

THE Canada Lumberman

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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.

THE COMMERCIAL OUTLOOK.

The almost entire absence of failures in the lumber trade is proof of the prosperous condition of the industry. The average business is being conducted at a profit and should at the close of this year again show a balance on the right side. The making of large profits, however, has been rendered more difficult, if not impossible, by the increase in the cost of stumpage and of logging. A few years of prosperity were due the lumbermen of Canada, and if the present good times should continue for some years yet, they would bring but a deserved reward for the many years when lumber barely brought the cost of production and more than one business concern was forced into bankruptcy.

What shall be the trend of commercial events in Canada during the next few years is a question that is much discussed. Some predict that the height of prosperity has already been passed and that a gradual falling off in business may be expected. The magnificent showing made last month by the export and import returns does not indicate such a result. Inquiries made of manufacturers of machinery reveal a healthy condition of trade. Some of the largest manufacturers have orders on hand which will take the bulk of their output for twelve months to come. This would seem to indicate confidence on the part of the people, for if they believed a wave of depression was on the road, which would certainly bring with it lower prices for products of all kinds, they would not place orders at the prices of to-day.

"In times of peace prepare for war" is good advice. Periods of depression will doubtless be experienced, and it may be unwise to be too optimistic in respect to even the near future. Nevertheless, it seems extremely doubtful that

we shall again witness in the same degree the stagnation to trade which characterized the early nineties, for the development of the resources of Canada has only commenced.

The breach between capital and labor has seemed to widen with the better times, for in no year, perhaps, has the business of the country been more disturbed by strikes. Doubtless the employees have not always been at fault, but on the other hand there have been many instances where labor has made unjustifiable demands. If the aggressiveness of labor organizations is to continue, we see in it one of the surest signs of the return to the hard times and over-stocked labor market of ten years ago.

TREATMENT OF TIMBER.

The hope of an ample timber supply for future generations lies largely in the education of the people to the necessity of preserving and protecting the standing trees. It is not alone in this respect, however, that we can foster our supply, for the treatment of timber in a manner to prolong its life is a most important agency towards perpetuation. So far in this country very little thought has been given to any artificial method of timber preservation, owing to a lack of recognition of its necessity.

To Dr. Martin Murphy, of Halifax, N. S., belongs the credit of endeavoring to awaken the interest of Canadians in the subject. In his presidential address before the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, he presents some statements which show that it is most expedient to prolong the life of railway ties, wharf piling and other timber by means of creosote or other similar material.

The average life of a railway tie in Europe is about twenty-four years, while that of a spruce or hemlock tie in this country is from eight to ten years. In Europe the ties are treated by creosote, which apparently doubles their life. It would seem to be a fallacy to consider that the ties used in this country could not be effectively treated in a similar manner, thus effecting a very large saving in the consumption of timber.

Dr. Schenck, of the United States Bureau of Forestry, is also an advocate of the seasoning and creosoting of timber. The main advantages of seasoning are that the timber lasts longer, since the water in green timber is necessary to the life of decay-producing fungi; that it greatly increases the effectiveness of the preservative treatment, and that by reducing the weight of timber it causes a corresponding saving in freight.

An interesting fact, recently discovered, is that high grade timber, such as white pine or oak, is not so readily penetrated by the preservative fluid as is timber of poorer quality. This is due to its greater density.

Reverting again to Dr. Murphy's address, he points out the need of large plants along our coasts for creosoting heavy timber. The cost, he admits, would not be warranted by the amount paid annually for imported creosoted timber, but would be saved many times over by the cost of renewals, which would be greatly reduced by the application of creosote.

The subject seems to be of sufficient import-

ance to receive consideration at the hands of the Government, who in our opinion should undertake experimental tests with a view to convincing the public of the benefits to be derived from the artificial treatment of timber.

BOARD MEASURE.

One might reasonably suppose that a term that is so universally used by the lumber trade as is "board measure" is entirely free from ambiguity as to its meaning. It is only necessary to obtain the opinions of a few persons to find out that its real significance is by no means clearly understood. It has been the subject of litigation on more than one occasion, and it is doubtful whether the meaning of the term in all its applications has yet been clearly defined.

Board measure is based on a square foot 12x12 inches by one inch in thickness. Material thicker than one inch is reduced to the inch basis. Thus a board twelve feet long, twelve inches wide and one and one-half inches thick would contain eighteen feet board measure. The accuracy of the method by which the above result is obtained is unquestioned. The proper measurement of pieces less than an inch in thickness, however, brings up the question upon which opinion is divided. By some it is contended that no allowance is to be made for the deficiency where a board is less than an inch in thickness, that is, that a board twelve feet long and twelve inches wide contains twelve feet board measure even if only one-half inch thick. The American Lumberman holds this view, at the same time pointing out that it is an inconsistency of the board measure system that is misunderstood. On the other hand, so great an authority as Mr. W. B. Mershon, of Saginaw, claims that lumber thinner than 13-16, which is the thinnest standard for dressed inch, must be taken as surface measurement, the price being based on so much a thousand feet surface measure, regardless of the board measure. He argues that if lumber $\frac{3}{8}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{5}{8}$ inch thick counted for inch stock, a person could buy one thousand feet board measure of $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch lumber, resaw it with a fine resaw and leave it nearly 58-inch thick, and he would at once produce 1,600 feet board measure. Mr. Christadoro, the author of a well-known box reckoner, agrees with Mr. Mershon's contention.

Even at this late date it would seem very desirable that a proper determination of the term "board measure" should be made by some high tribunal, for as matters now stand the trade are loath to accept either of the existing definitions.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Dr. J. F. Wilson, Secretary of the National Nut Growers' Association of the United States, has contributed to the Nut-Grower an exceedingly timely article entitled "Nut Trees for Timber." Dr. Wilson points out that the hickory, chestnut and walnut trees are very valuable for their timber, and will incidentally produce a by-product in the nuts grown, thus making such plantation a profitable investment years before its maturity for lumber. The