

season as compared with former years. Heretofore deals have been about the only manufacture of pine in demand across the Atlantic, but the experience of this year augurs well for the placing upon the British market in future of considerable lumber from one to two inches in thickness.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A TRIAL shipment of Canadian red pine sleepers was recently made to Great Britain, a portion of which were used by the Great Western Railway. They are said to have been of excellent quality, thoroughly well creosoted and carefully manufactured. Heretofore Baltic fir has been largely used for railway sleepers, but a competitor has been found in Canadian pine. This trial order may prove to be the opening of quite an extensive trade for the Dominion.

THE Toronto Board of Trade is credited with having a branch called the "Lumber Section." For some time past it has not been active, and the removal from Toronto of Messrs. John Donogh and Joseph Oliver, two of its strongest members, the last-named being President, has caused it to become well nigh extinct. We trust the remaining members will make an effort to infuse new life into the organization, especially in view of the recognized necessity of an association of lumbermen for Ontario. Just at the present time, when the lumber trade is enjoying a period of quietude, the members should make a united effort to enlarge the scope and usefulness of this section.

WITH regret THE LUMBERMAN learned of the temporary financial embarrassment of Messrs. J. W. Howry & Sons, of Fenelon Falls, Ont. For a number of years the firm operated in Michigan, but a few years ago transferred operations to Canada, purchasing timber limits in the vicinity of Fenelon Falls to the extent of 300,000,000 feet. The enterprise shown in investing such a large sum of money in timber limits and plant is commendable. Manufacturing operations have been conducted on an extensive scale, much of the product finding a market in foreign countries. The members of the firm are recognized as conservative business men, who, no doubt, will prove themselves to be perfectly solvent and be able to so re-adjust their affairs as to continue in business.

IN an effort to extend their trade with Great Britain, Canadian lumber manufacturers should give greater attention to questions of manufacture and shipment. Messrs. J. & P. Coates, of Paisley, Scotland, who are large users of spool wood, write to the High Commissioner of Canada on the subject as follows: "In our opinion, the only means of increasing the demand for Canadian spool wood in this country is for the producers thereof to be more careful about quality. Those producers on the southern shore of the River St. Lawrence should be especially careful in this respect, because in the absence of a sheltered loading-place and consequent liability for demurrage on vessels employed exceeding their lay-days, the hold they have upon the business is a very slender one." In order to insure an increased demand the chief points to receive attention are said to be that the wood be thoroughly well-seasoned, white and solid, free from redheart and knots, and accurately saved

both in diameter and length. Defects in the above particulars are said to have resulted in the refusal of some consumers to place orders with Canadian dealers.

THE Huntsville Lumber Co. state that their advertisement in the WEEKLY LUMBERMAN has brought them more satisfactory returns than any advertisement they ever had. The WEEKLY LUMBERMAN not only circulates in every part of Canada, but reaches buyers in the leading foreign markets, hence its value as an advertising medium. We have no hesitation in saying that many Canadian lumber manufacturing firms might, with much advantage to themselves, announce in the advertisement columns of the WEEKLY LUMBERMAN particulars of the stocks they wish to sell. We are continually being asked by foreign buyers if we can put them in communication with the holder of a particular kind of stock. The WEEKLY LUMBERMAN reaches both buyers and sellers and is the best means of announcing stocks required or for sale.

THE final decision in the now famous dressed lumber case between the United States and Canada promises to be further prolonged, the attorney-general of the United States having ordered that an appeal be taken to the higher court from the recent decision of Judge Wheeler, by which dressed lumber was permitted to enter the United States free of duty. Pending the result of the appeal the customs authorities will collect the duty of 25 per cent. on the class of lumber in dispute, and should the final decision be in accordance with the view held by Judge Wheeler, the duty will be refunded to the exporters. In all probability the final decision will not be given without considerable delay, and the appeal will at least partially impede the importation of Canadian dressed lumber during the interval. On what grounds the appeal is based it is difficult to understand, as the propriety of the decision recently given is acknowledged by the majority of lumbermen on both sides of the line. The proceeding bears, to some extent, the appearance of a scheme to close the United States market to the Canadian dressed product until after the Presidential election.

Warm countries and sunny exposures generally produce heavier and stronger timber, and conditions favorable to the growth of the species also improve its quality. But exceptions occur; neither fast nor slow growth is an infallible sign of strong wood, and it is the character of the annual ring, rather than its width, and particularly the proportion of summer wood, which determines the quality of the material.

A very rough and probably very liberal estimate of the amount of timber standing in the various regions of the United States ready for the axe would give the following figures:

	Feet, Board Measure.
Southern states.....	700,000,000,000
Northern states.....	500,000,000,000
Pacific coast.....	1,000,000,000,000
Rocky mountains.....	100,000,000,000
Total.....	2,300,000,000,000

The total annual cut, including all material requiring bolt or log size, is estimated at 40,000,000,000 feet, board measure. The lumber industries employ capital to the extent of over \$1,000,000,000.—Maritime Register.

SALE OF GOVERNMENT TIMBER LICENSES.

THE auction sale of timber limits in the districts of Nipissing, Rainy river and Alberta took place, as advertised, at Messrs. Dickson & Townsend's rooms, 22 King street west, Toronto, on the 23rd ultimo. The limits were offered with the object of closing up the partnership existing between Messrs. Beck, Spohn and McSherry, and consisted of upwards of 110 square miles.

At the hour appointed for the sale there had gathered upwards of fifty interested persons, among whom were noticed the following: Wm. Irwin, Peterboro; C. Beck, Penetanguishene; A. H. Campbell and Mayne Campbell, of the Muskoka Mill & Lumber Co., Toronto; Dr. Spohn, Penetanguishene; P. McSherry, Stayner; H. H. Cook, of the Ontario Lumber Co., J. Welch, of Cook Bros., Peter Ryan, John Gray, Toronto; H. S. Brennan, Hamilton; T. Sheppard, Orillia; Maurice Quinn and D. L. White, Saginaw, Mich.; Mr. Fyfe, Port Arthur, and Mr. Wiley.

Mr. Townsend, who wielded the auctioneer's hammer, explained that a reserve bid had been fixed for each parcel, which was enclosed in a sealed envelope and opened at the termination of the bidding. The competition for the first two parcels was somewhat keen, but as the sale advanced it became evident that there were few eager purchasers present, and the result was that only one limit was disposed of.

The first ten lots offered consisted of licenses granted by the Ontario government. For parcel No. 1, comprising 10¾ square miles in the Township of Finlayson, District of Nipissing, the bidding reached \$6,000 per square mile, but this was claimed to be below the reserve bid and the berth was withdrawn.

The following parcels were withdrawn in the same manner: No. 2, comprising 11½ square miles, District of Nipissing, \$1,700 per mile; No. 4, five square miles on Rainy River, including islands in Crow Lake, bid \$800 per mile; No. 5, four square miles of islands in Rowan Lake, bid \$800 per mile; No. 6, eleven square miles on Split Rock River, bid \$720 per mile (the reserve bid was \$727); No. 7, seven square miles, east side Manitou River, no offer; No. 8, seven square miles on Little Turtle River, bid \$1,850 per mile; No. 9, one and one-half square miles, same locality, no offer; No. 10, ten square miles, near Trout Lake, \$1,740 per mile; No. 11, a Dominion Government limit, 47 8-100 square miles in Alberta District, 100 miles southwest of Calgary, no offer.

Parcel No. 3 was sold to C. Beck, of Penetanguishene, at \$500 per mile. It consisted of 11 44-100 square miles in the district of Rainy River, on the north side of Sturgeon Lake and east of Indian Reserve.

While the offers received for the parcels withdrawn were below the reserve bids, it will be observed that for three of the parcels a considerable advance was offered on the prices paid therefor at the government sale in 1892. The Finlayson berth, for which \$6,000 per mile was offered, was sold in 1892 at \$4,400 per mile, the McCraney berth, bid up to \$1,700, at \$900, and No. 68, in the Rainy River district, bid up to \$475, at \$1,740. This fact indicates a substantial increase in the values placed upon Canadian timber limits within the past few years.