

THE Canada Lumberman

MONTHLY AND WEEKLY EDITIONS

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ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION.

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interests of the lumber, wood-working and allied industries being the only representative in Canada of these important interests. It aims at giving full and timely information on all subjects touching these interests, and invites free discussion by its readers.

Special pains are taken to secure for publication in the WEEKLY LUMBERMAN the latest and most trustworthy market quotations throughout the world, so as to afford to the trade at home and abroad information on which it can rely in its operations. 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.

Advertisers will receive careful attention and liberal treatment. For manufacturing and supply firms wishing to bring their goods to the attention of owners and operators of saw and planing mills, wood-working factories, pulp mills, etc., the CANADA LUMBERMAN is undoubtedly the cheapest and most profitable advertising medium. Special attention is directed to "WANTED" and "FOR SALE" advertisements, which are inserted in a conspicuous position on front page of the Weekly Edition.

LUMBERING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The activity in lumbering operations in British Columbia this year far surpasses anything heretofore known. During the months of January and February 195 applications for timber licenses were received and 81 licenses granted. Owing to the difficulty of prospecting claims in the winter, the demand for licenses does not usually commence before April. Although in every section of the province operations are on an enlarged scale, the greatest degree of activity prevails in the Kootenay district, where mining has to a large extent given place to lumbering.

Speculation in timber lands has accompanied the increased lumbering operations. The wholesale staking out of limits that has taken place has caused considerable excitement and it is said that in too many cases limits were purchased without having been properly cruised. For this reason it is feared that some of the investments may prove unprofitable.

There is likewise reason to believe that the production of lumber may be overdone. The prospective demand from Manitoba and the Territories has been magnified by enthusiastic individuals, and while it is true that the lumber consumption is likely to increase each year, and that there are bright prospects ahead for our western country, it should not be forgotten that the process of settlement must be gradual. It is a question whether the capacity of the saw mills now built and under construction is sufficient to supply the demand at least for the next year or two. If such is the case, it would seem advisable for persons with money

to invest in lumbering enterprises to seek new fields as far as is expedient, not overlooking the possibilities of export trade. British Columbia is well situated geographically to supply the markets of Australia, China, Japan, and South Africa, all large importers of lumber.

THE ALLEGED LUMBER COMBINE.

A few newspapers have recently devoted much space to the doings, or rather alleged misdoings, of the Western Retail Lumbermen's Association, of Winnipeg, and by sensational headings have endeavored to work up public feeling in opposition to a so-called trust. The laymen in the east must surely be of the opinion that there has suddenly been discovered some carefully devised plot to wreck the fortunes of the farmers of the west and to extract from their pockets their hard earnings in order to enrich the "lumber kings." Not for a moment would it be supposed that this same Western Retail Lumbermen's Association had been in existence for twelve years, that it had held annual meetings which were regularly reported by the press, and that its constitution and by laws are to-day essentially the same as when the association was originally organized.

If an official of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company has been correctly reported, that corporation has turned philanthropist, a change of front which will be greatly appreciated by the people of Canada, who, we regret to say, have not in the past been able to detect evidences of this commendable quality in their business dealings with that company. To facilitate the shipment of lumber into the Northwest, we are told that the company reduced freight rates and offered financial assistance to dealers to enable them to obtain a supply early in the season. They have even considered it necessary in their new capacity as guardians of the rights of the people to acquaint the local Government of the exorbitant prices which were being asked for lumber by manufacturers and dealers. All of which is in striking contrast to what has in the past been considered the policy of the Canadian Pacific corporation.

If there exist a combine which is responsible for extorting from the consumer fabulous prices for lumber, such combine should be abolished. The history of the association, however, proves that its object has not been to boost lumber prices at every opportunity, but rather by means of co-operation to bring about harmony and promote good feeling in the trade. It seems that the association has been attacked on the phraseology of its constitution and by-laws, perhaps none too carefully compiled, rather than on evidence of injury or hardship inflicted upon the buyer of lumber as the result of the workings of the association. The contention that the price of lumber has been advanced unreasonably cannot be substantiated. Indeed, lumber is to-day selling at a correspondingly lower figure in the Northwest than in Ontario and other parts of the Dominion.

It is only reasonable to suppose that inflated prices would encourage the importation of foreign lumber, yet each succeeding year for the past three years has shown a decrease in the quantity imported into Manitoba from the

United States. This in the face of an increased consumption. Here are the figures:

1900.....	24,000,000 feet.
1901.....	15,835,000 "
1902.....	13,228,000 "

Of the 1902 import sawed boards and dimension timber represented 11,039,000 feet and tongued and grooved pine boards 1,285,000 feet. The import of shingles shows a still greater falling off, declining from ten million in 1900 to less than two million last year. As the Minnesota manufacturers are not associated in any way with the organization which has been made the subject of attack, they might naturally be expected to more vigorously exploit the North-West lumber market in search of the handsome profits accruing through the operation of the trust. An explanation of the decreased import is furnished by Mr. E. F. Stephenson, Crown Timber Agent at Winnipeg, who in his last report to the Department of the Interior, says: "The low rate of dues charged by the Government enables manufacturers to undersell the imported article, to the advantage of the purchasing settler. Comparing prices for lumber and building material in Manitoba at the present time with those for the same kind and quality in the bordering states, they are considerably lower." This statement, from an impartial source, is also a refutation of the charge of exorbitant prices.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Winter sawing is becoming more popular. The Pigeon River Lumber Company, of Port Arthur, and the Algoma Commercial Company, of Sault Ste Marie, operated their mills last winter for the first time. Their method is to dump the logs into a pond of water which is prevented from freezing by a system of steam pipes. It will be interesting to learn whether the additional expense thus entailed is warranted by results.

In the diligent search that is being made for a more profitable means of utilizing sawdust, some peculiar theories have been advanced, one of which, of German origin, is to produce a food for horses by a mixture of sawdust and other materials. The most recent invention, if it may be so termed, will probably be received with greater credence than were many others. It is the discovery of Alexander Glassen, of Aachen, Germany, and, according to the United States patent dated December, 1902, is for "the conversion of cellulose of wood or the like into sugar." The material is subjected in a closed vessel to a heat of 120 to 145 degrees centigrade, and is acted upon by a mixture of sulphurous and sulphuric acid, the variation in the heat required being dependent upon the quality of the wood used. The temperature also very greatly affects the yield of sugar, any lower temperature than that stated giving a much smaller return. Birch is said to require a temperature of about 130 degrees, and western fir 144 degrees. It is claimed that a yield of 300 grams of sugar per kilo of dry wood or sawdust can be obtained, and of the sugar thus produced from 80 to 90 per cent. is fermentable glucose. Should this discovery prove to be practically and commercially feasible, it would mean much to the lumber industry of this country.