

THE Canada Atlantic Railway Co. has reduced the rate on lumber from Ottawa to New York from \$2.75 to \$2.50 per thousand. The Canada Atlantic carry by rail to Lacolle, when it is transhipped into boats and forwarded thence by water. Some of the lumber firms object to the transshipment of the finer grades of lumber, which, by the extra handling, depreciates from one-half to two per cent. For coarser grades it practically makes little difference. It is understood that the Canadian Pacific, which is now carrying to New York at a \$2.75 rate, transshipping into boats at St. John, will probably meet the reduced rate of \$2.50 as on the Canada Atlantic. Rates by boat to New York continue at \$3.00.

SECRETARY of the Treasury Windom has seen fit to order the bonded lumber yard of Burroughs & Co., at Hunter's Point, N. Y., to be closed, pending an investigation to be conducted concerning the whereabouts of 2,000,000 feet of Canadian lumber. The order was based on the report of special treasury agents who had been quietly looking into the manner in which Canadian lumber has been carried to N. Y. and what has become of it. The special agents being unable to find any trace of the Canadian lumber consigned to Burroughs' bonded lumber yard, the Secretary of the treasury deemed it best to close up the yard until the lumber could be traced. The duty would have amounted to \$4,000. A little over a year ago a case was discovered where a barge load of lumber from Canada ordered to the bonded lumber yard never went into bond at all. The barge was taken to the yard but was not unloaded, and the boat was secretly towed down to the basin at South Brooklyn, where the lumber was being put on board a vessel bound for an outside port when discovered. Since then the methods of this imported lumber have been scanned closely. It is said the investigation in the present case will be conducted in secret.

THE sawdust question has broken out again, and this time in the goodly town of Peterborough. Four of the saw mill men were fined \$20 and costs for permitting sawdust to flow into the Otonabee river. On the 6th of August the question was taken up by the local Board of Trade and fully discussed, after which the following resolution was passed. "That having heard the remarks of the different speakers, and that in view, and on condition of the proprietors of the saw mills on the Otonabee undertaking to use every means in their power compatible with the profitable operation of their mills to prevent the introduction of sawdust and mill refuse into the Otonabee river, in accordance with an agreement with the department at the request of the Town Council, this Board of Trade respectfully requests the Government of the Dominion to recognize the efforts of the mill owners in this direction, as an indication of their willingness to comply with the spirit of the law, and further requests the Government to forego the enforcement of the letter of the law unless this law be universally applied, and not applied alone to Peterborough mill owners, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries." Proceedings were again had against the saw mill men, and in each case, judgment was reserved pending advices from Ottawa. As is usual in such cases the mill men do not wish to go to the trouble and expense of reconstructing their mills or building new ones, and the people do not wish to have the streams polluted with sawdust and mill refuse. As we have intimated before in the columns of this journal, the true solution of this question lies in the practical utilization of sawdust. This thing of making a law, and then exempting it from operation on some streams and enforcing it on others, as well as making compromises with local councils, if not to nullify the law, to at least render it virtually inoperative, is a great deal like steering a bull by the tail instead of taking it by the horns. A number of methods have been adopted to utilize the saw dust and in some cases they have been successful, the day is not far distant when sawdust, the cause of so much local trouble, will be treasured as one of the richest products of a saw mill

Modern science is extracting from the dry sawdust, not only wood alcohol, pyrologenous acid, the bases of the anilines, but many new compounds in medicine, &c., to say nothing of its being converted into wood pulp, or being pressed and utilized for fuel. Fortune and fame await the man who has the genius and skill to invent a contrivance or method to convert it into a cheap and merchantable fuel.

THE labor commission which was appointed by the Dominion government to inquire into the relations of capital and labor, might have been more explicit in its classification of wages paid to the employes of the lumber industry, inasmuch as the investigations of the commission have cost the country, with the publication of their report upwards of \$50,000. The lumber trade is the second leading industry of the country, and we had hoped that the commission would have been able to furnish the country with valuable information in such a manner as it would at least be intelligible. On the question of lumbermen's wages it is too ambiguous, many of the statements are very indefinite leaving the reader to do considerable guessing. At Ottawa, gang men with eight months' work in the year are put down at from \$8 to \$10.50 a week; mill men, at from \$1.25 to \$1.50 a day; pilers, \$1.15 to \$2 a day; shanty men at \$16 a month and board; slabbers, \$1 50 a day, and teamsters \$7 a week. At Petrolia, it is shown that the lumbermen's wages ranged from \$1.50 a day without board to \$1 with board; but nothing is said as to what class of lumbermen is intended, whether green hands or experienced men. At Montreal, sawyers with six months' work a year, are put down at \$1.50 to \$2 a day; laborers, at \$1.10 to \$1.25 a day, six months' work; choppers, \$24.18 and board a month, 5½ months' work; teamsters receiving the same, while drivers for five and a half months' work received from \$1.25 to \$2 a day. At Sherbrooke and at Hull the information is very indefinite. The sitting of the commission at St. John, N.B., shows that raftsmen were receiving from \$1.75 to \$2.75 a day, for eight months' work, deal pilers, \$1.80 a day, gang men, \$1.80, tail men, \$1.50; middle men \$1.60; circular men, \$1.80, and lath sawyers, \$1.80. At Newcastle, N.B., circular men received \$1.50 a day, gang men from \$1.40 to \$1.60, lath sawyers, from \$1.25 to \$1.50, piler, \$1.50, running logs, 90 cents to \$1 and board, tail men, from \$1.10 to \$1.60, and men in the woods from \$14 to \$18 and board. At Amherst, N.S., lumbermen in the woods are put down \$16 to \$20 with board, while lumbermen received \$1.10 to \$1.15 a day with board, but nothing is said about circular saw men or log runners. The report so far as the lumber interest is concerned might have been made more interesting and less misleading.

THE wonderful resources of British Columbia are attracting the attention of capitalists, not only of Canada but also of America, and it is surprising to see how rapidly the country is advancing even in this rapidly advancing age. That it has a great future before it we have not the least doubt. Its splendid climate, its beautiful waters and harbors, together with its vast fisheries, immense forests and rich mineral lands, with the vim and push manifested by its people, all combined bid fair to make it the Fairy Land—the Eldorado of the West. As trusts and combines are swallowing up, with the aid of English capital, many of the leading industrial interests, with the view no doubt of forming gigantic monopolies which will ultimately crush the smaller establishments, no wonder that smaller capitalists should turn their eyes wistfully to the west, looking for a retreat from the overdone centres of the east. It is at British Columbia, a country blessed by nature and smiled upon by heaven, far away from the rigors of eastern Canadian winters, that they must and will turn their attention. Americans are beginning to see its great advantages, and it would be wise for Canadians to go in now and "possess the land." Alluding to its timber forests, an American writer who has been taking in the country says, in a communication to the *New York World*, that, "one of the great sources of wealth of British Columbia is the extensive forests of valuable timber, which apparently are inex-

haustible. The prevailing timber is the Douglas fir, which is found on this island in large quantities. There is also a beautiful yellow cedar which grows on the island, which takes a splendid finish and is largely used for ornamental panels in connection with mahogany, red cedar and cherry. Scotch fir, oak, hemlock, maple and white pine also abound here. The several lumber yards in the city are doing a flourishing business, and the numerous and extensive saw mills which are in the immediate vicinity are tasked to meet the steadily growing demand. As consumers of lumber here I will mention three or four shipyards, two furniture factories, four waggon and carriage factories, box, cooperage and cigar box factories, and the building trades, the latter being particularly active just now. All branches of the woodworking industry have a most promising field here, for, in addition to a ready market for the manufactured product, the raw material is near at hand and easily and inexpensively obtained. I am impressed with the advantages offered by Victoria for pulp and paper mills, and I have no doubt these interests will sooner or later be added to her list of manufacturing enterprises. As this city is the largest and wealthiest in the province, it is also the chief centre of manufactures. The Albion Iron Works here are the largest on the coast outside of San Francisco, and there are several smaller iron foundries, machine works and stove works. There are also five boot and shoe factories, a large lithographing and printing house, wire works, vinegar and pickling works, six cigar factories, two bookbinderies, two soap works, two cracker bakeries, and oatmeal and rice hulling mills, in addition to the industries mentioned above in connection with the lumber interests, besides numerous minor enterprises. All of these establishments are in active operation, but the field of mechanical pursuits is not by any means over-cultivated, and it is safe to say that manufacturing in Victoria is only in its infancy."

THAT a great deal has been accomplished by the persistent agitation of labor subjects by the numerous labor organizations in this and other countries cannot be truthfully denied. While the ostensible purpose of the continued agitation is to improve the ordinary condition of the working class by securing for it opportunities which it could not bring about without the aid of the law, the resorting to strikes and other arbitrary measures are to be depreciated, inasmuch as they generally bring about results far different to those which they are the most desirous to obtain. The great bane of the working man is ignorance and his worst foe is the unprincipled agitator. He should inform himself thoroughly on the great questions of the day, particularly those relating to capital and labor, and instead of trusting too much to the law-making power for assistance he should endeavor to cultivate self-reliance and depend more upon his own skill and individual efforts. Every man is his own architect, and his success depends a great deal more upon his own efforts than his dependence upon others. Mr. Edward Atkinson in an essay appearing in the August number of the *Forum* takes up this phase of the labor question, wherein the writer says, that the share which each person may secure to his own use and enjoyment of the world's increasing product, depends upon the development of his individual character and capacity, that all laws restricting the free use of time and opportunity, or of skill and talent, are inconsistent with the progress of society and with the progress of the individual as well. Not enough consideration is usually given to the mind of a man as a prime factor in turning to account the material resources of the world and in directing the great wealth producing operations in trade and commerce. The workman who rests his hopes of success upon the passage of some legislative act rests them upon a feeble support. The great captains in the occupations of war and peace have almost invariably risen from the common ranks of society without the aid of any special law. In all gradations of society a similar condition exists, that the fortune of man is largely in his own keeping. Whether he shall be a capitalist or remain a common laborer depends mainly on the quality