ONTARIO TREE-PLANTING ACT.

The following is a copy of the Tree-Planting Act passed at the last session of the Ontario Legislature, and will no doubt prove interesting to many of our readers:

Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as "the Ontario Tree-Planting Act, 1883."

2. Chapter 187 of the revised statutes of Ontario is hereby repealed.

3. Section four of this Act shall not apply to any incorporated city, town, or village, unless the Council thereof first passes a by-law making the same apply thereto.

PLANTING TREES.

4. Any person owning land adjacent to any highway or to any public street, lane, alley, place, or square in this province, may plant trees on the portion thereof contiguous to his land; but no tree shall be so planted that the same is or may become a nuisance in the highway or other public thoroughfare, or obstruct the fair and reasonable use of the same.

(2) Any owner of a farm or lot of land may, with the consent of the owner or owners of adjoining lands, plant trees on the boundary lines of his farm or lot.

(3) Every such tree so planted on any such highway, street, lane, alley, place, or square, shall be deemed to be the property of the owner of the lands adjacent to such highway, street, lane, alley, place, or square, and nearest to such tree; and every such tree so planted on a boundary line aforesaid shall be deemed to be the common property of the owners of the adjoining farms or lots.

(4) Every tree now growing on either side of any highway in this province shall upon, from, and after the passing of this Act be deemed to be the property of the owner of the land adjacent to such highway, and nearest to such tree, shrub, or sapling.

MUNICIPAL BONUS.

5. The Council of any municipality may pass a by-law for paying out of municipal funds a bonus or premium not exceeding twenty-five cents for each and every ash, basswood, beech, birch, butternut, cedar, cherry, chestnut, elm, hickory, maple, oak, pine, sassafras, spruce, walnut, or whitewood tree, which shall, under the provisions of this Act, be planted within such municipality on any highway or on any boundary line of farms as aforesaid, or within six feet of such boundary.

(2) Such by-law shall further provide for the appointment of an inspector of trees so planted; for their due protection against injury and against removal by any person or persons, including the owner, excepting as authority may be given therefor by special resolution of the Council; for the conditions on which bonuses may be paid; and generally for such regulations as are authorized by chapter one hundred and seventy-four of the Revised Statutes of Ontario, section 454 (16).

(3) Printed copies of the said by-law, together with sections four, five, six, and seven of this Act, shall be posted throughout the municipality, and all claims made to the Council under the provisions of the by-law shall be referred to the inspector to obtain proof of the same and report thereon.

DUTY OF THE INSPECTOR.

6. The Inspector shall make to the Council one report for each year, if required so to do giving the names of all persons entitled to any bonus or premiums under the by-law, the number of trees of each species planted, and the amount of bonus or premium to which each person is entitled, and certifying that the distance between any one tree and the tree nearest thereto is not less than thirty feet, that the trees have been planted for a period of three years, and that they are alive, healty, and of good form; and upon the adoption of such report the bonuses or premiums shall be paid.

PROVINCIAL TREE-PLANTING FUND.

7. The Treasurer of the Province, upon receiving a copy of the inspector's report, certified by the Reeve and Clerk, shall recoup to the Treasurer of the municipality one-half of the the sum paid by the municipality under the authority of this Act, the said copy to be forwarded on or before the first day of November in each year.

8. The sum of fifty thousand dollars is hereby apportioned and set apart for the object of the foregoing section, and shall be known as "The Ontario Tree Planting Fund."

PENALTIES.

9. Any person who ties or fastens any animal to or injures or destroys a tree planted and growing upon any road or highway, or upon any public street, lane, alley, place, or square in this Province (or upon any boundary line of farms, if any such bonus or premium aforesaid has been paid therefor), or suffers or permits any any animal in his charge to injure or destroy, or who cuts down or removes any such tree without having first obtained permission so to do by special resolution of the Council of the municipality, shall, upon conviction thereof before a justice of the peace, forfeit and pay such sum of money, not exceeding twenty-five dollars besides costs, as such justice may award, and in default of payment the same may be imprisoned in the common gaol of the county within which the municipality is situate for a period not exceeding thirty days.

(2) One-half of such fine shall go to the person laying the information, and the other half to the municipality within which such tree was growing.

TREE BY-LAWS.

10. The Council of every municipality may pass by-laws:

(1) To regulate the planting of trees upon the public highway.

(2) To prohibit the planting upon the public highways of any species of trees which they may deem unsuited for that purpose.

(3) To provide for the removel of trees which may be planted on the public highway contrary to the provisions of any such by-law.

SPRUCE LOGS.

Mr. Ives, In the House of Commons on Wednesday, March 14th, introduced a resolution declaring it expedient to consider the question of an increase of the export duty on spruce logs exported from the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. There was nothing new in the principle in his motion. He said there was already a duty, and the only question was as to whether it should be increased. As it was, there was an export duty of $1 per thousand. The Americans, on the other hand, enforced a duty of $2 a thousand upon all sawn lumber. Thus there was a bounty of $1 per thousand in favor of carrying our logs across the line and manufacturing them in the United States.

Mr. Benson thought the principle should be extended to all kinds of saw-logs. Unless this was done, our own shingle and other manufacturers in wood would have to give up the business altogether.

Sir Leonard Tilley said the Government had the matter under its consideration. One of the difficulties it had to deal with was the question as to how the change would affect persons who had already made contracts and were cutting logs for the present season.

Mr. Charlton said the increase of export duty for the advantage of a few saw-mill men would be most unjust, and would operate in favor of a few mill owners to the disadvantage of a great number of farmers and dealers in logs. The export duty already was a measure of protection for Michigan lumbermen. If it was not for that duty, the lumbermen on the Georgian bay would be in a position to export their lumber in great quantities to the markets of Toledo and of the United States generally. Besides, the increase of export duty might invite reprisals on the part of the United States, and would prejudice our chances of getting American import duties on Canadian lumber removed. Should America decline to remove that duty, it would, in view of an increased export duty, be but poetic justice.

Mr. Ives said the House was accustomed to hear an annual speech on the follies of protection from the hon. member for Norfolk, and he supposed his motion had afforded the opportunity on the present occasion. In many cases the Government had applied protection where they believed it would have the effect of increasing the price, in the belief that the matter would soon regulate itself, and the result had been as they anticipated. This had had the affect of furnishing more work, creating a larger market, and giving increased consumption. The effect of the proposed increase in the export duty on logs would not decrease their value to the seller but the very contrary. As the law now stood the American manufacturer was able to pay one dollar per thousand more than if this extra duty were put on, and if it were imposed the effect would be that the American manufacturers would bring their machinery and capital to this country to manufacture the lumber, instead of it being taken out of the country.

Mr. Mitchell said he was a National Policy man, but he was not prepared to adopt the arrangements under which the markets to which men who had invested their money in lumber looked would be closed against them. He did not approve of hampering the lumbermen, and he only hoped that the Government would remove the duties on cornmeal and pork, which were injurious to the lumber trade in the Maritime Provinces. This, he thought, could be done without impairing the revenue or violating the National Policy, which had done such a great deal for the country.

Mr. Cook said that this proposal, if accepted, would strike at the fundamental principle of the lumber trade, which was to find a ready market for its produce. But it was not only the lumbermen who would suffer. The farmer who owned lumber on his farm would be injured. He did not rise so much to refer to that point, which had been ably dealt with by the member for North Norfolk, as to protest against the use of the term speculators, as descriptive of lumbermen. If the lumbermen were more speculators, what were the men to whom the lumber of the North-West was being given, not by public competition, but by private arrangement? So far as he was concerned, the duty would not affect him to any extent, for he exported his lumber in the manufactured state, and sent his sawn logs to England. He, however, hoped the Government, instead of increasing the duty on logs, would remove it altogether.

Mr. Sproule said however accurate the views of the member for Northumberland (Mr. Mitchell) might be as applied to the Maritime Provinces, they were not applicable to his part of the country. The remarks of the hon. member for Simcoe (Mr. Cook) regarding speculators in timber limits in the North-West came with very bad grace from him—(hear, hear)—for he was connected with one of the most extensive firms in the lumber trade; not only that, but he was a great monopolist, and it had been found impossible, out of numerous mills in the district, to find many that were not controlled by the Cook Bros. (Hear, hear.) Beyond this, he might remark that it was a mistake to suppose that farmers in the Georgian Bay district had large quantities of timber, and that the export duty would affect them. The Ontario Government took good care that they should not own valuable timber. (Hear, hear.) In fact, they gave the timber into the control of their favored monopolists by a peculiar manœuvre. A few years ago the Government of Mr. Mowat offered the limits for sale by public competition. It was understood that the supporters of the Government would buy in these limits at a figure that fair competitors could not afford to pay for them. After a time these men said they could not make their operations pay, and their limits fell into the hands of the Government, and were passed over at a reduced price to the persons on whose hands they now were.

Mr. Bolduc thought it would be in the interest of the trade if a duty of $2 per thousand were placed on all classes of logs exported.

Mr. Scriver said that in his constituency spruce timber was owned by farmers, and of necessity they were obliged to draw their logs across the line to find a market. He believed the increase of duty was in the interest of a few mill-owners and at the expense of the large class of agriculturists.

At the suggestion of the Minister of Finance the motion was withdrawn.—*Mail.*

AUSTRALIAN TRADE.

Messrs. Gemmell, Tuckett, & Co.'s report, dated Melbourne, January 17th, says:—Since last issue holidays have considerably interfered with business, the demand for all descriptions of timber being on a smaller scale than formerly. The large arrivals from Sweden and Norway have had a depressing effect on the market, and dealers are afraid to operate at present, prefering to wait the turn of events and reduce their stocks in the meantime. American lumber.—This line continues in good demand, and all parcels offered have realized prices fully sustaining late rates. We report sales of Michigan clear, 1¼ to 6 in., £17 7s. 6d. to £18 7s. 6d.; w. p. shelving (good), £11 2s. 6d.; inferior, £9 17s. 6p.; w. p. t. and g. ceiling, £9 5s. to £9 2s. 6d.; 7-8 in. dressed clear shelving, £16 5s. to £16 7s. 6d.; 1¼, 1½, and 2in. Canada clear, £14 10s. to £15 per m. super, the trade holding stocks only sufficient for present requirements. Norwegian and Scotch flooring.—The imports aggregate 8,604,804 ft. lineal. This quantity, combined with stocks in store, is beyond our requirements for some time, notwithstanding that the consumption continues on a large scale. Late sales show a falling off from last month's rates.

Messrs. C. S. Ross & Co. report:—Since departure of Rossetta, on 20th of December, the sales of timber have not been large, but it is evident that the numerous arrivals and the high rates for money have induced caution, and the deliveries for consumption are considerably less than at last advice. The imports for the month have been very heavy, and in some lines the arrivals during the past six months have been equal to the imports of the previous twelve months, and a large portion of this season's landing will be in stock to meet the arrivals in January, 1884. The very low freights from the west coast of America, and moderate freights from Norway, have induced excessive shipments of Oregon timber and flooring boards, and the quantity of red deals, from Sweden, is also beyond the rate of consumption. The great difficulty at present experienced is in the landing of cargoes, many vessels waiting from a week to a fortnight for a berth. It is almost unnecessary to state that nearly every line is sold at considerably less than the cost of importation. In addition to cargoes intended for this port, several cargoes on Adelaide and Sydney account have been ordered here, adding to our heavy stock, and tending to lower prices. It is impossible to forecast the end of the present large stock, but we anticipate that if money remains at present rate we do not require any red deals or flooring from Norway or Sweden for the next twelve months, as there will be a serious decline in the consumption.

New York.

The New York *Bulletin* of March 13, says: Thus far this week the general movement has been moderate, and without the development of new features over the condition of the market. In a general way consumption is now on the increase, and a steady growth may be expected as the season becomes more open, but necessity governs the action of all buyers and little or no investment against the future takes place. Dealers in consequence are not inclined to add to their yard stocks with freedom, and are particular in the selection of quality, the result of which is a failure to give any anxious attention to random offering from first hands unless something unusually attractive is shown. Agents, however, are getting a fair number of specifications for both building and manufacturing cuts, and can in most cases secure full bids.

MESSRS. Brouse & Wood, who have a saw mill and timber limit at the mouth of Bad Throad River on Lake Winnipeg, are getting out tamarac piles from 20 to 25 feet long, some of which are for the docks at Selkirk, and the balance will be left here for sale. There are also getting out 20,000 ties for the Winnipeg Street Railway and 1,500 cords of wood for the North-West Navigation Company, together with 4,000,000 shingles, 500,000 laths and about 5,000,000 feet of lumber, which will be disposed of at Selkirk.