

abrogation of this claim, as the shingle was no more a manufacture of lumber when trimmed with a knife than when trimmed with a saw, and was ready for immediate use in either case. Would a tongued and grooved (not surfaced) plank be "manufacture of wood" subject to duty as "dressed" lumber? I think not, and yet I have handled large quantities of it which was for the use intended just as much as a manufactured product as if it had been surfaced. The ordinary meaning of "dressed" lumber as defined by customs, includes flooring, ceiling and wainscoting as well as facing, which is but one degree of dressing, while others are carried a degree or two further. A manufacture of wood would be a finished product either in whole or in knock down, requiring no further manipulation in the way of fitting except the final finish of paint or varnish." Mr. Hotchkiss winds up his argument with the remark that if the term "dressed" had been defined by the authorities of the law to be confined to "surfacing," it is probable that the simple term would have been used; but in the use of the term "dressed" they but conform to the custom which has prevailed in the lumber trade from time immemorial. The present is the first time in an experience dating from 1847 that Mr. Hotchkiss says he ever heard it claimed that "flooring and the like was not properly classed as "dressed," rather than as a manufacture of lumber.

Manufacturers in Canada, who, like J. W. Howry & Sons, and others, have equipped their mills with special plants for dressing and finishing lumber, have reason to protest against the Appraisers' decision on the ground of vested interests, as well as from an intelligent and generally accepted interpretation of the law itself, as is pointed out in our remarks above. The very fact that the Messrs. Howry, a Michigan concern, should have made heavy investments in planing mill equipment in Canada, is good evidence of what was intended by the Wilson tariff. It is not easy to conceive that, as shrewd men of business, they would have made such an investment, had they not reason to believe that the tariff meant just exactly what Mr. Hotchkiss has stated it must mean. And so it is with others.

The hope is, as the Minister of Finance has stated, that in introducing a retaliatory clause into the Canadian tariff, it will be the means of promoting a friendly consideration of the case and a friendly settlement.

#### TRADE WITH FRANCE.

WITH the commercial treaty affecting the relations between Canada and France in respect of their customs and tariff now fully ratified, the Chambre de Commerce, of Montreal, is doing excellent work, in specially examining into the possibilities of development in all lines of trade between these countries.

Where France has been a fair customer for Canadian lumber, she has yet purchased under the old tariff, but a small percentage of her annual consumption. The exports of wood and manufactures of wood from this country to France in 1894 were as follows: Spruce and other deals, \$84,122; deal ends, \$6,902; planks and boards, \$14,168; lumber, \$2,279; square timber, \$7,318, and other miscellaneous manufactures of wood, \$2,893, or a grand total of \$117,682. The report on the Chambre de Commerce, giving in detail the importations of lumber to France in 1892, show that these amounted to \$40,000,000, and of these \$33,000,000 are represented in what is termed common timber, as distinct from cabinet woods, the class of timber that Canada is well able to supply.

From what source does France receive her lumber supplies at present? The question is answered in the report before us in these words. "As for instance the Scandinavian states, especially Sweden, heads the list with 50 per cent. of the whole, supplies with Russia nearly the totality of the imports of the English channel. Canada figures also with its paltry quantity. The same Sweden and Norway with Russia via the Black Sea supplies the ports of the Mediterranean, but this time in company with Austria, Hungary, Italy and the United States. Bordeaux and the ports of the Atlantic are supplied nearly exclusively by the hands of the last named country. Germany, a part of Austria, and Switzerland either by land of the east frontier and supply the balance of the needs of the market in this district and in portions of the centre."

In the past there have been difficulties in the way of a large trade in lumber between France and Canada. The methods of doing business there are different to other countries, and especially Great Britain, with whose ways Canadian lumbermen are intimate. But this is simply a case of adopting methods suited to the country. The terms of the treaty place Canadian lumbermen on a perfectly equal footing with those of other countries. "It guarantees, to quote from the report of the Chambre de Commerce, "a reduction varying from \$1.25 to \$1.95 per 1,000 feet, B. M., and if by the efforts of interested parties direct and regular communication by steamer between the two countries can be secured, it would be ridiculously foolish not to profit by the circumstance, and abandon cheerfully, on account of a few difficulties that might be encountered at first, a vast and rich field of exploitation on the only ground of these being foreign competition."

We have on a previous occasion referred to the opinion expressed by Mr. J. B. Snowball, of Chatham, N. B., who said in his lumber report at the first of the year: "Twelve cargoes were shipped from this port to France during the past season, all to Marseilles, in the face of the disadvantage we are under as regards the import duty; but now that Canada is about to enjoy the favored nation clause under the recently ratified treaty a large revival of our exports to that country is looked for." And the Brooklyn Eagle of the 2nd Jan., 1895, alluding to the sale to an American syndicate of 860,000 acres of timber limits in Nova Scotia, said: "Agencies will be continued by the company in England, and new ones will be opened in the United States and in France and in South America."

The new treaty not only applies to France, but also to its colonies, and there is reason to believe that a good trade may be done with these also.

#### SOME LUMBER FIGURES.

IF we take the statistics of the lumber trade of Canada, as shown in the last report of the department of Trade and Commerce, it will be found that the exports of lumber for the fiscal year, ending June 30th, 1894, fall short of those of the year previous by rather more than \$1,000,000, though showing an increase over 1891 and 1892, but again behind 1890. The figures are: 1890, \$28,102,267; 1891, \$26,812,765; 1892, \$24,666,900; 1893, \$28,841,081; 1894, \$27,780,352.

Where this lumber has gone, in what quantities and ways, is an interesting question. The export of logs show up in large figures, and almost entirely of pine. Pine logs exported amounted to \$2,459,354, where those of spruce were \$107,282, and all others \$106,824. The United States, practically, were our only customers for logs, and as showing how these exports have grown from year to year, the following figures are suggestive. Total exports of logs in 1894, \$2,750,270; 1893, \$1,508,513; 1892, \$1,112,687; 1891, \$722,845, and 1890, \$681,265. How far it is wisdom on the part of Canada to ship her lumber in logs in such quantities is a question on which opinion divides. In his last annual address before the shareholders of the Merchants' Bank, Mr. Geo. Hague expressed the view that this large exportation of logs was an unwise policy.

The United States, happily, who were large customers for logs were still better customers for planks and boards, turned out of the saw mills of Canada, and it is a question whether exports in such quantities would have gone to that country, without the freedom in exportation of sawn lumber that has followed, and is a condition of, a free export of logs. The total exports of planks and boards for 1894, were \$7,964,970, against \$9,904,901 for the previous year; \$8,353,055 in 1892, \$8,963,434 in 1891 and \$2,104,577 in 1890. Of these the United States purchased in 1894, \$6,577,440; 1893, \$8,571,525; 1892, \$7,359,356; 1891, \$7,966,134 and 1890 \$6,977,697.

Coming to treat of another class of wood goods, to use the English term for lumber, it is learned that for pine and spruce deals the United Kingdom is an excellent customer. The exports of pine deals to Great Britain in 1894 were \$2,766,065; 1893, \$3,113,120; 1892, \$2,405,010; 1891, \$2,903,178; 1890, \$3,719,487. The exports of spruce deals far exceed those of pine, being as follows. 1894, \$4,925,640; 1893, \$4,255,006; 1892, \$3,710,627;

1891, \$4,402,446, and in 1890, which was the best of these five years, \$5,110,239.

The lumber of Canada finds a market, to a greater or lesser extent, in almost all parts of the world. The exports in planks and boards for 1894, to West Indies were \$184,480. Newfoundland took \$70,350 worth of planks and boards, \$88,500 in lumber, and some small purchases in other manufactures of wood, and the S. W. Indies \$172,073. The Argentine Republic, Australia, Africa, Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, Norway and Sweden, Belgium, Holland, Japan, Madeira, and other lands have all some acquaintance with Canadian lumber.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE semi weekly bathing of logs is something new in the history of lumbering, but this is being done on the Ontonagon river where the Diamond Match Co. cut last winter over 100,000,000 feet of timber, because of forest fires, which left the timber subject to the worms. These logs were put in the streams and what could be driven were sent down. About 80,000,000 feet were hung up. The water was very low in some places, and the only way to cover the logs was by the scheme devised for bathing. Though expensive, it will be better than losing the logs altogether.

THE theory, generally accepted as based upon scientific principles, that forests or the lack of forests, determine the amount of rainfall in a given area, is called into question by a contemporary in the light of the drought that has been experienced everywhere in the past two or three months. The untenable character of the contention is shown by a reference to the fact that the drought-scorched area has included many states that are heavily timbered. The existence of the forests in these cases has not helped conditions any more than where it was simply broad prairie, and the conclusion is that "the man who says that forest denudation is the cause of drought is yet up a tree." Alongside of statements of this kind may be read the story of the work of the Society of the Friends of Trees, an organization having its home in France, and whose special purpose is to promote re-forestation for the purpose of regulating the matter of rainfall and preventing drought, and other injury that it is alleged comes to a country where the work of the denudation of its forests is indulged in. It not unfrequently happens that the beliefs, that seem the most fixed with individuals, are completely knocked out at times by the matter-of-fact experience of the day.

IT is reported, that in Duluth, lately, lumber dealers threatened to boycott any builder or architect who should specify Washington fir in any public buildings. The purpose, doubtless, was to make it necessary that home timber should be used. Where it can be shown that for certain well defined reasons it is unwise to import foreign woods to be used in public buildings, the lumber trade owe a duty to themselves and their district to point out these drawbacks and bring all reasonable force to bear preventing their use. But let reason in all cases prevail. The boycott is a measure wanting in courage. It may be said, it is the coward's weapon, whether used by workmen, manufacturers, or any one else. In fact, so far as lumber is concerned, it is almost impossible to talk of excluding any particular class of lumber from any particular district or country. No article of merchandise is so thoroughly cosmopolitan in its character as lumber, and the trade is becoming more so every year. Washington fir, or what is known in this country as the Douglas fir of British Columbia, is especially suited for certain work, and the world over, those who want the best lumber for shipbuilding, and in other cases where great strength and endurance is required, will be obliged to secure Douglas fir. In the Transactions of American Civil Engineers is published the following tests of woods. White pine broke at 3,872 pounds, all same sizes. Norway pine broke at 4,008 pounds, all same sizes. Douglas fir broke at 6,214 pounds, all same sizes. In other words Douglas fir was shown to be by a large percentage stronger than the strongest woods. This wood is becoming well known lately in its uses for bridges and other public undertakings. Some unusually large pieces have been sent east to Montreal to be used for dredger work there.