



MONTHLY AND WEEKLY EDITIONS

C. H. MORTIMER

PUBLISHER

CONFEDERATION LIFE BUILDING, TORONTO

BRANCH OFFICE:

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE BUILDING, MONTREAL

The LUMBERMAN Weekly Edition is published every Wednesday, and the Monthly Edition on the 1st day of every month.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:

One Copy, Weekly and Monthly, One Year, in advance..... \$1.00
One Copy, Weekly and Monthly, Six Months, in advance..... .50
Foreign Subscriptions, \$1.00 a Year.

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED ON APPLICATION

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. Their correspondence is not only welcome, but is invited from all who have any information to communicate or subject 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 clearing the air. 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 minimum 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 less successive insertions 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 adding one more cog to the wheel of progress.

TO VISITING LUMBERMEN.

Lumbermen visiting Toronto are invited to use the office of the CANADA LUMBERMAN as their own. We shall take pleasure in supplying them with every convenience for receiving and answering their correspondence, and hold ourselves at their service in any other way they may desire.

THIS ISSUE.

THIS number of the CANADA LUMBERMAN is largely representative of the spruce wood trade of Canada, a branch of the lumbering industry which has rapidly grown in importance of late years, and which is common to the provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. We are too prone to regard our white pine forests as by far the most valuable asset of Canada, and to look upon spruce as an inferior class of timber. But we believe that by careful husbanding of our spruce forests we will find that we shall have a possession quite as valuable as that of pine. For interior finish and the finer grade of joinery and cabinet making, spruce will never become popular, its great value being its adaptability for making pulp. In foreign markets, however, spruce lumber is steadily gaining ground, and is replacing Baltic woods.

This special issue of the CANADA LUMBERMAN is designed to diffuse information regarding the spruce forests and saw milling establishments of this country, and more particularly the eastern section thereof.

It is impossible, in the limited space at our

disposal, to publish particulars of the many mills scattered over the three provinces specially represented by this issue. The total number, from the small portable mill used so largely in Nova Scotia to the huge band mill of one hundred thousand feet daily capacity, reaches up into the thousands. To each of these a copy of this issue of THE LUMBERMAN will be forwarded, in order that every lumber manufacturer may, by a perusal of its pages, learn of the advantages to be derived from a first-class trade paper. The subscription price of one dollar covers both the weekly and monthly editions.

The publishers are always gratified to receive contributions from the trade on any subject of current interest. This fact does not appear to be understood to the desired extent. General information, such as proposed improvements, increase of plant, market conditions, etc., is likewise appreciated. The CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interests of the Canadian lumber trade as a whole, and to this constituency it confidently appeals for recognition and support proportionate to the service which it is endeavoring to perform.

FOREST PRODUCTS AND THE QUEBEC CONFERENCE.

No question is receiving more attention by the commissioners in session at Quebec than that relating to trade in forest products. This is as expected. The situation is such as to make it impossible that representatives of the Canadian and United States governments could meet to adjust trade difficulties without being forced to consider the situation as to timber. Anticipating this, the Lumbermen's Association of Ontario adopted a resolution at a meeting last August, setting forth their views, and expressing their willingness to submit to the free exportation of logs in return for free entry of lumber into the United States, although some of those present were bitterly opposed to the export of logs under any circumstances. This was the beginning of what will pass into history as one of the most interesting periods in the lumber industry of both countries.

So far as can be gleaned, a settlement as to logs and lumber is no nearer than when the conference opened, and yet we believe that the importance of the question to both countries will demand that some measure of reciprocity be decided upon for presentation to the governments of both countries.

Canada will accept nothing short of free lumber for free logs. If she cannot obtain free lumber, then the manufacturing clause as passed by the Ontario government will continue to exist. In the United States the situation is different. We find one section of the country arrayed against another; one district in favor of free lumber, another opposed to it. The different interests have been very active during the Quebec conference, deputations having addressed the commissioners and vigorous lobbies having been established. The Michigan lumbermen owning Canadian limits are directing their efforts to defeating the act passed by the Ontario government compelling home manufacture. Representations to that end have been forwarded to the government at Washington, thence to the British government, Dominion government, and, finally, to the premier of Ontario. The latter,

however, has announced his decision to adhere to the manufacturing clause, only receding therefrom on one condition, viz., that the United States shall permit free entry of all graded Canadian lumber.

Regarding the legal aspect of the case, this was no doubt well thought out and considered by the Ontario cabinet before action was taken, and is founded on the British North American Act. Only a brief review is necessary to show who are responsible for the present difficulties. In the year 1854 there existed a United States import duty of ten dollars per thousand on lumber, and a Canadian export duty of two dollars per thousand on logs. In the fall of that year Canada agreed to remove the export duty in return for a reduction of the lumber duty to one dollar. (By a piece of shabby practice, the McKinley bill read "on white pine only," leaving spruce and red pine still at two dollars.) Then in 1894 lumber was declared free by the Wilson bill, but the Dingley bill of 1897 restored the duty on all kinds of lumber to two dollars. The only course left open to Canada was to return to the export duty, but this was prevented by the placing of a retaliatory clause in the Dingley bill, increasing the import duty on lumber by the amount of the export duty that might be imposed. The Dominion government were in a measure handicapped, and the justice which was due Canadian lumbermen was obtained through the original owners of the timber, the Ontario government.

The Michigan lumbermen are not alone in their desire for more amicable relations in regard to timber. The consumers of the Eastern States are working vigorously for free lumber, and as an important section of the country. Wholesale dealers, even those who were previously in favor of the duty, now find that their trade has been seriously interfered with, owing to being compelled to buy at high prices at western points, and are exerting themselves to secure free lumber.

Reverting to the conference, the acceptance by Canadian lumbermen of a one dollar duty in return for free logs seems to have been eliminated from the possibilities. The stand which they have taken is directly opposed to any form of compromise. They reason in this manner: There is an important market in the Eastern States and along the United States shore of Lake Erie for lumber, much of which will be supplied from timber limits tributary to the Georgian Bay. By cutting off the supply of logs for the Michigan mills, some lumber can be sold even under a one dollar duty. But with Michigan mills getting Canadian logs free of duty, and Canadian lumber being subjected to a duty of one dollar, the Michigan manufacturers would have a direct advantage over the manufacturer in Canada. The latter prefer to cut off the log supply to Michigan mills and take their chances under a two dollar duty. Then again, there are many persons in Canada who believe that in return for the free exportation of saw logs and pulp wood, we should be permitted to have unrestricted access to the American market for not only lumber, but all forest products, including paper and paper. Certainly the same argument that applies to lumber and saw logs is equally applicable to pulp and pulp wood. Every year hundreds of thousands of cords of pulp wood are taken to the United States, to build up paper and pulp manufactories there, while a considerable