

## THE AUSTRALIAN TRADE.

THERE has appeared in the *Canada Gazette* since our last issue a despatch from Downing Street regarding the proposed Jubilee International Exhibition to be held this year in Adelaide, the capital of South Australia, which is celebrating its fiftieth year as a colony.

After the Royal Commission, the Colonial proclamation and the list of officers there comes a full detailed classification of the exhibits. Those that are of most special interest for our readers we give as follows:—

## DEPARTMENT II.

Section D.—Furniture and Objects of General Use in Constructions and in Dwellings.

Class 217.—Heavy Furniture—Chairs, Tables &c., Suites for Drawing, Dining, and other Rooms, Chamber Suites, Bedsteads, Office and Library Furniture, Vestibule Furniture, Church Furniture and Decoration.

Class 228.—Manufactured Parts of Buildings—Sash, Blinds, Mantels, Metalwork, &c.

## DEPARTMENT V

Section B.—Machines and Tools for Working Metal, Wood and Stone.

Class 510.—Machines and Tools for Working Wood:—Planing, Sawing, Turning, Veneering, Grooving, Mortising, Tongueing, Cutting, Moulding, Stamping, Carving, Cask-making and Cork-cutting, &c.

" 511.—Machines for direct-acting Steam-sawing, &c.

" 519.—Tools, Implements, &c., for working Metal, Wood and Stone, not before enumerated.

## DEPARTMENT VI.

Section A.—Arboriculture and Forest Products.

Class 600.—Timber and Trunks of Trees, entire or in transverse Sections, with specimens of Barks, Leaves, Flowers, Seed Vessels, and Seeds, Masts, Spars, Knees, Longitudinal Sections of Trees, Railway Ties, Ship Timber, Lumber roughly sawed as Planks.

Shingles, Laths and Staves, split or sawn.

" 601.—Timber and Lumber prepared in various ways to resist Decay and Combustion, as by injection of salts of copper and zinc, &c.

" 602.—Ornamental Woods used in Decorating and for Furniture, as Veneers of Mahogany, Rosewood, Ebony, Walnut, Maple and Madrona, Cedar, Huon Pine, Blackwood (*Acacia Melanoxylon*), &c.

" 603.—Dyewoods, Barks, Galls and other Vegetable Substances for Coloring and Tanning.

In the long list there are other classes which might be of some interest to our readers, but we have given the more important. Appended to the classification is the following:—

MEMO.—Should any proposed exhibit be unprovided for in the foregoing classification, entries may be made under the head of "Unenumerated."

As the dates for making applications for space and for receiving articles for exhibition are both now passed, the exhibition being opened on June 20th, to last for six months, this information comes too late for Canadians to avail themselves of it. We publish it, however, because it forcibly draws attention to the existence of a too much neglected market in Australia, and throws some light upon the articles that are there considered of importance.

The advantages of this market for the products of our forest are not sufficiently known, and most certainly are not utilized as they might be. The mainland of Australia possesses a great variety and quantity of hardwoods (very hard indeed most of them are) but of pine and woods of that nature in which Canadian forests are so rich, Australian forests may be said for all practical purposes to be destitute. Consequently for their supply of such material they have to rely upon New Zealand, "Oregon" and "Norway." New Zealand pine is excellent but the supply is not unlimited and there is a large home demand. "Oregon" may be looked upon as a general trade term applicable to importations from the Pacific Coast of North America, including British Columbia, which should be fully as well able to supply the demand as our neighbors in the States. The same remark may partially apply to "Norway," which includes other countries of Northern Europe, and even transshipments from Canada as being of much the same class. There seems no sufficient reason why Eastern Canada should not now do a portion of this trade direct. This is the more feasible as Australia does not require so much rough timber as more highly manufactured goods, and therefore of greater value in proportion to bulk or weight and better able to stand freight charges. As an instance of this the Australian Colonies besides largely consuming sashes, doors, &c., have imported wooden houses ready framed and fitted for erection without the employment of skilled labour upon them. As to their demand for smaller wooden wares, they must be obvious under their peculiar circumstances and we will not now particularize them though they are well worth the attention of the Canadian trade.

There is a great market for Canadian forests products in Australia, and steps should be taken to develop this trade which has hardly been touched hitherto.

## HARD ON THE LUMBERMEN.

THE following letter received from the Department of Crown Lands for Ontario explains itself:—

TORONTO, 4th May, 1887.

Editor CANADA LUMBERMAN.

SIR,—An order in Council was passed 27th ulto., increasing the rate of ground rent on land under timber license in Ontario from \$2 to \$3 per square mile per annum, and also increasing the rate of dues on pine timber, square or waney, and on pine saw logs, from 1 1/4 cents to 2 cents per cubic foot on the timber, and from 75 cents to \$1 per thousand feet board measure on logs. The increase on ground rent to take place on and after the first day of May, 1887, and the increased dues on pine timber and saw logs to be payable on all such timber cut under license on and after the date last mentioned.

As many of your readers take an interest in matters connected with the above, the information is sent to you for your use as an item for your paper.

Your obedient servant,  
AUBREY WHITE,  
Assistant Commissioner.

The feeling of the lumbermen, so far as we are able to learn, regarding the order in Council referred to above, is one of universal disappointment and alarm. It was not to be wondered at that the Ontario Government, after learning of the action taken by Mr. Mercier in the Quebec Legislature, in raising the ground rents on timber limits, should take a similar stand. With this, however, they were not satisfied, but have dealt a far more serious blow by increasing the Crown dues on all lumber cut in the Province of Ontario from 1 1/4 to 2 cents per cubic foot on timber, and 25 cents per M. feet board measure on logs. From a casual look at these figures one would imagine that the increase was so small that little harm would result from the change. But instead of this the matter is of momentous concern to all engaged in the trade, and we are safe in saying that no greater injustice has ever before been perpetrated on the lumber operators of this Province. The statement is authoritatively made by our Ottawa correspondent that the larger operators, such as Mr. J. R. Booth, Messrs. Perley & Pattee and others, will, under this increased tax, lose annually in the neighborhood of \$20,000. It is therefore not to be wondered at that the lumbermen are seriously alarmed and chagrined at this quite unexpected legislation on the part of the Ontario Government, and are combining together with the object of bettering their condition.

The Government, of course, defends its action in this matter by claiming the necessity of increased revenue. Evidently the manner in which additional revenue is secured, or whether the obtaining of the same is calculated to demoralize any branch of trade, are matters, the consideration of which has had but little weight. We doubt very much if the financial condition of the Province is in such an unsatisfactory condition as to make this step necessary. From the Provincial Treasurer's last annual report we learn that the finances of the Province are in an unusually satisfactory condition, and that it has a large balance to its credit. As to the exact amount of that balance there is considerable difference of opinion, but a fair estimate would place it at about four million dollars. This certainly does not look as if the exigencies of the case demanded this unjust treatment of the lumbermen. There is probably no other government which is in so comfortable a pecuniary condition. About one-sixth of the whole revenue of this Province is already derived from the sale of the Crown timber, and by present indications it would seem that a sufficient additional tax is to be levied to cause stagnation, and make it almost impossible for any timber operator to do a successful business.

The lumbermen seem disinclined to make any serious protest against the slight increase in ground rents, but will oppose the increase of Crown dues to the utmost. It is their desire to make some kind of an arrangement, if possible, similar to the twenty years' agreement which has just elapsed, and it is to be hoped that sufficient influence can be brought to bear on the Mowat Government as to influence them in withdrawing, or at least amending, the order issued during the past month.

## WEST INDIAN TRADE.

THERE appears to be every prospect that the Dominion Authorities will take steps to promote the increase of direct trade with the West Indies, both the British Islands and those under a foreign flag. The proposed lines of steamships if established, as seems likely, cannot fail to have a good effect in this direction. The valuable report of Mr. J. J. Wyld, the agent of the Dominion in the West Indies throws additional light upon this subject, which had already attracted considerable attention. He shows the magnitude of the trade that can thus be thrown open, the ease with which it may be augmented, and the adaptability of Canadian produce for the requirements of the West Indian Islands.

The timber trades of the Dominion have an interest second to none in this question. These Islands require a large quantity of just such material as our forests are calculated to supply. Indeed they already import largely through the ports of the

United States of lumber and wooden goods of various kinds that come either from Canada or from the Northwestern States having similar forests. Why should we not establish a direct trade with them in these articles that would give us at least a share in the profit of supplying them? There is the advantage of their requiring not only such lumber as we can produce but much of it in a further manufactured condition, so that our planing mills and kindred industries would feel the benefit as well as the saw mills.

The trade as a body should use any influence it can bring to bear upon the Dominion Authorities to induce them to grant a subsidy to the proposed lines of steamers. And when this is accomplished they should as individuals prepare to avail themselves as far as possible of this virtually new opening, which is capable of being so largely developed if the requirements of the market are duly considered and steps are taken to suit it.

## THE INCREASE IN GROUND RENTS.

Since our last issue owners of Quebec timber limits have not been slow in condemning the action of the Mercier Government in increasing the ground rents from \$2 to \$5 per square mile. A meeting of lumbermen and those interested in the lumber trade, held in Montreal during the month, was very largely attended.

Mr. James McLaren occupied the chair, Mr. H. E. Bronson acting as secretary. Among those present were Messrs. Andrew Thomson, president of the Union Bank; James King, J. R. Booth, H. Atkinson, R. R. Grindley, general manager Bank of British North America; Jos. Kavanagh, Wm. Mackay, George Grinnell, F. Wolferstan Thomas, general manager Molson's bank; Geo. Hague, general manager Merchants' bank; W. J. Buchanan, of the Bank of Montreal; A. Thomson, Jacques Grenier, president Banque du Peuple; E. S. Clouston, local manager Bank of Montreal; H. A. Price, T. Nash, manager Union bank; C. A. Vallee, manager Banque Nationale; W. Weir, president, Banque Ville Marie; J. O. Lafreniere, W. W. L. Chipman, manager Ontario bank; Montreal; E. H. Grandbois, J. Charlton, M. P., James King, H. A. Coulston, J. S. Murphy, John Walker, G. B. Hall, W. C. Edwards, M. P., George Bryson, H. Robinson, O. Latour, James Gillies, E. D. Moore, the Hon. John Hamilton, A. Gilmour, R. R. Ross, J. G. Johnston, T. E. Kelley, R. White, William Little, John Roache, W. G. Perley, W. R. Thistle, W. E. Thompson, E. B. Eddy, Robt. Gill, manager Bank of Commerce, Ottawa; Thos. Murray, M. P. P., John Bryson, M. P., Robert Hurdman, W. H. Hurdman, Robert Reford, J. Murray Smith, manager Bank of Toronto, Montreal; Alex. Baptist, Jas. Dean, E. H. Bronson, G. A. Grier and Mr. Girouard, Quebec.

After considerable discussion the following resolutions were passed. Moved by Mr. John Charlton, M. P., seconded by Mr. J. R. Booth,

That this meeting desires to give expression to the following considerations in connection with the recent advance made by the Government of the Province of Quebec on the ground rent upon timber limits.

That the lumber industry is the leading industry in the Province, inasmuch as it is the principal source of Provincial revenue apart from the Dominion subsidy, and touches directly or indirectly every commercial interest in the community; that the lumber trade as recently as in the year 1885, having in view the then financial position of the Quebec Government, assented to a large increase in dues; that at the present price of timber lands, the profits arising from the prosecution of lumber manufacture are not commensurate with the risk involved, and the large amount of capital required.

That this meeting, representing the lumber industry of the Province, would deprecate any increase in charges, which will be so burdensome as to cripple the trade and thereby in the same degree injure the laboring, farming, banking and general commercial interests of the Province.

Moved by Mr. W. J. Buchanan, Bank of Montreal, seconded by Mr. George Hague, Merchants' Bank:

That the banking interests of the Province of Quebec, being largely interested directly and indirectly in the lumber industry, in common with all the other commercial interests in the Province, and being fully conversant with the fact that the profits derived from the lumber trade are small in comparison with the risks involved and the capital employed, believe that any considerable increase in charges upon the trade would so impair the security in timber licenses as to deter the banks from making the advances from time to time necessary for the efficient carrying on of the trade, and that any serious curtailment of such advances would reduce the output of lumber and thereby diminish the Provincial revenue.

As this might further result in impairing the credit of the province they venture to express the hope that the Government of Quebec will be induced to reconsider their recent action in increasing to so serious an extent the charges upon timber limits.

Moved by Mr. W. G. Perley, M. P., seconded by Mr. H. Atkinson:—

That Messrs. Ward, Thompson, McLaren, Roache, Latour, Charlton, Booth, King, Edwards, Powell, Robinson and Bronson be a deputation appointed to wait upon the Quebec Government to urge upon it the opinions of this meeting upon the question of Crown timber charges.