

# 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 15 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.

THE export of lumber from Portland, Me., during the past year has been heavy and fully up to the amount shipped in former years. The greater part of the shipments have been from Canada,—principally spruce. The lumber goes over the Grand Trunk railroad, and is placed in bonded warehouses or loaded direct on vessels. The shipments from Portland last year amounts to 43,175,500 feet, valued at \$471,880. The amount shipped in transit amounts to 10,164,000 feet, valued at \$112,215. All this lumber went to South America, the principal points being Buenos Ayres, Rosario and Montivideo.

IN laying out the town of Kakabeka Falls, near Port Arthur, Ont., a new departure on the Henry George principle has been entered into. The price of a business lot has been fixed at \$250 and a workman's lot at \$125, the management reserving out of this five per cent. for roads and parks, and twenty per cent. to be used in assisting manufacturing concerns to start operations in the town. Something like one thousand acres have been laid out into lots and manufacturing sites. The management has let a contract for getting out a pile of logs and a saw mill along with other industries will be erected in the spring.

IF Russia has no better representative to send to this beautiful climate of North America than Bill Grippe, we would thank her kindly if she would keep her native productions at home. We are inclined to be a hospitable people, and are ever ready to extend a royal reception to any foreign potentate or power that may come amongst us, but we hate to be imposed upon. During the month, that hideous tramp, Bill Grippe,

unceremoniously entered our establishment, and with one fell swoop of his paw, knocked every one of our staff into pi. That is the reason why we have to apologize to our patrons for the scarcity of reading matter and lateness of the present issue. He left as unceremoniously as he came, followed by a yell from our devil. Avant! foul sprite. Back to thy Russian lair.

THE *Northwestern Lumberman* publishes a list of fire losses during 1889 in the United States and Canada, aggregating 662, against 494 in 1888, 349 in 1887, 310 in 1885 and 223 in 1884. Of these 354 were saw mill fires, of which 75 were in connection with other mill and factory property, lumber, etc. There were 210 planing mill losses, including 32 sash, door and blind factories and other connections; 55 shingle mill losses; 30 dry kilns, and 76 separate lumber losses. An estimate of loss is given in about 500 cases, aggregating approximately \$8,000,000, while the insurance reported amounts to about \$2,400,000. Fifty-three cases with no insurance are reported. These figures go a long way towards answering the question, where does all the machinery go to?

DOUGLAS fir, as is well known to the lumber trade is the principal timber of Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. A Pacific Coast exchange has the following to say in regard to Douglas fir:—It would seem that the lumbermen of the west should agree on some one trade name for the woods of this section. As it now stands eastern men and foreign customers are mystified by the various names assigned by the different lumbermen. Oregon dealers have a local pride in adhering to the old name of "Oregon Pine," while the Washington men have "Yellow fir," "Puget Sound fir," "Red fir," and occasionally it is called "Pacific Coast pine." All these names stand for just two varieties of Douglas fir, viz: the yellow and red. All well posted lumbermen in the north-west know that Douglas fir is the proper name, but habits and prejudices are strong, so the local names are still used, and it will take time to adopt what is right. Douglas fir only should be advertised for sale, quoted and written about until every man who buys lumber should have it firmly fixed in his mind and as definite in its trade meaning as the word "Pine" to a Wisconsin or Michigan man.

AMERICAN lumber papers are pressing congress to increase the customs duty upon Canadian lumber imported into the United States, with the view of compelling the Canadian government to repeal the export duty on logs. Senator Hoar, chairman of the Committee on Relations with Canada has already introduced into the United States Senate a resolution which is not without significance. The resolution, which was referred to the Finance Committee, instructs that committee, whenever it reports a tariff bill, to incorporate in it a provision that whenever any foreign country shall impose an export duty on logs in any form, or on manufactured or on partially manufactured lumber, a duty shall be collected on such logs and lumber in the United States equal to the amount of the export duty so imposed, in addition to the duty otherwise imposed by law. There can be little doubt that the resolution offered by Mr. Hoar is designed to give the Treasury Department the power to counteract the export duty imposed by the Canadian government upon logs for export to the United States. The Michigan and other lumbermen have complained that the varying rates of export duty imposed upon logs by the Canadian government has had a bad effect upon

their business, especially as the changes have been made without notice. This may be true to some extent, but the great trouble lies in the fact that the American lumbermen, knowing that there is money in Canadian logs, want to convey them to their mills to be manufactured without paying any duty, and at the same time retain the import duty on Canadian lumber. The export duty on logs was imposed to enable us to husband our forest resources, and guard them jealously from foreign invasion, and if the American congress should see fit to impose an import duty on Canadian lumber as to shut it out of the American market, they can rest assured that when the American lumbermen want Canadian logs they can whistle for them.

DURING our rambles among the wholesale lumbermen in Toronto and elsewhere we have repeatedly heard complaints regarding the inexplicit manner in which many manufacturers of lumber offer their stocks for sale by letter. Not sufficient attention is given to details as a rule, and in order to ascertain the exact quality and kind of stock offered the wholesaler has to put himself to unnecessary time and expense in asking questions by letter which should have been explicitly given in the communication to him. We trust that the following suggestions on this subject will not be considered out of place:

- (1) State as definitely as possible the quantity of each kind of lumber you wish to sell.
- (2) State the thickness, and quantity of each thickness, also length, and as near as possible the proportion of lengths.
- (3) Give widths, 6" and up or 8" and up, as the case may be; also the average width. This is important.
- (4) How long the lumber has been on sticks; also as to its present state of dryness.
- (5) Name the grade. It will run hardwood give as near as practicable the percentage of firsts and seconds contained therein; if pine the percentage of the various grades. Also give an idea of the general character of the lumber.
- (6) State shipping point, as the rate of freight always affects the price paid.

In giving quotations by letter it is necessary that the intending purchaser be furnished with information similar to the above; otherwise several day's delay is often caused in ascertaining the necessary particulars regarding the stock, and sales are frequently lost in the meantime.

THE *Mississippi Valley Lumberman*, in a recent article on the Canadian log export duty, says: "It would be perfectly futile to appeal to the government of Canada for the redress of the wrong. What it wants to do is to skin the Yankee, and if the Yankee, who is being skinned, squirms under the knife the only answer is a grim smile of satisfaction. Fortunately, however, there is a remedy within reach, and it is in the hands of congress. It has only to enact that, if any country imposes an export duty on pine or spruce logs, its pine or spruce lumber when imported into the United States, shall pay an additional duty equal to the export duty, and the Canadian soon will come down. Or if congress proposes to reduce the lumber duty let it provide that no country imposing an export duty on logs shall have the benefit of that reduction, and the result will be the same. It is simply a matter of justice that congress should protect the interests of American mills, and American holders of Canadian limits in the manner we have indicated. The Canadian government is not so hard to approach as our contemporaries would have it to appear, for when approached in the right spirit, it is ever ready to lend a willing ear looking to the redress of real or imaginary wrongs. The export duty was imposed in the first place not for the purpose of skinning the Yankee, but to protect the interests of Canadian mills,