

naturally Manitoba should get her supply of lumber from the Red Lake reservation timber and the surrounding country. High freights preclude the shipping of lumber from the Rocky Mountain region and British Columbia, where there is timber in great quantity and of fine quality, and if the British provinces are to develop, it is plain to be seen that an arbitrary line should not be permitted to stand in the way of their future development, for without an abundant supply of good timber furnished at reasonable prices the development of the prairie regions will be necessarily slow. The interests of the British provinces evidently lie in the direction of the repeal of the export duty on logs, and the cultivation of amicable relations with their American cousins, so far at least as the lumber question is concerned.

THE question of forestry, we are sorry to say, does not occupy the position in Canada which its importance demands. Valuable wood lands in the past have been ruthlessly destroyed, causing a dearth of timber in some parts, as in the Province of Quebec for instance; and some steps should be taken by the Dominion Government, not only to prevent the wanton destruction of timber but to encourage its further development. The government holds the wood lands of Canada in trust for the people, and it is the duty of the government to look after them. Not only where forests are nearly cut off should they be made again to grow, which can be done by proper treatment; but trees should be planted from time to time in all districts where timber is scarce, and the government should take the necessary steps to see that it is done and not leave it to the settler or the farmer. To this end it should try and create forests in the Northwest where timber is not only scarce now but is bound to be an important factor in the future. The cost of experimenting would not be great, while the benefits to be derived in the future would be incalculable. In looking after forest lands their management ought to be classified, and limits should not be forced upon the market.

HON. Mr. Haggart's bill recently introduced into the House proposes some radical changes in the postal service. The postage on letters remains the same, and the increasing of the weight to one ounce instead of half an ounce as formerly is a useful change; but this is more than counterbalanced by increasing the rate of drop letters to two cents. This would entail a vexatious burden upon merchants and others, and is a move for which the public is hardly prepared. In matters appertaining to the public service no backward steps should be taken. If instead of increasing the weight to one ounce, the reduction of postage to two cents had been made, it would have met with the general approval of the public. The objection that the revenue is now much less than the expenditure, is met with the argument that the enhanced increase in the number of letters sent would more than make up the loss as proved to be the case in the United States. The subjecting of magazines and other papers published less frequently than once a week to a postage rate of one cent a pound, smacks too much of a tax upon knowledge, and therefore ought not to be entertained. It is too late in the day to recur to a system imposing taxes upon the diffusion of knowledge in a free and enlightened country.

THE question of getting rid of the refuse of the saw mills without entailing considerable expense is one which has bothered the lumbermen a good deal. It is a well known fact that the shavings and sawdust deposit in many of the Canadian streams has been such a nuisance to navigation, that the government has been obliged to take cognizance of the evil and compel mill owners to dispose of it in some other way. Instead of its being a source of expense to lumbermen it ought to be utilized, and thereby converted into a source of profit. In this age of invention we aver that ere long all the saw mill refuse will be so utilized and put to some profitable use. An ingenious individual out in Minnesota comes to the fore, and claims to have devised a scheme whereby he can turn all the sawdust into a merchantable fuel which can be readily handled, and

which may take the place of coal. We believe this can be done, and done profitably. The experiment of making paper from sawdust at Ottawa, from what we can learn, has proved a success; and though the machinery used in its manufacture may seem to be somewhat expensive on the start, yet the paper can be manufactured and sold at a reasonable profit. This is not only a move in the right direction, but it also serves as a pointer to the proper way of getting rid of the troublesome question—and the sawdust too.

THE report of the Minister of the Interior contains some very interesting statistical information as regards timber and lumber in the west. The gross revenue from which at the Winnipeg Agency was \$45,558.52, as against \$45,611 for 1887, the quantity of timber manufactured in 1888 was 17,409,136 feet B. M., which, compared with 1887, shows a decrease of 2,710,227 feet, while the quantity sold was 22,349,589 feet, an increase of 5,127,568 feet over the preceding year, the stock on hand being replenished from lumber manufactured from American logs. There were imported from the State of Minnesota and manufactured at Rat Portage, Keewatin and Winnipeg about 21,000,000 feet B. M. The Crown Timber Agent for the Winnipeg district reports that the importation of these logs has had the effect of keeping down prices of lumber to a reasonable figure. The prices of sawn lumber averages \$2 per M feet higher than in 1887, caused by a combine of the manufacturers at Rat Portage and Keewatin. During the year 1888 no lumber or other wood produce has been shipped from this district to the United States. In this district there are 26 saw mills, 4 being water mills, the remaining steam, the sawing capacity of the 26 being 526,000 feet B. M. per day. There were manufactured in the district during the year, 17,409,136 feet of lumber B. M.; 3,147,000 shingles, and 1,378,500 lath. Three mills were not working in 1888; one timber berth was abandoned and two cancelled.

THE report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands for Ontario for the year ending 31st December, 1888, has just been issued. From the report we learn that during the year there were sold 54,267 acres for the sum of \$78,448.33, and the collections on account of land sales were \$99,259.24, which includes payments on account of former sales. The total collection for the year from woods and forests was \$1,316,139.09, which includes \$748,865.34 paid on account of bonuses, leaving the collection of ordinary revenue for the year to be \$567,273. There was paid to fire rangers \$17,854.53, besides \$6,258.55 paid on account of this service for 1887, one half of which is refundable by the license holders. The report says this service continues to give satisfaction to those availing themselves of its provisions, and it is being extended over a wider area every year. It was inaugurated in 1885, in which 37 rangers were employed upon various limits. In 1886, 45 were employed, in 1887, 55 were employed, and in 1888 there were 70. Although the summer was not so dry as the one preceding, yet extensive bush fires took place, notably in the Georgian Bay regions, on the Bonnechere and Petewawa Rivers, in the Ottawa country, and the Nipissing country. The rangers and lumbermen were asked, as usual, to report the quantity of timber damaged, the quantity likely to prove a total loss, and, generally speaking, the causes of the fires. The information thus gathered shows about seventy-five distinct fires; timber damaged one hundred and sixty millions of feet, of which not more than ten or fifteen millions will prove a total loss. The principal cause of the fires is given as the result of setting out of fires by settlers in the process of clearing land for cultivation and carelessness as to the surrounding circumstances. The fires on the Bonnechere and Petewawa were very dangerous, as they bordered on dense pineries, and it was only by a systematic fight and considerable expenditure they were kept from spreading, in which event the loss would have been incalculable. Under the Free Grants Acts there are 133 townships open for settlement. During 1888, 842 locations were made on 100,002 acres of land, 74 locatees purchased 2,797 acres, and 523 patents were issued to locatees. Under the mining laws 5,542 acres were sold and patented in the

Districts of Algoma, Nipissing, Rainey River and Thunder Bay, applicants having filed surveyor's plans, field notes and descriptions of the locations. On colonization roads there was expended \$112,273. Two hundred and twenty miles of new road were constructed, 333 miles repaired, 30 new bridges were built and many old ones were repaired. The statement of timber and amounts accrued during the year is as follows; Area covered by timber license, 16,934 square miles, timber dues, interest and trespass, \$859,131.22; ground rents, \$58,893.83; and bonus, \$769,990.34; making a total of \$1,688,015.39. The following are the principal kinds of woods from which the revenue accrued: White pine sawlogs, 6,364,650 pieces, 699,581,000 feet B. M.; other woods, 36,684 pieces, 2,862,000 feet B. M.; square white pine 52,640 pieces, 2,923,332 cubic feet; square red pine 11,486 pieces, 433,256 cubic feet; boom and dimension timber 228,524 pieces, 41,177,000 feet B. M.; railway ties 761,346 pieces; hemlock 449 pieces, 21,496 feet, and cedar 363,441 lineal feet.

THE Montreal and Ottawa Boom Company applied to the Dominion Government for articles of incorporation, subject to the provision that the "Company shall on any part of the River Ottawa, from the Chaudiere Falls at Ottawa to the north-westerly end of the Island of Montreal and either on one or both of the channels to the northwest of the said island and on the shore adjoining the said extent of the said river and the islands therein, have power to purchase or acquire any wharves, piers, slides, dams, booms, or other improvements in the said part of the said river, and to construct and maintain any dam, slide, wharf, pier, boom or other work necessary to facilitate the transmission and towing of rafts, timber, railway ties, cedars and sawlogs down the Ottawa River, and to blast rocks, dredge or remove shoals or other impediments or otherwise improve the navigation of the said river upon payment of compensation to any individual injured thereby." The introduction of the bill brought about considerable discussion in the Ottawa district, and much opposition to the formation of the company; although there were safeguards in the Act to protect the public interests. The gentlemen applying for the bill represent the Ottawa lumber interest and consist of Messrs. Claude McLachlin, F. W. Powell, G. B. Pattee, J. R. Booth and Hiram Robinson. The lumbermen deemed it necessary that a company be formed to protect their extensive business on the Ottawa, as works are necessary to facilitate the passage of rafts and logs; and to this end they seek for power to construct such works and control them and charge common tolls, so that without confusion they can facilitate their joint business and enhance their interests. It was claimed by the opposition that the lumbering interests in the river were amply guarded by existing laws. Mr. Girourd, who had charge of the bill, finally asked permission to withdraw it, as the bill had not been properly framed and did not correctly describe the powers desired by the company. The wording of the bill made the company appear to ask power over the whole of the Ottawa River, which they did not desire; all they wanted was power to boom at the foot of the Carillon rapids, and at a point north of the Island of Montreal. Next year the bill will most likely be re-introduced in a modified form.

MR. HOTCHKISS, United States Consul at Ottawa, has addressed a very interesting report to the Senate department at Washington, treating upon the comparative forest resources of Canada and the United States. In his report he seeks to refute the prevalent idea which prevails on the other side of the line that Canada is a vast forest of pine. He places the limits of the pine region as lying between the 73rd and 90th degrees of latitude, and practically ceasing at about the 47th degree of longitude, an area of 150 by 300 miles; comparatively a small area of virgin territory remaining. The forests of Canada first undergo a system of cutting out all the superior timber for the English market, a practice which reduces the quality of the remainder so low as to find a market in the United States and Dominion only. The consul says the timber is much