the States but notably from New York and Michigan. They want a duty all the way from \$3 to \$6 per M on Canadian lumber. In the face of so many different requests the Government will find it a difficult matter to act, if they act at all. Now that the feeling of the Canadian lumber trade is drifting towards the abrogation of the export duty on logs our American friends will have less cause for complaint, and will by degrees settle down to the belief that their wishes will be complied with without the interference of Congress. It is gratifying to know that our commercial relations with our neighbors on the lumber question at least are likely to be less strained than in the past.

THE timber trade of Quebec, it is pleasing to observe, is looking up, and the prospects are that the coming season will be among the most successful for many years. The timber trade has been steadily on the wane for some years, the principal cause of which is that the English market has been taking its principal supplies from Norway and Sweden, the pine of the former country being considered both cheaper and better than the Canadian article. From the number of charters already made for the present season's stock, however, it would appear as if producers on this side of the water were going to realize a change in the wheel of fortune. We hear of several more charters for Greenock at \$6 per load for timber; also some vessels have been fixed to the east coast ports for timber, but rates have not transpired. It is also stated that some of the liners have been taken up from Montreal, Three Rivers and Quebec to Liverpool for the season at \$13.20, and several large steamers have been chartered for spring loading, to a range of ports, at \$14.40. One steamer is reported to have been fixed from Montreal and Quebec to different N. B. ports for deals (or) timber at \$15.60 per standard all round. From St. Lawrence mills several vessels are also reported to have been taken up to a range of ports at \$14.40, and from Miramichi and other New Brunswick ports chartering is going on at \$14.40 to \$15.50. Our English exchanges appear to foreshadow a revival in the timber trade of that country, which if realized will prove good news to Canadians.

UNDOUBTEDLY the main issue under discussion at the present time by both Canadian and American lumbermen, is the question of the export duty on logs. During the past month decided action has been taken in the matter on both sides of the boundary line. The result of the recent conference at Toronto of the Ontario Lumberman's Association caused great surprise to many engaged in the trade, and we must confess that THE LUMBERMAN was not an exception. The old maxim that there are "two sides to every question"

has been fully exemplified in this case. It has been but recently discovered that while Canada's exports of logs to the United States from 1880 to 1888 amounted to \$156,741, the imports from the United States during the same period amounted to the large sum of \$4,319,850, on which there is no export duty. Figures of this description are certainly calculated to dispel all feeling of prejudice in favor of our export duty, and in its stead formulate a desire among the trade to see this one-sided duty removed. While the LUMBERMAN was so unfortunate as to endorse the recent action of the Federal Government in increasing this duty to \$3 per M it was done without the knowledge we now have. On investigation we find that upwards of 25,000,000 feet of timber will be brought into Canada this year from the Rainy River district, all of which will be manufactured in this country. For some two or three years past this timber has been coming in by millions; and it is given that there are still from two or three billion feet of logs to come into Canada from that country. What if Congress should levy an export duty on this immense quantity of timber, where would Canada be? To do so would only be an act of justifiable retaliation, which would militate much more adversely to the Dominion than does our present duty to the United States. We have but little doubt but that by the time the next issue of THE LUMBERMAN appears the Canadian export duty on logs will be deeply buried, perhaps never to be revived.

THE case of Sunson & Mason (Limited) v. New Brunswick Trading Company was recently tried before Mr. Justice Field and a special jury, in the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice, London. The question was whether the plaintiffs had waived any rights they had in respect of certain alleged misrepresentations, on the faith of which they said they took shares in the defendant company. The plaintiffs were a limited company formed for the purpose of taking over a wood business, the defendant company being formed to take over the businesses that had been carried on at Miramichi by Messrs. Guy, Bevan & Co., and Messrs. R. A. & J. Stewart. The action was brought to recover damages for fraudulent misrepresentation, the plaintiffs alleging that they were induced to enter into a contract, to purchase 1,500 £10 preference shares in the defendant company for which they claimed £15,000 damages. In the alternative they claimed on the same ground the return of the £15,000, the cancellation of the contract to purchase, and the removal of the plaintiff's names from the list of shareholders of the defendant company. The only question to be considered was whether the plaintiffs were entitled to a rescission of the contract. When the defendant company was formed to take over the businesses of Messrs. Guy, Bevan & Co. and Messrs. R. A. & J. Stewart, at Miramichi, the members of those firms received payment in the shape of ordinary shares in the company, and a prospectus was issued offering a large number of preference shares and some £50,000 was subscribed. The plaintiffs alleged that they were led into the transaction upon the representation of Mr. C. Benn, who was at that time in the employ of the company. Sunson, Mason & Co. had branches in Paris, Spain, Portugal, Algiers and London, and they were anxious to become the agents of the defendant company, Messrs. Stewart Bros., and Messrs. Guy & Co. The latter had written to the plaintiffs informing them that if they took 1,500 £10 preference shares in the defendant company they would be appointed their agents, and to finance the shares, the plaintiffs were to be at liberty to draw upon them to the extent of £7,500 each. Agreements were finally entered into on the 15th of February securing to the plaintiffs the agency of the defendant company in London and different parts of Europe, and also enabling the plaintiffs to draw drafts on Messrs. Guy & Co., and Messrs. Stewart Bros. suspended payment and became bankrupt. It was proven in evidence that misrepresentation had been made, and that fraud had been committed. His Lordship summed up the whole case, and the jury found that the plaintiffs were entitled to the relief sought for, namely, to have their £15,000 returned and the agreement cancelled.

#### SPLINTERS.

THE statement has been published that the order-in-Council has been passed prohibiting the owners of lumber mills from throwing sawdust and other mill offal into the Ottawa river, but the report has been officially contradicted.

THE tariff bill passed by the Senate reduces the duty upon lumber from \$2 to \$1.50 per thousand, but Canadian lumber must pay the old rates so long as the increased duty on logs is maintained by the Dominion Government.

THE McArthur Bros. Co., of Quebec and Toronto, have given up shipping direct to Europe, and their stock will hereafter be handled by Messrs. Smith, Wade & Co., of Quebec, whose English house is Messrs. Walcot & Co., 17 Gracechurch street, London.

MESSRS. ROSS & Co. have got some very fine limits in the Nipissing District which they are offering for sale on another page of the present issue. Anyone desirous of viewing a drawing of these limits and the section of country in which they are located, can do so by calling at the office of this journal.

IT is now almost a foregone conclusion that there isn't the slightest probability of the United States Congress passing the Senate bill, and as a result the tariff on lumber is likely to remain, at least for some time to come, as it is at present. All the anxiety and discussion bestowed on this subject will evidently prove so much time wasted.

ROBIN & SADLER, the well known Leather Belting manufacturers of Montreal and Toronto, have just finished a large driving belt for the new double engine of the Royal Electric Co., in Montreal. This belt, which is of double leather, is 28 inches wide and 100 feet long, and is now running in that first class style which is the rule with belts of Robin & Sadler's make.

THE St. Catharines Milling and Lumber Co. are about presenting a claim to the Dominion Government for compensation arising out of the company's expenditure under Dominion license in the disputed territory. At the time of writing the directors have not decided on the amount of damages to which they claim to be entitled, but it is expected that the amount will shortly be fixed.

THE British & American Timber Co., (Limited), which has a capital of £2,000,000 or \$10,000,000 is reported to be in the market for 4,000,000 acres of Southern timber lands. Mr. Preston Ashbridge, the agent of the company, has already purchased through W. H. Howcott, of New Orleans, 500,000,000 feet of standing timber, including white pine, poplar, cherry, etc., in West Virginia, and 200,000,000 feet of yellow pine in Florida, Georgia and Mississippi.

EDWARD E. MANHARD, of Toronto, is in jail at Oswego, N. Y., charged with defrauding John K. Post & Co., lumber dealers, out of \$2,500. The accused was a member of the insolvent firm of Manhard & Co., lumber dealers Toronto, of whom Post & Co., bought considerable lumber. In September Manhard drew on Post & Co. for \$2,000, alleged that his firm had shipped Post & Co. a cargo of lumber. The lumber never came and the Toronto firm failed. Post & Co. claim to have lost about \$6,000.

THERE passed away at Port Hope during the last month one of Canadian pioneer lumbermen, in the person of William A. Spooner, aged 79 years and 7 months. Deceased moved to Canada with his family in 1849, locating at York on the Grand River, where he engaged in lumbering. Probably no man in Canada, in his time, used up more of the forest of pine in the now older settled country. Years later he was engaged at Bell Ewart for H. W. Sage & Co., and with A. G. P. Dodge, of Waubaushene; also at Midland. Since retiring from active business he has been spending his reclining years with his son, Mr. A. W. Spooner, at Port Hope, where he made many warm friends.