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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 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 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 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 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.

THE DUTY ON BRITISH COLUMBIA CEDAR.

SOME time ago attention was called to a dispute which had arisen between a British Columbia shipping firm and the United States customs officials as to the classification of red cedar from that province. The latter held that dressed cedar siding was subject to duty, but the shipping firm appealed, with the result that the Circuit Court decided that the goods should be admitted free. The following letter, sent to the Collector of Customs, at Plattsburg, N. Y., will explain the matter.

(COPY)

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
Office of the Secretary,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 26, 1895.

COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS,  
Plattsburg, N. Y.

SIR,—The Department is in receipt of a letter from the Attorney-General, dated the 21st ultimo, stating that in the case re F. W. Myers & Co., being an appeal from the decision of the Board of General Appraisers, (G. A. 2971), involving the dutiable classification of certain "red cedar," was decided adversely to the Government by the U. S. Circuit Court for the Northern District of New York, on July 3rd last.

The merchandise in this case consisted of certain dressed red cedar lumber, and was classified by you under the provisions of paragraph 181 of the act of August 28, 1894, which provides as follows: "House or cabinet furniture, of wood, wholly or partly finished, manufactures of wood, or of which wood is the component material of chief value, not specially provided for in this act, twenty-five per cent. ad valorem."

The importers protested, claiming that the merchandise was entitled to free entry under the provisions of paragraph 676 of the free list, which provides for "sawed boards, plank, deals and other lumber, rough or dressed, except boards, plank, deals and other lumber of cedar, lignum vitæ, lancewood, ebony, box, granadilla, mahogany, rosewood, satinwood, and all other cabinet woods."

In passing upon the protest the Board of General Appraisers held that, inasmuch as the merchandise was "lumber of cedar," it fell within the exception mentioned in paragraph 676, and was not entitled to free entry.

On the trial of the case it was shown that the lumber was cedar lumber of the character generally used for building purposes, and that it was not suitable for cabinet uses, whereupon the court ruled that the exceptions referred to in said paragraph 676 related entirely to lumber generally known and used as cabinet woods, and that the decision of the Board of General Appraisers was erroneous.

In regard thereto, you are informed that it is the opinion of the Department that the decision of the court is correct, and that no appeal would have been taken had this Department received due notice of the said decision within thirty days of its delivery. You are authorized accordingly to take the usual course for refunding the duties exacted in excess and to apply these instructions to any similar cases that may be pending where all requirements of law as to protest and institution of suit have been fully complied with.

Respectfully yours,  
(Signed) C. S. HAMLIN,  
Acting Secretary.

It is worth noting that although the decision of the Circuit Court was given on the 3rd of July, the Treasury (i.e., Customs) Department was not notified of it till the 21st of September, so that collectors were not instructed till nearly three months after it was given, and in the meantime, doubtless, went on levying the duty. Of course those who paid will be entitled to a refund, but it is needless to point out that much inconvenience and annoyance must have been caused, to say nothing of the loss of trade. It does seem unfriendly on the part of the government of the United States to impose such needless restrictions on trade. Certainly when their own courts decide against them there should not be so much delay in giving effect to such decisions.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE United States government is not in the habit of extending facilities of trade with Canada, on the contrary, every hindrance is placed in our way, as witness the lobster can duty and the dressed lumber decision of the board of appraisers. However one courtesy has recently been extended, the treasury department having decided that invoices for timber or other goods, imported from places where there is no United States consul, may be certified by a reputable merchant, or by the consul of any friendly power. We suppose we should be thankful for small favors.

THAT it is an ill wind that blows nobody good is again demonstrated in the case of the present unpleasantness in Cuba, and lumbermen in certain lines of goods have to bless the political disturbances there. They have cut off the supply of mahogany, thus enabling holders to dispose of surplus stocks which had accumulated in New York and Boston during the business depression of 1893 and 1894. Present prices show an advance of from 5 to 8 per cent. over those of last year. While Mexican and Central American wood may take the place of Cuban mahogany to some extent, African never can, as it is softer and inferior in some other respects. So the row in Cuba is putting money into the pockets of dealers in this kind of wood.

A REASONABLE tariff of charges results in a larger revenue than when rates are fixed too high. The post office and street railway are proof of this. Recognizing this principle, a West Coast lumber journal remarks that if the transcontinental railways would reduce their lumber freight rates ten cents per hundred pounds, they would soon pass out of the hands of the receivers and become prosperous. Perhaps both freight and passenger rates on transcontinental roads are too high. The railway companies should be the best judges as to what is a paying rate. The lower they make it the more business they should do, within certain limits. Still it well known that the companies put on all the traffic will stand. We agree with our contemporary that a lowering of rates would result in a vastly increased traffic, and would pay.

PROF. Runnebaum, of Dublin, was sent some time ago by the German government to examine the timber resources of the Pacific Coast. He expresses his amazement at the waste that is going on, and says that if it is not stopped the present generation may live to

see lumber shipped from Germany to Puget Sound. While in Europe governments are seeking to make trees grow, in America they are destroying them—not only those suitable for timber, but also the saplings, which are the rightful heritage of future generations. Prof. Runnebaum's remark that the life of the forests is the life of the people is not a mere flourish of rhetoric. Not only as a direct source of wealth, but on sanitary and other economic grounds they should be preserved. The German professor is appalled at our wastefulness on this continent, and little wonder.

THE boom in South Africa, while it will undoubtedly result in disaster to somebody, is bringing prosperity to the West Coast lumbermen of America. Shipments of Douglas fir have jumped away up all at once. Tacoma, one of the principal ports on Puget Sound, nearly doubled its shipments by water in September over the previous month. There seems to be a large demand for mining props, and as these timbers are required of great length, Douglas fir is peculiarly well adapted for the purpose. Timber is also required for building, for Johannesburg, and other South African towns, are, like other mining towns, growing at an amazing rate. But the boom cannot last. It is a surprise that it has not already burst. There is no reason why our West Coast lumbermen should not make hay while the sun shines, but they would do well to be careful, for it is no advantage to sell lumber if they don't get paid for it and when the collapse comes someone is sure to be badly left.

MR. J. B. Tyrrell, of the Canadian Geological Survey, has been doing very important exploratory work for some years, in the far North and North-West, in connection with that branch of the public service. While giving special attention to the geological features of the country, he incidentally gathers a great deal of information respecting its soil, timber, etc. He has just returned from a season's work east of Lake Winnipeg, where he found a good tract of country, with deep, rich soil, not unlike that of the Red River Valley. This extends for about one hundred miles back from the lake. The whole country, however, has been burned over by great fires, which prevailed there from seven to ten years ago and destroyed all the timber. The charred trunks of the burned trees are a prominent feature of the landscape. What a pity such destruction should have been wrought. The timber would have been within easy reach of the Manitoba market, where lumber is and will be in great demand as the country fills up with settlers. And worst of all, these destructive fires were largely the result of carelessness.

CANADA has, it seems, vast areas of forest wealth yet unexplored. Dr. Bell, of the Geological Survey, who has just returned from his summer's work in the far north, reports having discovered a large river, not laid down in the maps, which flows into James Bay. He informs us that its banks are very heavily wooded with pine, spruce, tamarac, balsam, and white birch. The forest extends along the whole length of the river, several hundred miles. The axe of the lumberman has never been heard in these solitudes; nor has fire, which works such havoc in the forest, wrought any destruction. The river is larger than the Ottawa, and has numerous falls and rapids, furnishing splendid water power. The Crown Lands Department at Quebec say, however, that they knew of the river and the territory adjoining, which was explored last year by Mr. Henry O'Sullivan, acting superintendent of surveys, though his report has not yet been published. The river is known, Mr. O'Sullivan says, as the Nottaway, and it has two great branches—the Waswanapi and the McKiscan. There is an immense tract of splendid agricultural land in the region, and considerable spruce, tamarack, and Banksian pine. Hon. Mr. Flynn, Commissioner of Crown Lands, has taken possession of the territory on behalf of the Province of Quebec.

Messrs. Bertram & Co., of Toronto, are building a steam logger which is destined to supersede horses to a large extent in the woods.