

day or night to all mills, etc. Each lessee shall maintain his own flume. The minister may make improvements at the cost of the lessees. In case of any default the title is to revert to the crown, and no lessee can have any claim for loss against the Queen.

THE Conger Lumber Company, of Parry Sound, paid their employees 5 per cent. on their season's earnings, out of the mill profits for the season of 1888, which is a snug little bonanza for the men just at this time of the year, when the camps are all closed and the mill will not run for a month yet. If other lumber concerns would adopt the same system, there would not be grounds for strikes or changing of hands—there would be more harmony between employers and employees. Long may they have a surplus to divide among the "horny-handed sons of toil."

MR. H. W. POWIS, Mr. Mason, of London, Eng., and Mr. Graddon, late book keeper to Mr. Charles G. Davies, the alleged defaulter, have had an interview with Mr. Davies at Suspension Bridge. The books of the defaulter have been recovered and made up. As a result of the investigation, and of the information furnished by Mr. Davies, it has been ascertained that the direct loss will be much less than previously stated. That of Messrs. Bryant, Powis & Bryant is expected to be not more than \$25,000 to \$30,000. The amount of the indirect losses depend largely upon what realization can be made of the assets and debts of Davies. One Quebec firm is said to owe \$90,000 to the estate agency of Mr. Davies, while another house for which Mr. Davies acted has also a very heavy claim against the same firm. Mr. Davies took very little money away from Canada, his losses being chiefly through speculation. At a meeting of creditors of Chas. G. Davies Mr. John T. Welch was appointed curator and Messrs. Powis and Mason inspectors.

MR. OSTROM has introduced a bill into the Ontario Legislature to amend the Act respecting the driving of saw logs and other timber on lakes, rivers, creeks and streams. It provides that the arbitrators shall in all cases use the following scale as a basis for calculating and fixing the proportion in which parties to any arbitration proceedings shall bear the burden and expense of driving all material within the meaning of the act.

SCALE.

1 Pine saw log, 17 feet and under.....	1 standard.
1 Cedar, over 8 feet and under 17 feet....	"
2½ Cedars, 8 feet and under.....	"
2½ R. R. Ties, flatted.....	"
1½ R. R. Ties, round.....	"
1 Hemlock, Ash, etc., log, 17 feet and under. 1½	"
1 Piece, round, flatted or square timber, over 17 feet and under 25 feet long. 1½	"
1 Piece, round, flatted or square timber, over 25 feet and under 35 feet long. 2	"
1 Piece, round, flatted or square timber, 35 feet long and over.....	3

MR. BLAIR in introducing his stumpage resolution in the Local House, at Fredericton, N. B., referred to the efforts of the North Shore lumbermen during the past several years to secure a reduction of the stumpage. The government has been obliged to decline to comply with the request of the lumbermen for many years because the finances of the country would not admit of a reduction. Now, however, the territorial revenue was so large that a reduction of 25 cents per thousand could be made without interfering with the services of the country. A lengthy debate followed the introduction of the government resolution affirming the advisability of a reduction of the stumpage to 25c. per thousand superficial feet was finally carried by ten majority.

We are advised from Quebec that Messrs. J. S. Murphy & Co., lumber merchants of that city, have made an assignment of their estate for the benefit of their creditors. The statement filed in court by the insolvent firm, shows their liabilities to be \$187,000, while their assets appear to be about \$151,000. The

assignment was made at the instance of Simson, Mason & Co., of London, Eng. J. S. Murphy, individually, has also failed for \$75,000, and W. H. Wilson, who was partner for J. S. Murphy & Co., has also assigned his own estate valued at some \$275,000. These failures which aggregate \$510,000, are said to be the outcome of the Davies defalcation. J. S. Murphy's large lumbering operations in the west will be continued and the manufactured timber will be brought down this spring, the contracts previously made by Mr. Murphy with Mr. Wade and others being carried out. The operations at Riviere a Pierre and St. Anne mills will be continued and the logs brought down and sawn in the interest of the estate.

THE Toronto lumbermen are justly indignant at the lack of transportation facilities provided by the railways, especially the Grand Trunk. Another meeting was held in the Board of Trade rooms on Monday, March, 24th, Mr. A. K. McIntosh in the chair. There was a full attendance, and some of the members present expressed their views freely on the subject, the railroads coming in for a good deal of criticism. The main difficulty appears to exist in the lack of locomotive power rather than a scarcity of cars. Things are even worse at the present time, say the lumbermen, than when they complained last year. One member spoke of a shipment of lumber leaving Waubesa on the 13th and only arriving in Toronto on the 24th; a second member had received only five cars when he wanted two hundred; a third instanced the fact of two trains lying on the Esplanade for two days because there was no locomotives to draw them. The lumber section will issue a circular to lumbermen in Ontario asking for full information, and base a report upon that, which report will be presented to the railroad authorities. Another cause of complaint is the absence from Toronto of a Grand Trunk superintendent of cars. Under the present system all enquiries have to be addressed to Allandale, Hamilton, or other outside points, and the annoyance and delay resulting is great. Robert Thompson, A. K. McIntosh and John Donogh were appointed a committee to enquire into matters and the council of the board will be asked to co-operate with the section in endeavoring to secure a local superintendent of cars.

THE Republican members of the House Ways and Means Committee have practically agreed upon every point of division upon the tariff schedule upon which they have been engaged for several months. It is based upon the Allison Bill, which passed the Senate a year ago. In the lumber schedule the duty on sawed boards, planks and finished lumber is reduced 50 per cent. from present rates. The following is the text of the provisions upon which the Ways and Means sub-committee has agreed as to retaliation in the matter of the export duty levied by the Dominion Government upon logs. After the lumber schedule the following is proposed: Provided that, in case any foreign country shall impose an export duty upon pine, spruce, hemlock or other logs, or upon stave bolts, shingles, wood or heading blocks exported to the United States from such country in excess of the duty fixed in this act upon the sawed lumber manufactured of the logs heretofore mentioned, then the duty upon the sawed lumber herein provided for when imported from such country shall remain the same as fixed by the law prior to the passage of this act. The bill as a whole is of particular interest to Canadians. It will now be presented to the House, where no doubt it will elicit considerable discussion, and it may be that some alterations will be made. The House is expected to pass the bill by the first of June, and it will be some months before it reaches the President for signature.

SPLINTERS.

THE Ways and Means Committee at Washington has reconsidered the proposed lumber duties, and fixed the duty on sawn lumber at \$1.50 per 1000 feet. This is a cut of 50c. per thousand, the existing duty being \$2.

We are in receipt of a circular letter from G. F. Slater, of the Vancouver Shingle Mill, B. C. He has recently given his mill a complete overhauling, and has

perfected his arrangements for the manufacture of dimension shingles, and can now turn out 75,000 a day of any width from four to twelve inches wide. It is now a well demonstrated fact that shingles made from British Columbia Fir have never been equalled in quality, much less excelled.

LUMBERMEN are anxious to know what is the matter with the weigh scales at Alliston. They are said to weigh about 1,000 lbs. too heavy. Perhaps the G. T. R. will rise and explain.

THERE has been an extra demand for lath this season and as a result they are difficult to obtain. Several buyers have been scouring the country of late for this commodity but have not been very successful.

IN our last issue we stated that Messrs. Smith, Wade & Co., of Quebec, had contracted for the coming season's cut of E. L. Sewell's four mills, which will run up to about 250,000 feet. It should have read 200,000 Quebec standards.

WE are in receipt of a very handsome hanger card, sent us by Messrs. Roblin & Sadler, the well-known leather belting manufacturers of Montreal and Toronto. In gold letters on the front of the card is the firm's name and address, while on the reverse side is given their price list.

MR. CHARLTON, M. P., has moved for a list of timber limits granted by the Dominion government since March, 1885, the names of the parties to whom granted, the area of each limit granted, whether granted to the highest bidder in public competition, and the amount of bonus, if any, in each case.

A MEETING of the Southern Yellow Pine Association was held in Montgomery, Ala., last month. No business of importance was transacted. The question of an advance in the prices was brought up, but the meeting deemed it inexpedient to advance the price list at the present time. The convention will convene again in Montgomery in June next.

THE millmen on the St. Lawrence are pleased to see that the firm of Goodday, Benson & Co., who have recently established themselves in Quebec, propose developing the hardwood business, and at the same time they expect to do a large business with Ontario, especially where ash, birch and maple can be manufactured and shipped by rail to Montreal, Three Rivers and Quebec.

MR. N. E. CORMIER, lumberman, of Aylmer, Que., has made an abandonment of his estate to the court under the Quebec Insolvent Act. Some weeks ago a meeting of his creditors was held, and an extension of time given, but the assignment has been forced by the Ontario government seizing for timber dues. The proceedings of the meeting are thus void, and the estate will go into liquidation.

IT is said that Lake Superior lumber shipments this year will be greater than in the previous year. The log cut in Wisconsin has been enormous, and a large number of new vessels will soon be afloat. Lumber will be carried from Ashland to Buffalo, and Tonawanda and other important lumber centres, at a rate lower than for several years. Charters have already been secured at 22½ per 1000, and shippers say that rates will be lower when navigation opens.

CASUALTIES.

Mr. John Mattice, of Novar, while working in a lumber camp at Emsdale, had one of his legs broken.

D. Riddell, while working at a circular saw in Muirhead & Mann's mill, Victoria, B. C., had two of his fingers and part of a thumb cut off.

Two men named Turcotte and Bush, employed with others in building a dam on a small creek in the Scott lumber limits, about twelve miles from Apsley, Ont., were severely injured by the premature explosion of a blast. They were engaged in blasting for the foundations.