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ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED ON APPLICATION

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 points 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 in themselves 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.

TARIFF LEGISLATION.

TARIFF legislation, however carefully framed, is prone to cause dissatisfaction, and the most that the authors can hope for is to promote the welfare of the majority. Every industry has at some time felt the effects of what has been considered an unjust duty. That the lumber industry of Canada has been a great sufferer from tariff changes all will admit. Under the McKinley tariff which operated in the United States prior to September, 1894, an import duty on lumber entering that country was imposed, which, coupled with a general financial depression, well nigh crippled that industry in most provinces of the Dominion. By the Wilson bill which passed the United States Senate in the fall of 1894, lumber became a free import, but the advantages to be derived therefrom were greatly lessened by a ruling of the Board of General Appraisers as to what constituted dressed lumber. Again, the Dominion government imposed an export duty on saw logs, which operated unfavorably for American manufacturers, who finally succeeded in having the duty removed.

At the present time, when the lumbering industry in Canada shows signs of revival, a request has been made to the Dominion government by the pulp manufacturers, to impose an export duty on spruce wood, in the hope of developing pulp manufacture in Canada. On another page will be found the opinions of several interested persons. The expediency of such a move is open to question. While it might result in developing the manufacture of pulp in Canada, the general effect of such a duty upon the entire lumber in-

terest of the Dominion should be carefully considered.

Mr. Rowley, of the E. B. Eddy Co., speaks of retaliatory measures, and quotes the statement of Mr. Whitney that the United States government will not impose an import duty on Canadian lumber. Mr. Rowley has evidently forgotten the wording of the Wilson bill, paragraph 683 of which reads as follows: "Provided that all the articles mentioned, when imported from any country which lays an export duty or imposes discriminating stumpage dues on any of them, shall be subject to the duties existing prior to the passage of this Act." It will be clearly seen that in the event of an export duty on pulp wood, the duty imposed by the McKinley bill immediately comes into force, which would not only affect spruce lumber, which is principally used for pulp wood, but also pine, hardwood, shingles, and other lumber products.

It is claimed that eighty per cent. of the spruce wood of North America is to be found in Canada, and that American pulp manufacturers must look to Canada for their supply. No statistics are available to verify this statement, but it is known that vast quantities of spruce are yet to be found in Maine, and a few years ago the eastern markets of the United States were so flooded that it was found necessary to organize the Northeastern Lumbermen's Association to control prices. And who can foretell what changes a few years may bring? Poplar has already been used with success as a pulp wood, and ere many years have passed the demand for our spruce may have materially diminished.

It is improbable that any action will be taken by the government in the matter at the present session. Before another session is called a general election will have taken place, the result of which will have a bearing on the question. In the lumber industry in Canada there is an invested capital of nearly \$100,000,000, the annual wage list is \$30,000,000, and the annual output is valued at \$110,000,000. These figures and the circumstances above mentioned should be carefully considered before action is taken.

THE ECONOMICS OF LUMBERING.

We had something to say last month under the heading of "Cut-Offs" on the subject of the utilization of the bi-products of the mill which are now to a large extent destroyed. This is a subject to which mill owners should turn their attention. Years ago when raw material was abundant, there did not exist the same necessity for studying the economics of the business. With rapidly disappearing forests and steadily increasing competition among manufacturers of lumber, it has become necessary, in order to secure profit out of the business, that use should be found for every part of the tree. Some of our mill men have already come to recognize this fact, and are turning their attention to specialties, out of which they are making a satisfactory profit. Some of these specialties might, at first glance, appear insignificant, but on closer investigation it will be found that the demand is sufficiently large to warrant a certain number of manufacturers in devoting particular attention to them. We know at least one firm in Ontario who are making a specialty of butcher's skewers. They have invented special machinery for the purpose of manufacturing these skewers in the most perfect

and economical manner, and we believe are doing a prosperous trade. There are doubtless specialties of like character for which an equally profitable demand might be found.

✓ We had a conversation with a mill man not long ago who was endeavoring to organize a company for the manufacture of cloth boards, that is, boards from 7" to 10" wide and from 27" to 33" long, and rounded on the sides and ends, used by cloth manufacturers to place in the centre of rolls of cloth. This gentleman had inquired into the matter and found that a large demand exists for these boards, principally from the cloth manufacturing districts of England. The boards at present in use are principally made of bass-wood, and are imported largely from the United States. It is believed that spruce would be quite as suitable a wood for this purpose, and if machinery could be obtained which would manufacture the boards at one operation, no doubt a profitable business might be done.

These illustrations are given to show that our manufacturers should investigate the openings for specialties such as those we have mentioned, in the manufacture of which less competition and a greater amount of profit might be met.

FOREST PRESERVATION.

It is pleasing to observe the increased agitation for forest protection which comes from almost every province of the Dominion. That the better protection of our forests from the ravages of fire is absolutely necessary is becoming more apparent each year. It is earnestly to be hoped that this increased interest in the matter will result in some action being taken by the local governments.

The detrimental effects of forest destruction upon water supplies, vegetable growth, crop results, etc., have already been proven, and require no further verification. Frequently fishermen and prospectors are largely to blame for these fires. The former, after kindling a fire, do not take the necessary precautions to prevent its spread, while the prospectors start fires to remove the wood from the land in order to facilitate the search for minerals. Dr. Bell, in his recent lecture at the Canadian Institute, on "The Forests and Forest Trees of Canada," advanced the opinion, based upon his experience, that many of the fires which occur in pine forests are caused by lightning. This opinion refers especially to red pine, the resinous nature of which makes it very susceptible to ignition by lightning stroke, and which, when ignited, burns so fiercely that the fire travels at a remarkable speed, even jumping rivers in its course, and destroying countless thousands of dollars worth of timber in a few hours of time.

The division of the province into districts with a fire commissioner over each, on the lines of the system in operation in Algonquin Park, would seem to be the most feasible means of preventing the spread of fire. It would entail the expenditure of a few thousand dollars by each province, but this would be repaid with interest by the preservation of a large amount of valuable timber. Complaint is also made that large quantities of small timber are wasted by the practice of lumbermen cutting every small tree found within their limits. This is a matter which might also be remedied by the government by more strictly enforcing the laws governing the