

EDITORIAL NOTES

IN ANSWER to an enquiry from Hon. Senator Flint, the Premier, Hon. Mr. Abbott has stated, that in view of the proposed reciprocity negotiations with the American Government in October next, no tariff changes affecting lumber would be introduced at Ottawa this session.

A SUPPLEMENT of the New York *Lumber Trades Journal* has been printed containing a complete account of the contest of the New York lumbermen with the representatives of the trade unions, telling how the fight began, how it was fought and how it was won. It is known to our readers that this fight was the means of paralyzing the lumber trade in the east, just on the opening of the present season. Thanks, however, to the courage of the lumbermen, the fight was of comparatively short duration, and victory was theirs.

A TRIAL in the United States courts has developed the fact that there is considerable wealth embraced in the sunken logs in the logging streams of Michigan. In dragging the Au Sable River for sunken logs, 100,000,000 feet was secured within a very short distance, and now the statement is going the rounds that it is believed there is 150,000,000 feet of logs sunk in the Au Sable alone. These have been calculated at \$6.00 per thousand, which amounts to \$900,000. And the query arises, if this is the wealth at the bottom of one river, how much wealth is lying at the bottom of the various streams, not alone in Michigan, but in logging streams elsewhere as well? An explanation may here be found for the shortage which lumbermen have been unable to account for, when the scale of the boom companies have run hundreds of thousands of feet short of the scale in the woods. As this deficiency never shows itself in logs brought in by rail a strong argument is made for the transporting of logs by rail.

VERY considerable attention is given at the experimental farm in Manitoba to the cultivation of young trees. A recent report says, that millions of native maples are now coming up in one patch. Besides there are 10,000 small elms, which are doing well. The cotton wood from Dakota is hardy and grows very quickly. White birch is doing well and the native spruce trees show an encouraging growth. Some idea of the manner in which the people of the northwest are interested in tree culture is further indicated in the report of Prof. Saunders, of Ottawa, who states that one hundred thousand trees had been secured for these territories, and an announcement was made to this effect. Within five or six weeks after the announcement applications were received covering another hundred thousand. The government have arranged to meet the additional demand. Let this spirit continue and the time is not far remote when the plains of Manitoba and the Northwest will, metaphorically speaking, blossom like the rose.

EXAMINATIONS under the Ontario Cullers Act have been in progress in different sections of the province during the past month. The act provides that no one will be allowed to measure logs cut on the crown domain in Ontario without a government license, and to obtain this license candidates for the position of cullers must first undergo an examination conducted by government examiners. The examination is a written one throughout and consists of twenty-nine questions. (1.) How long have you been engaged in culling and for whom? (2.) How would you measure a log without defects? (3.) How would you measure a defective log? Eleven of the papers had diagrams of logs attached, showing peculiar defects in each. There were a few "catch" questions, two particularly—12 and 18. Number 12 was a diagram of a log thirteen feet long and nineteen inches in diameter, showing seven punk knots on the sides and rotten at both ends. The question

was asked, what would you do with it? and answered, "If I met that fellow in the bush I would not recognize him." No. 18 was, "How should a log thirteen feet long, fourteen inches in diameter at top, and seventeen inches in diameter at the butt, having several case knots on sides, and showing indications of rot at both ends, be treated?" Of course the log was a dead cull. The last paper was making out the culler's return of measurements with affidavit attached.

THE lumber interests of the continent will receive good prominence at the coming world exhibition in Chicago. Canada has received an invitation to make an exhibit and we have no doubt that the lumber section will bear the marks of the enterprise of Canadian lumbermen. We certainly hope so, and will be glad to know that they are already making a movement in this direction. The lumbermen of Washington have promised to contribute all the material necessary for the construction of the building of that State and the Northern Pacific has agreed to transport to the exhibition free of charge. Tulare, California, proposes to furnish a very novel exhibit for the fair. From a gigantic redwood tree, 390 feet high, and 26 feet in diameter, will be cut two lengths forty-five feet long, and these will be transformed into full-sized railway coaches by hollowing out the interior. The rough bark of the tree will be left on the roof and on the sides and ends the natural wood will be left unpolished. The interior will be finished after the style of Pullman cars. One will be a buffet dining car, with bath, barber-shop and kitchen, and the other a sleeper, with observation room. Ordinary car trucks will be put underneath, and the men of Tulare, with their wives and children, will make the trip to Chicago in these strange coaches and live in them while there. The intention is to keep these cars in the exposition grounds, and to sell as mementos the portions of the tree cut away in their construction.

THE sawdust question made itself known at Ottawa this year, though nothing more definite was attained than a promise from the Hon. Mr. Abbott, that next year the government would do something. The question came to the front by Senator Clemow introducing a bill, which proposed to take from the government the power it has at present to exempt any rivers or parts of rivers from the operations of the law against allowing sawdust and other mill refuse to fall into them. The Senator afterwards withdrew the bill on the strength of the promise of the Premier. Hon. Mr. Snowball, the well-known lumber king of the Maritime provinces, placed himself on record in a speech which indicated plainly where he stands on the question. He pointed out that the Miramichi river is one of the most important of the lumbering, as well as of the fishing rivers in the Dominion. Twenty five years ago the local government made such regulations as prevented the mills on that river from throwing their refuse into the water. The regulations were carried out so faithfully on the part of the mill owners that on the main river, where Mr. Snowball stated there are more sawing powers than there are on the Ottawa, there is not one shovelful of sawdust thrown into the river. He deprecated in vigorous terms "the disgrace, that right under the Parliament building, right in the face of the government, this evil has been allowed to exist to the present day," and expressed himself as delighted to hear the Prime Minister say, that action is to be taken in the matter.

AMERICAN lumber exchanges report more than the usual movement of Michigan lumbermen into Canadian pine districts. They are favorably impressed with the conditions for cutting timber in this province, whilst the stumpage with us is cheaper than in their own pine States. Mr. Wm. Ryan, of Brown & Ryan, Saginaw, Mich., is one of the latest visitors to our pine limits, and is likely to make some investments. We suppose there are those who look upon this movement by American investors with a certain measure of dissatisfaction. Why, we hardly know—only that they do so. English gold is to-day largely controlling the manufacturing interests of the United States, and the past year has witnessed a remarkable and increasing influx of British capital into the States. No tangible

reason would seem to exist for the exclusion of foreign capital from any country, and if our American friends see opportunities for investment in Canada whether in the woods, the mines or commercial pursuits—so long as we have the article to sell, why not sell it? Their greenbacks these days count one hundred cents to the dollar, and our people will lose nothing by the circulation of these in the country. In turn, our merchants are prepared to cross the border with Dominion bank bills, subject to no discount either, and buy those products which conditions in that country make it profitable for us to buy. That Chinese wall is about the only thing that hits either party.

A DECISION has been given in the case of the Bank of Montreal vs. the J. E. Potts Salt and Lumber Company, of Detroit, Mich. The bank asked the foreclosure of mortgages aggregating \$700,000. This step was opposed by the unsecured creditors, who knew that an adverse decision meant that amount less in assets to be distributed among them. The decision given by Judge Kelly at Detroit on 6th ult., affirms the validity of the mortgages thus leaving the other creditors out in the cold. The common notion has been that an insolvent corporation has no right to distribute the assets, except pro rata among all the creditors. The judge does not do away with this belief, but makes the point that temporary financial inability to tide over a stringent money market or to meet maturing notes without borrowing, is not conclusive evidence of insolvency. In the Potts case he considers that, instead of being in the light of preferred creditors, those who secured mortgages were bona fide creditors. The mortgages, furthermore, did not cover all the property of the corporation. "Until proceedings to dissolve the corporation under the statutes," stated the judge, "or upon sequestration of the corporation assets and appointment of a receiver, the corporation has control of its assets and may sell and mortgage like any individual." The failure of this firm is fresh in the minds of Canadians from the fact that it was supposed to be responsible in a measure for the suspension of the Federal Bank of this city from which a large credit had been obtained.

AT the present time when activity is general among Canadian shingle mills, something may be learned by reference to the work of Mr. Charles Boyden, who ten years ago was the shingle king of the world, and owned a mill at Grand Haven, Mich., with a capacity of 1,000,000 shingles and 50,000 feet of lumber daily. He had his own views of conducting the shingle business, and his own ideas of what should constitute a good shingle. In conversation with a representative of the *Northwestern Lumberman* he once said:—"There are some who see no merit in a shingle unless it is long, clear and thick. I may liken shingle manufacturing to tailoring. One man may want a suit of clothes that cost \$75, but at the same time there are a hundred men who want suits that cost \$15 each. We let the high-priced men buy some where else. We make shingles for the masses. Last year we closed our mill several millions behind on our orders. If there is any man who thinks that a shingle is better for having a played butt, he is, of course, entitled to his opinion. But let me ask you to experiment a little. Take two shingles; with a buck saw cut a piece from across the butt of one of them, and with your knife make the butt of the other smooth and even. Place them side by side in the sun, and the one that is finished so nicely will check an inch or two, while the rough sawed one will not check at all. Then again, go on to an old roof, and notice where the shingles wear out first. The wear is right in front of the lap, and is caused by the water running from the shingle above it. The thicker the shingle the greater the force there is to the water. A shingle with a thin rough butt will outlast a fancy shingle every time, and when on a roof looks just as well from the street." This is the philosophy of only one man, it is true, but of a man who made a conspicuous success of the work he had undertaken. Of late Mr. Boyden has given his attention more particularly to lumbering, being to-day, president and treasurer of a large lumber company at Neelyville, Mo.