

# THE CANADA LUMBERMAN.

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## THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

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THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interest 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 of them by others.

Special pains 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 upon which it can rely in its operations.

Special correspondents in localities of importance present 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 effecting 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 individually, 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 ten cents per line for each insertion. Announcements of this character will be subject to a discount of 25 per cent if ordered for three 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.

JUST before putting the last form of THE LUMBERMAN to press the annual circular from J. Bell Forsyth & Co., of Quebec, was received. The length of this report—giving as it does a detailed statement of the timber trade of Quebec for the past year—precludes its production in this issue, but will prove a valuable addition to our statistical edition of February 1st.

THOUGH several lumbermen from the United States attend at the sale of Ontario pine limits, at the Crown Lands office, and no doubt by their bids contributed to raise the purchases to the very satisfactory total, they were not large purchasers, unless, indeed, some of the berths were secured by them in the names of other men. This, however, does not seem likely, as most of the buyers have mills handy to the limits and require them for their own operations.

WITH the present issue we present to our many readers the first number of the eighth volume of the CANADA LUMBERMAN. It is almost needless to add in this connection that it will be our persistent aim to retain it in the high position it now fills—the acknowledged representative journal of the lumber and kindred trades of Canada—and that from month to month new and special features will appear in its columns. Let us hope that the eighth year of THE LUMBERMAN'S existence may be the most successful yet, and that it may shed its light on many who now know it not.

MR. PARDEE may well be content with the result of the sale of timber berths, which as Commissioner of Crown Lands for Ontario, he submitted to auction last month. A million and a quarter dollars was a very satisfactory total, and the individual lots, almost without exception, sold well. His most sanguine expectations must, we fancy, have been more than realized. This large sum is only a bonus given for a lease at a heavy rental, including the ground rents and stumpage dues

now exacted, so it must be conceded that the Province has obtained good value for its property. The fact that the dues have lately been so largely increased, and that there is no guarantee against a further raise, make the heavy bonus that were given still more remarkable. But the fact is that unappropriated timber lands are becoming scarce in Ontario, so there was lively competition for many of the lots. It will probably be some time before there is another sale of similar dimensions, at least in the settled portion of Ontario, where, indeed, little pine forest now remains in the hands of the Government. The purchasers, even though they paid rather largely, may possibly be congratulated with as much reason as the Administration.

ANOTHER year has drawn to a close, and its successor has been duly installed by Father Time. It would be difficult to determine the multiplicity of changes which have taken place among LUMBERMAN readers during the twelve months of the year 1887. Many have forsaken the vocation of years, and stepped down and out of business life; others have transferred their interests to other fields of labor; while not a few have joined the great caravan which is steadily moving to an unknown world. To the old year, and those who have passed away with it, let there be given a lasting memory for the good that has been done, forgetting always the darker side of the life that is past. The year '87 has been a prosperous one to many, and to others it has been a year of reverses. The fortunate we congratulate; the unfortunate receives the sympathy of all true men. Entering as we are on another year of business activity we all do it with more or less trepidation, fearing lest a storm may overtake our bark and throw us against a reef upon which we may lose the cargo which took, perhaps, a lifetime to accumulate. But though the signs of the times do not look the brightest, let us hope that the present stringency in the money market may be of short duration, and that before the logs now being cut are floated, that more confidence may be infused in the commercial world. To the lumbermen the prospects seem by no means discouraging. So far as we can learn work in the woods is making good headway, and every confidence exists among the trade. The hope of THE LUMBERMAN is that this may continue, and that the year 1888 will be second, in point of prosperity, to no year of the past.

FEBRUARY first next the second annual statistical edition of the CANADA LUMBERMAN will make its appearance, and no pains are being spared to make it the most interesting and complete edition yet issued from this office. Arrangements are being made whereby we will be enabled to present reports regarding last season's operations and the probable cut for the present winter from every part of the Dominion, together with all statistics obtainable showing the leading markets of consumption. Some of the best authorities on the lumber trade in the country will contribute to make this special effort a success, and one worthy of the great industry whose interests it is intended to represent. We would like every reader of THE LUMBERMAN to lend a hand in sending items of news or correspondence on relevant topics. There is not one on our list who cannot claim the possession of some knowledge, which, when published, would help his fellow craftsman. No one need be afraid of sending in their ideas in crude shape, as the editor will, in all cases, be pleased to fill in and place the same intelligently before our readers. The statistical edition will comprise six thousand copies, and will be mailed to every man to be found engaged in the lumber, wood-working and kindred industries in the Dominion, as well as a considerable number both in the United States and Europe. Advertisers desiring to take advantage of this large edition can ascertain the cost of different size spaces by referring to the prospectus on another page of this issue.

We have received from the Forestry branch, Department of Agriculture for Ontario, the forestry report for 1886. It contains a report from 160 townships, giving the amount of wood fit for fuel yet standing in the older settled portions of Ontario. A report of a careful examination of two townships of Ontario, one lying southerly and one northerly, with the view of obtaining an accurate idea of the effects of woods or lines on

trees on growing crops, and the climatic differences observed since the clearing up of the country. Notices of the progress of forestry in other countries. Results of experiments in sowing evergreens in large quantities in Ontario, and directions as to how similar results may be obtained. Complete directions as to raising all trees from seed and planting them out. Carefully prepared statements as to the lumber districts of Ontario; the value and uses of wood here; planting in school grounds and on Arbor Day; value of woods in preserving humidity in adjacent fields; proposed forest preservations; management of trees in cities; over-clearing in Ontario; plantations advisable on Ontario farms; preservation of birds; forest work in India; evergreen hedges; and many kindred subjects, as well as valuable reports from gentlemen who have of late years started plantations here. The dissemination of these reports has been productive of much benefit in the Province, many thousands of trees having been planted and an interest aroused which will lead to much greater results. Should any LUMBERMAN readers desire a copy of this report it will be cheerfully furnished by the Department.

THERE is a general anticipation, it is said, on the part of lumbermen in the Western States, that the customs duties on lumber imported from Canada will be done away by legislation likely to occur during the present session of Congress. Speculation is rife, says the *N. W. Lumberman*, as to the probable effect the free importation of Canadian pine will have in the United States. "Men," says that paper, "inclined to a belief in a protective tariff, jump at the conclusion that free importation will depress prices on this side, and overburden the markets with foreign products. But a careful and unprejudiced view of the matter does not so readily lead to that view. In case there were no duties to be paid on lumber from Canada, why should the producer in that country wish to sell his lumber any cheaper than the manufacturer on this side the line? Surely his desire would be to market his product at the highest market price. Furthermore, the supply of pine is not now so great, either in this country or in Canada, that there need be any fear of an over production that will seriously reduce prices. Men talk as if Canada lumber were a new thing in our markets, when the fact is that it has been pouring into this country for forty years. The duty of \$2 a thousand has not been sufficient to keep it out. Europe, the United States and the home demand has already absorbed so much of Canada pine, that owners of limits, and the Government, have begun to economize the forest resources of that country. There is not so much to be yet slaughtered that owners of it will be stimulated by the chance of free exportation to the degree of selling it so cheaply that it will depress the markets on this side. Now that the forest supply has been so reduced in the United States that strong men financially have been able to raise the price of stumpage to \$5 and \$7 a thousand in Michigan, and \$3 to \$5 in Wisconsin, there is little danger of overloading the markets of this country with Canada pine. The direct effect of an abrogation of customs duties between the two countries would be an enhancement of the value of stumpage in Canada. There would follow an immediate rush of American capital into the British provinces, seeking investment in timber limits and mill property. This would tend to the stiffening in value of such holdings. Pine in Canada, other things being equal, would soon become as valuable as pine in the United States. When competition became active between Canadian and the United States capitalists, as it soon would, pine holdings and the lumber industry of the Dominion would assume the level of that in the States."

A PETITION to the Hon. C. F. Fraser, Ontario Commissioner of Public Works, has recently been extensively signed throughout the Parry Sound district, setting forth the fact that the South or Inside Channel between the parts of Parry Sound, Midland, Penetanguishene, Waukaushene, Muskoka Mills, Indian Harbor, etc., has, of late years, become a well-established route for passenger and freight steamers, tugs and other vessels plying up and down the east shore of the Georgian Bay; that two obstructions to the use of the said channel by boats drawing more than six or seven feet of water exist, known as Two-Mile and Seven Mile Narrows, but that