

# 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. Especial 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.

BRITISH capitalists own in the United States 30,500,000 acres of lands, exclusive of the Harney Peak tin mine in Dakota with 30 square miles of land. They have invested in thread factories in Newark, New Jersey, and Pawtucket, Rhode Island, £1,000,000. In American railroads £2,000,000; and there is hardly a coal or iron mine from Alabama in the South to Wisconsin in the northwest but is worked with British capital. Recently they paid \$1,500,000 for 260,000 acres coal and timber land in Kentucky, where, it is stated, they will establish one of the largest coal, iron and steel enterprises in America; and the *New York Times* is authority for saying that English capital to the extent of \$100,000,000 is likely to be invested in America in a single enterprise, in the shape of a company to supply capital for railways and to carry railway insurance and mortgages. Do these capitalists really intend to buy up America and annex it to Canada; or do they simply mean to buy up the leading industries of the country; inaugurate and develop new enterprises, and by this means reach the franchise in order to usher in an era of free trade?

It has been on peoples' tongues for some time past, says the *London Timber Trades Journal*, that a large company was being projected which, in its magnitude and extent, would far surpass any that had hitherto been put on the market. This gigantic concern is the formation of a company with a capital of £500,000, in 50,000 shares of £10 each, to acquire the good will and title of the banking business of "Giles Loder" and the "Robert Loder" in Riga, together with the entire paid share capital of the Muckenholm Saw Mill Company of Riga, comprising 150 fully-paid shares of 2,000 roubles each, 145 of which were the property of

the late Sir Robert Loder, Bart., whose death has rendered it necessary to dispose of the property to carry out the terms of his will. The names of the directors, in addition to Sir E. Giles Loder, Bart., and Mr. Reginald Loder, include Messrs. Lewis J. M. Mason, Edward G. Price, and E. Wotton, all familiar names to the lumber trade.

SERIOUS charges of maladministration have been formulated against Crown Lands Commissioner Ferguson of Prince Edward Island, by the *Charlottetown Patriot*, which paper alleges that there is a shortage of many thousand dollars in the funds of the office. The commissioner is charged with neglect of his duty and with leaving the machine to run itself. It is also charged that the records of the office are in a deplorable state as regards the entries of receipts from the lands. It is stated that for weeks the day-book was not balanced and that the affairs of the office are in a disgraceful condition. Mr. Ferguson has held the office for several years and large amounts of money have passed through his hands. It is impossible to estimate the extent of the defalcations, which will not be known until an investigation is held, which alone can definitely locate the criminal who has been doing up the office. Ferguson now admits a shortage of \$3000, but says that the responsibility rests with an official who cannot speak because he died a few weeks ago.

THE sawing season is now over and most of the mills have closed down. The season has been a fairly prosperous one, and prices of lumber have remained steady with the exception of low grade stocks. Navigation has been suspended for the winter after having enjoyed a prosperous trade, rates have been well maintained and ocean charters have ruled unusually high. The close of the season finds the yards well stocked, with unsold lumber, and at the principal lumber centres large quantities will have to be carried over until next year. Some of the mills were compelled to close down some time ago for want of piling grounds, every available space being filled. The cause of the large stocks being held over is attributed by some to an over production, while others take the more rational view, that it is occasioned by an under demand. There will be a great falling off in the cut this winter, as a number of the large firms are not sending more than half their usual complement of men into the woods; and while the log cut is expected to be much less than last season, the indications are that there will be a large increase in the production of square timber.

THE prospects for a good winter's work in the Ottawa Valley are very fair. As heretofore stated in the LUMBERMAN, extensive operations are being carried on in the square timber line, and it is expected that more will be cut this winter than for many years past. One estimate is that over 11,000,000 square feet of timber will be placed on the market next spring over last year's output. Owing to the brisk demand at the opening of the season, timber that had been lying in the booms for years past, found ready sale in the Quebec market. The danger now lies in an overproduction, as in all probability the amount taken out may prove to be in excess of the demand. The mills, on the whole, had a very early start, owing to the open spring, and being backed by a good stage of water in the river, the output has been very large, aggregating 795,000,000 feet b. m.; the largest amount of lumber turned out during any season in the Ottawa Valley. About all the men required are now in the woods. Wages are about the same as last year, if anything

lower. Good hewers demand about \$55 a month; line-men from \$30 to \$45; scorers from \$26 to \$36; road cutters \$14 to \$17; head log makers \$22 to \$25; other log makers \$18 to \$23, foremen at an average of \$55, cooks from \$26 to \$35 and teamsters from \$18 to \$22. It is estimated that the Chaudiere and Hull lumbermen will get out about 2,400,000 logs which is equal to about 350,000,000 feet board measurement. Other firms in the Ottawa Valley will turn out about 2,700,000 logs or about 380,000,000 feet b. m., giving a total of 5,100,000 logs or 730,000,000 feet.

THE saw dust question, so far at least as the Dominion is concerned, like Bancho's ghost, will not down. Since the publication of Sir Charles Tupper's exhaustive reply to the petitioners of Lunenburg county, Nova Scotia, considerable correspondence has been going on through the local press of that province, which has occasioned no little feeling among the people in regard to the imperative action taken by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. Mr. E. D. Davison, of the firm of E. D. Davison & Sons, who has been doing an extensive lumbering business on the La Have river for several decades, makes a lengthy reply in refutation of the views advanced by Sir Charles Tupper, and undertakes to show that the saw dust thrown into the La Have river has in no way interfered with navigation or been detrimental to the fishing interests. Mr. W. H. Roger, late inspector of Fisheries for Nova Scotia, whose report to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, bearing date January 1st, 1889, was suppressed, undertakes to show in a letter to a Halifax paper that sawdust is beneficial, rather than deleterious to fish life. The *Bridgewater Enterprise* commenting on the Minister's letter says, "a careful perusal of that lengthy document convinces us that the Minister has been badly imposed upon by his informants, otherwise no such ludicrous sentiments would have been included in his reply. It seems that he must have strived to see how utterly flimsy and ludicrous statements he could commit to paper in making up this reply, and to say that the whole document is characterized as a bungling mass of errors is but drawing it mild." This is strong language, and it is possible that the minister may have been imposed upon, as he states that his actions have been based upon information laid before him. It is the duty of the Minister to see that the law is enforced, and it is also his duty to get reliable information if it can be obtained; and furthermore, in enforcing the law it should be made to bear upon all offenders alike, and that without fear or favor. So long as the law is brought to bear upon certain offenders, and others who are grossly violating the law are permitted to go "Scott free," the law will be a bugbear to both the government and the people. The question will no doubt be taken up the next session of Parliament, and Senator Clew, who holds strong views on the question, says he will devote himself to the work of having the Ottawa river excluded from those rivers which are exempt from the provisions of the law.

THE value of Canadian pine lands has been steadily on the increase, an enormous amount of money has been made by judicious investments in timber limits, and the opportunities for making money are about as good as ever. This is well known to Canadians, and others on the American side of the line. The following taken from the *Detroit Free Press* of recent date, bears us out in the assertion that Canada is a profitable field for investment: "Canada is now the most profitable field for the investment of surplus capital in standing pine," said Wm. F. Whitney, the widely known lumber dealer and stock raiser, in the lobby of the