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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 them 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.

AUSTRALIAN HARDWOODS.

EXPORTERS of timber in Australia are making special efforts to secure a market for their woods in Great Britain. At the present time Mr. Gaven Scott, representing one of the largest firms in Sydney, is in England with this purpose in view. He has visited the leading cities of England and Scotland, and also journeyed to Brussels, Antwerp, Hamburg, Paris and other continental cities. A report sent home to his house states that he has met with much encouragement and he expresses the opinion that there is a good prospect of Australian hardwood sleepers taking the place of the timbers now in use. In Manchester large orders have already been given firms in Western Australia for a supply of Jarrah for wood blocking, and Mr. Scott is endeavoring to have some of the New South Wales hardwood blocks laid alongside the Jarrah blocks so that an experiment can be made as to how the different timbers wear. In Liverpool Canadian deals are used quite largely for street paving, and it is not unlikely that they will also meet the competition from Australia. It is stated that 75,000 railway sleepers are renewed annually in England, and it is from this source that Mr. Scott hopes to see a large trade in Australian woods develop. As we have taken occasion in these columns to remark before, there is a wonderful durability about certain Australian woods, rendering them proof against the ravages of various insects, and also of climatic conditions. An illustration of the durability of Australian hardwoods, and particularly of iron bark, is furnished by some of the piles which are being removed in connection with the improvements on the western side of the Circular Quay, Sydney. These piles have been in the ground about 40 years, and many of them are nearly as sound as when they were first put down. The piles consist chiefly of red and grey iron bark; both have lasted well, but the former rather better than the latter. To so slight an extent are some of these piles injured that they will be used for temporary work at other points. A few of the iron bark piles have been superficially attacked by the toredo, but this destroying pest, after burrowing for about one-

half an inch, seems to have turned back and abandoned the piles. Specimen slices from these piles are being forwarded to the forestry department to be placed in the forestry museum, and also to be sent to England and other countries to illustrate the durability of New South Wales hardwoods.

WHY DEFRAUDED SOMETIMES.

COMPLAINT keeps reaching us of the sharp practices of lumbermen who want to get ahead of some one in their purchases of lumber. One device or another is employed to do the mill owner or wholesaler out of a part of his shipment, if not the whole of it. We learned the other day of a wholesaler in Toronto who received a cheque from a concern across the border, to whom a carload of lumber had been forwarded, where some \$8 or \$10 had been coolly deducted from the amount of cheque without any satisfactory explanation being made, whilst the cheque was very cunningly worded "in full of account." The man who will play tricks of this kind needs to be watched, and we hope that the trade will quickly get on to all such.

Right here we take occasion again to say that the different members of the trade could be protected against this kind of fraud if they were only organized so that each one might know who were the dishonest ones. There is, however, another side to the story. Some one has remarked, "There is never a shark without a corresponding sucker." We don't feel sorry for some men getting let in occasionally, for they have deserved nothing better. Their keenness to make another dollar or two has led them to sell lumber at a price sufficiently in advance of the best price going to have told them that either the man who bought at such a figure did not know his business, and consequently, sooner or later, would come short in his payments, or else all he wanted was to get the lumber into his hands and let the dealer whistle for his pay. Everybody is anxious to do business in these days of slow trade, but far better for a man to keep his lumber in his yard, though he might need the money ever so badly, than ship it away and be minus lumber and money.

Care, caution and common sense ought to be exercised in filling any order for lumber when it comes from a stranger. Learn of the man's financial responsibility; further, ascertain something about his business ability, and whether he is a straight or a crooked man. In this way we will find the community minus both shark and sucker, and the trade will be the better for this.

WHITE PINE PROSPECTS.

NOT a few of the more thoughtful lumbermen, whose operations are largely in white pine, have been asking themselves the question, what really is the future of white pine? All recognize the premier position, which in many respects, this wood holds, and yet they know that various elements, foreign to the situation in the past, are showing themselves of late. The Timberman has a carefully-written article along these lines, starting out with the assumption that it looks as though ordinary white pine timber had been pushed to too high a price. The reflections of our contemporary are as follows:—

"The great advance in white pine prices came after the census of 1880 was made public, with the misleading statistics incorporated therein concerning the amount of standing pine timber in the Northwest. The effect of these erroneous figures was modified by the disclosure of their real worthlessness, but an impetus was given to the advance in the value of pine timber which could not be entirely checked; and prices have gone up from that time to this, not even the depression of the last two years having had much effect on them.

"In this boom—for such it was to a large extent—too little attention was paid to the real worth of the timber. White pine was white pine, and many purchases were made with little regard to the amount of Norway which would be found in the tract or the amount of piece stuff timber in the white pine itself. It hardly occurred to the white pine lumbermen of twelve or fourteen years ago that that wood could have any competitor for any purpose whatsoever, and they felt as confident of the supremacy of white pine piece stuff as they did of uppers. But times have changed. White pine uppers are in as good

demand as ever, as shown by the prices maintained, regardless of the value of other portions of the price list. But the proportion of uppers in the total cut is constantly decreasing, and the lower grades are meeting competition on all sides.

"In piece stuff southern pine occupies a constantly increasing field, and the white pine must come down instead of the yellow pine advancing in price, for the reason that yellow pine, though comparatively new in the northern markets, is in almost unlimited supply, and is being pushed with the advantage of low stumpage value right into the white pine field proper. There's where the rub comes in. We know of northern timber, including Norway as well as white pine, which represents to its holders, including original cost, taxes and interest, from \$6 to \$7 a thousand, and yet which runs largely to low grades. The piece stuff and other low grade stock cut from this timber has to compete with the better quality cut from the southern timber that represents at the outside \$1 a thousand stumpage.

"Freight rates, of course, have their influence, but for equal hauls, the southern mills have the advantage; and in any event, the difference in the cost of the timber will more than make amends for any differences there may be.

"It seems therefore questionable whether the average white pine timber, as it is now found, is worth what it is held at. There is no question as to uppers or as to the value of the better kind of logs, but many of the operators in the lower parts of the white pine field, who are cutting perhaps the second or third time over their land, might as well face this condition now as later."

This view of the situation is not entirely new to Canadian lumbermen, and has been referred to in these columns before. None the less, however, is it deserving of careful thought at this time. The fact that the reference is to United States white pine does not lessen its value to lumbermen in Canada whose interests are closely allied with those of their congeners to the south.

NORTHERN TIMBER DISTRICTS.

THE northern districts of Ontario are commanding more than usual attention at the present time. By these we mean that section of territory in the vicinity of North Nipissing, Eastern Algoma and Rainy River. Persons who have visited these territories lately have taken occasion, through the press, to draw attention to the rich resources of that section of the province. We find that not the least of these resources is the timber. Lumbermen know something of the timber to be found in the Nipissing district, and further north, but we fancy that few comprehend the fullness of the lumber riches of those territories. A pamphlet of nearly 100 pages, prepared under instructions from the Commissioner of Crown Lands, serves to convey a large amount of information of this country.

It is pointed out that Algoma and Nipissing districts and the Temiscamingue settlement are in that belt of the world which has ever been the most famous for the production of grasses, vegetables, fruits and cereals, and—men. A dense forest covers the whole of the land. Pine, of course, is found in large quantities, but the timber resources are in no way confined only to pine. Great quantities of pulp wood are found there, to an extent that it is hardly possible to readily calculate. In hardwoods the territory is very rich, and noting what has been remarked in another column on the uses of hardwood for flooring, fencing, and many other purposes not formerly adopted, extra interest is given to this country from the lumberman's point of view.

Black birch is found there, and of a size which astonishes persons familiar with the tree farther south. Specimens of two to three feet in diameter are common. This wood, as lumbermen are learning to know, is proving a very general substitute for cherry. White birch also grows in the same district to a large size, and it is to be remarked that this is not the same species of birch that grows as a small tree over the eastern provinces and New England, but is a large straight-growing tree, furnishing sheets of bark sometimes large enough in a single sheet to make a good-sized canoe.

White cedar is common to the district, and grows to a large size. Let it be remembered that the consumption of cedar runs into large quantities, used for fence