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J. S. ROBERTSON, EDITOR.

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.

A WORD WITH SUBSCRIBERS.

THE January CANADA LUMBERMAN goes to a large number of subscribers with bill enclosed for subscriptions that fall due at the new year. The amount in most cases is not more than one dollar, and, even where arrears are owing, the indebtedness to the individual is only trifling. But 2,000 such accounts mean anything from \$2,000 to \$3,000 to the publisher, and money is much needed by him at the present time. It costs a heavy outlay each month to produce a journal of the completeness and character of the LUMBERMAN. Subscribers, we have reason to believe, appreciate these efforts to give them a first-class trade journal. Our desire is to make further improvements during 1894. Saying this much, we believe we can rely upon subscribers responding favorably to the present request to remit promptly the amounts now due.

KEEPING QUIET ON THE TARIFF.

A NEWSPAPER editor has seldom any occasion, in the present day, to enter an apology for the publication of the most complete information obtainable bearing upon any subject which is within the province of his journal to discuss. There was a time when it was interesting to quote Milton, for example, on the liberty of the press, but that day has gone, we fancy, not to return again. The general experience is that subjects, even those of a technical and class character, lose nothing by discussion. The whole truth will come out in any case sooner or later.

Still the question does not entirely die. Ever and anon the right of reporters to enter the precincts of some committee room, of, perhaps, church or state, is questioned; and it is only a few months since that the question was raised by a trade journal, whether it was wise, in discussing market conditions of the various trades, for the representative journal of these particular trades to always publish all that might be known of the conditions of the market. The inference was that it might pay sometimes, in order to gain a temporary advantage, to suppress certain information in the possession of the editor. The trade press of the country quite generally took up the question, and the almost unanimous opinion was against a policy of concealment, as hurtful to the best interests of commerce and a

reflection on the intelligence of the business men of the country.

We have been led into this line of thought at the present time through the receipt of a letter from an esteemed correspondent, and one of the large lumbermen of the Province, doubting the wisdom of the newspaper press, the CANADA LUMBERMAN not excepted, in publishing so freely the opinions of Canadian lumbermen and others on the proposed tariff changes, making lumber going into the United States free. The contention is that it will be a good thing for the lumber trade of Canada—though our correspondent weakens his argument on the necessity of Canadians keeping quiet, because they are the gainers, by adding that the United States will also be benefited by the passing of the bill—if the Wilson bill becomes law, but we are only prejudicing our case, it is said, in the eyes of Americans when publishing this fact, and "giving tariff reformers a chance for argument, as it is not likely the Americans make these tariff reforms in order to benefit Canada, nor any other foreign country."

It may be remarked here, that lumbermen, both of Canada and the States, are quite free and open in expressing their views on the tariff question. They know when they talk to newspaper representatives that they are talking for publication, and whilst some are more reticent than others in expressing an opinion, it is plain from the much that has been said, that the trade do not as a whole consider that silence in this case is golden.

So far as there is any force in the argument of our correspondent to "keep quiet," it is based on the theory that lumbermen are of one opinion on the Wilson bill. This is not altogether the case. A considerable number believe it would be helpful to the lumber interests of Canada, but as is shown by a study of the interviews, and articles from the trade, that have been published during the past few months, a contrary opinion is held by at least a fair section of the trade.

The letter closes with a statement that a newspaper editor is not likely to allow to pass unchallenged. Condemning newspapers for writing so much on the tariff question the writer interprets their motives in doing so in these words: "But I suppose newspapers are not particular as far as the interests of their country are concerned, as long as they give their subscribers something to read." This, it may be said, is indeed the "unkindest cut of all," coming from a generous and big-hearted lumberman. Newspapers, like lumbermen, have a very considerable interest in the welfare of their country. Our correspondent, as a public man, as well a lumberman, would not forget, we are sure, were he to tell us of the progress and vitality of his own local section, to give credit to the press of his town for what it has done to advance the best interests of that section. Not unlikely it is due to the press of that community that they have as their chief executive officer a man of sterling qualities both as citizen and mayor.

A newspaper needs to be particular what it gives "its subscribers to read." Any-something will not do. Newspaper readers are critical of the dish that is set before them daily, weekly or monthly. One reason why newspapers to-day are paying so much attention to tariff matters is because their readers want to learn all they can about the question, and especially what the leaders in the various lines of commerce think of it. Because the CANADA LUMBERMAN is a live, up-to-date journal, and it has carefully studied its readers' desires, is why just now we are giving considerable space to a discussion of the tariff, as affecting lumber, presenting fairly, we believe, both sides of the question.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

ASSUMING that cedar shingles of British Columbia may some day take possession of the Ontario shingle market, the question was asked of an Ontario lumberman if such an event would be a serious blow to Ontario manufacturers, and the answer was an emphatic "No." This lumberman claims that years ago he discovered that he could make three dollars a thousand more by converting his logs into lumber than by cutting them into shingles, "and other lumbermen are fast learning the same lesson."

ONE whose duty it has been to report the lumber market has often been puzzled to understand the distinction between "hard" and "soft" woods. In a rough way the trade has designated stocks other than pine as hardwoods. It has remained for a sharp Yankee wood seller to get the matter decided by the courts. He has contracted to deliver hardwood and tendered poplar. The courts held he was justified in that all trees that bear a leaf are "hard," the distinction being drawn between the leaf-bearing and the evergreen varieties.

AN article of considerable length on "Free Lumber and Pulp," which appeared in a late issue of the New York Journal of Commerce, has been reproduced in a number of trade journals, and has called forth liberal comment from several. Supported by generous quotations and evidence from those who are believed to have made a careful study of the question the main argument is for a greater preservation of the forests both of the United States and Canada on the ground that in the two countries they are becoming rapidly depleted. The writer quotes Professor Sargeant as showing that the amount of spruce in 1880 in the New England states was barely sufficient to last for ten years, and would be pretty well harvested by this time. The contention is that Canada can well afford to go slow in disposing of her pine and spruce.

The British Columbia Shingle Manufacturers' Association has finally become an accomplished fact, all the shingle manufacturers in the Province having enrolled themselves in the membership. There has been considerable cutting of prices in shingles on the coast, late, both in British Columbia and Washington Territory, and the hope is that the present organization will end this practice, and furthermore result in an advance in prices, leading manufacturers claiming that there is no profit made at present prices. Any attempt at a combine that would lead to an exorbitant increase in profits is to be condemned in the best interests of trade. It is quite noteworthy, however, that whilst there is on the one hand a strong tendency in nearly all branches of commerce towards centralization and combination for monopolistic purposes, that, perhaps, at no time were bankrupts being made faster by reason of the opposite evil, of cutting prices until business is carried on in many cases at an actual loss. A happy medium is the desired millennium in this case.

AUSTRALIAN colonists are hopeful, that the greater durability of certain of their woods over the softer woods of America will cause a demand for them in this country for paving, railway ties and like purposes where undoubted durability is a first essential. We have pointed out on several occasions the extent to which wooden pavements are the vogue in London and other European cities. To some extent Australian woods are used in these countries, and have given, apparently, good satisfaction. At least wooden pavements do not lessen in popularity there as they do in this country. Greater care is certainly exercised in laying pavements in English cities, and in this particular there is a lesson for the people of this country. One difficulty that would seem almost insurmountable, however, to the use of Australian woods in Canada for paving purposes is competition with vitrified brick and asphalt, is pointed out by the Canadian Architect and Builder, and that the great distance and consequent expense in freight rates. But "it might be possible," suggests our correspondent, "to find a market here for certain kinds of interior finishing woods, which might be partially manufactured in Australia and shipped so as not to occupy much space on steamers and cars. There seems some probability that an exchange of materials can profitably be carried on between Australia and the Province of British Columbia, and that a market could be found in Canada for certain Australian timbers which are specially adapted for railway ties. When the average life of a railway tie on the C. P. R. is from six to nine years, the grey-gum wood, it is said, of Australia, will endure for forty years for this purpose."