

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN.

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THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

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ARTHUR G. MORTIMER.

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TO OUR READERS.

FOR the several years during which THE LUMBERMAN has been under its present management we have carefully avoided referring in cold type to matters of a financial character. As necessity, however, is a stern master, and we are much in need of a small fortune, in the way of overdue subscriptions, which is scattered throughout the Dominion, we have decided to make an urgent appeal to all readers in arrears to show their appreciation of our journal by remitting the small sum due by each before the close of the present year. The amount of subscription, when considered singly, is so small that many are inclined to "pigeon-hole" our accounts from time to time as being too trifling to remit, but these accounts in the aggregate form an important and quite indispensable fund, the withholding of which often proves ruinous to an otherwise prosperous business. Will our friends kindly indulge us for making a strong appeal to have all overdue accounts straightened up at once, and by so doing make our Christmas and New Year happy.

We have worked faithfully and well towards one object: that of making the CANADA LUMBERMAN equal in all respects to that of any of our *confreres*. Our progress in this direction has been proportionate to the patronage extended us, and from present indications the eleventh volume of this journal—which opens with the new year—will be by far the best yet issued. The publisher solicits a continued and even more active support from the lumbermen of the Dominion, in return for which we will endeavor to make Canada's only lumber journal one of which the trade will have just reason to be proud.

May the many readers of THE LUMBERMAN enjoy a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

THE Ottawa lumbermen are making preparations to go heavily into the square timber trade this winter, and the indications are that there will be more square timber taken out during the winter than for many years past. The prospect of high prices and increased demand which a short time ago was looked forward to with certainty has not been sustained by more recent developments. Should there be an overproduction, notwithstanding there may be an increased demand, it does not necessarily follow that there will be an advance in prices. While some of the lumbermen expect an advance in prices, others again are of the opinion that white pine lumber will be at least 10 per cent. below this season's quotations.

HON. H. G. JOLY is opposed to celebrating Arbor Day in the autumn, as in our cold climate fall planting of forest trees is a mistake. Speaking from experience he says he has lost hundreds of valuable trees by planting them in the fall. A transplanted tree always labors under a serious disadvantage, even when transplanted in the spring, but, in the fall, when taken up and replaced in a new hole, with mellowed earth round the roots, the autumn rains will soak the soft earth, and the early frosts before the heavy snows, will freeze, not only the soft earth but also the roots, which from their

spongy nature, absorb a considerable quantity of water. Water, in freezing, expands and bursts the bark of the roots, separating it completely from the wood, which kills the tree even more effectively than if all the bark was peeled off the stem.

THE amount of British capital seeking investment at the present time in the United States is almost unprecedented. This is largely brought about by accumulated capital becoming restive under a low rate of interest, and the tens of thousands who constitute the investing class are forever on the alert for a chance to put their money where it is likely to bring returns. As government securities are ruling low, the investment usually takes the form of subscriptions to capital stock, securing the British investors the local control and ownership of the property, while leaving the management in the hands of Americans. What will be the outcome of the immense investments which have been going on for sometime it is difficult to foresee. It is certain, however, that England is every day getting a stronger grip on the best investments in the States with a prospect of soon being able to control many of its leading industries. In this scramble for investments Canada has not been altogether overlooked, though the investments that have been made are not to be compared with those that have been made in the States. The plethora of money in England is very great, and what Canada most needs is capital. Its undeveloped native wealth is almost incredible, and there are innumerable fields open for its employment. If the proper steps were taken to impress upon British capitalists the great benefits to be derived from the development of our industries and natural resources, the investments could be increased to a much greater degree.

IN view of the result of the elections recently held in the States, it is not likely that the American congress will take any step toward retaliating against Canadian lumber. The sentiment of the people in favor of tariff reform is a growing one, and it is not to the interest of congress to openly defy it. The cool heads of the Republican party, will not favor retaliation knowing full well that it would work injury to the country. Another thing, the lumbermen themselves are by no means a unit on the question, and are therefore incapable of presenting a bold front. So far as Canadians are concerned, they can well afford to follow the even tenor of their ways, and in the meantime keep a sharp lookout for other markets. On this point, Mr. Bowell, Minister of Customs, in a recent conversation with a press representative is reported as saying: "We may have been dependent to a large extent on the United States for markets for the sale of our natural products in the past, but we are not going to remain in that position. We are going to spend money right and left in securing direct communication with foreign countries with whom we can build up a profitable market for the sale of our lumber, fish and other products. That we are in dead earnest," continued Mr. Bowell, "I have but to refer you to the steps we have taken in that direction this year. We are arranging to subsidize a line of steamers between Canada, China, Japan and Australia. We have tenders now before us for a direct steam communication between Halifax and the West Indies and between Halifax and South America. We have made provisions for a fast line of steamers between Canada and England, by securing from parliament an annual subsidy of \$500,000 to aid this service. We have sent commissioners to Australia, South America, the Hawaiian islands, and the West Indies to ascertain the most feasible step to take for securing closer

commercial relations with those countries, and as a result of all this we hope soon to be in position to say to the United States that we are independent of their markets, which they have so frequently threatened to close against us."

A MOST important report on timber supply was submitted at the session of the Carriage Builders' Association, held at Syracuse, N. Y. The committee in their report called attention to the second growth in white ash, the scarcest of all woods used in the construction of carriages and wagons. The supply was being heavily drawn upon in other industries, and the outlook in regard to it was very discouraging. As to old-growth ash the situation was but little better, although it was obtainable in much larger quantities. There would be enough of it to last for many generations were it not for the fact that it was so extensively used for the interior finishing of houses and cabinet work. The large old growth oaks of the South would make an excellent substitute for ash, and in some respects would prove superior to it. The supply of white wood was very abundant at the present time, but it was being cut up at a tremendous rate for house finishing purposes. Basswood was found in nearly all the timber states of the Union, and, should necessity require, it would make a good substitute for white wood in the manufacture of carriages. For hickory, on the other hand, the most important of all carriage timbers, there was no good substitute in all the world. It grew only in a few states and in a small part of Canada. White oak, important in the manufacture of wagons, was one of the most abundant of all the timbers used. Like old growth ash and white wood, it was being extensively employed in carpentry and for a thousand other purposes, but the supply was so great that there was no occasion for alarm in that fact.

IN reply to a petition from Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, regarding the enforcement of the statute referring to sawdust, the Hon. Charles H. Tupper, minister of marine and fisheries, exhaustively reviews the question of enforcing the law. He starts out by saying that his former action in directing a strict observance of the statute was based upon information gleaned from reports of officers of his department, who had on different occasions examined La Have River, and the reports were of such a nature as to admit of no other course than the one he had pursued. Quoting from a report made by Inspector Rogers in 1879, and from a report made by Mr. Samuel Wilmot, superintendent of fish culture in 1884, he adds "My attention being called last year to the neglect of officers of this department in Nova Scotia to enforce the law, I caused, as you are doubtless aware, notices to be served upon every mill owner in Nova Scotia to the effect that in the spring of 1889, and after, the law relating to sawdust would be rigorously enforced." Commenting upon the part of the petition which sets forth that the channel of the river has not been made shallower he says: "Taking the returns of mills' cut on La Have for 1887 and 1888, it is estimated that 25 per cent. of the lumber is reduced to sawdust, and, allowing for expansion, we have nearly 1,200,000 cubic feet of sawdust annually finding its way into the river, or, during the past 20 years, 24,000,000 cubic feet. The surveyed sawdust area approximates 9,000 feet long by 800 feet wide, and an examination of the sections shows an average depth of say 3 feet, thus giving a mass of sawdust within this area of 21,000,000 feet, and allowing for an average depth nearly three feet and half, this amount very clearly agrees with the sawdust accumulation of twenty years." The petitioners claiming that cheap manufac-