



A PROMINENT lumberman of Quebec is Mr. John S. Murphy, of Levis. In the winter season he spends less or more time in Toronto and certain sections of Ontario. In conversation a few days since he said: "All this year's cut of logs in the woods of Quebec has already been sold. The bulk of the timber will go to the Liverpool market. Prices with us are better in Europe than in the United States. Our trade with South America is also developing, and we are anticipating, in a short time, that this will be large enough to make the United States market a matter of indifference to us."

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"Despite the McKinley bill," said Mr. Shortreed, of Shortreed Bros., Hillsdale, Ont., "we are shipping large quantities of cedar poles to the United States. For the better quality of poles the Americans have got to come to Canada. Shipments of poorer stock, of course, have been reduced. We handle hardwoods nearly altogether and trade is very good. We ship principally to the States. I certainly favor free trade in lumber."

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"Lumber business is very satisfactory," remarked Mr. Gray, formerly of Hastings & Co. "This has been an active winter in the woods, and things will hum this summer around the mills. Undoubtedly there will be a good many logs rafted to Michigan, but our own mills will do lots of cutting. Prices are good. We have reason to be pleased with lumber conditions as they are to day, after the dull period that we had passed through, and I hope things may be allowed to remain in this shape."

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"We would prefer no export duty on logs," says Mr. T. H. DeCew, manufacturer of hardwood lumber, Essex, Ont., "and are hoping, and believe, the change in the administration in the United States will bring about in the near future closer trade relations between the two countries. I do not think it is policy for our government to do anything that might hinder the bringing about of this result. I noticed a statement in a recent LUMBERMAN that the Essex mills have put in 2,500,000 feet of logs. This refers only to Mr. Naylor's mill. I have a stock for my Essex mill of 3,500,000, besides 2,500,000 at my Colchester mill, making a total of 6,000,000, for Mr. Naylor and myself. This has been one of the finest winters for moving stock we have had in fifteen years."

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Robert Batty, a Canadian woodsman, and now working in Oregon, writing to a former friend and school-mate, says: "I scaled one log 15 feet long that made 2,600 feet of lumber and another the same length that contained a little over 2,400. I have scaled dozens of the same length with 1,600, 1,800 and 2,000 feet in them. The timber here is very tall and large. It is no trouble to get from 250,000 to 300,000 feet of lumber off one acre. I know of one acre from which was cut 289,000 feet actual measurement. In timber like what I have mentioned the cutters go through it and fell all the trees they can without felling them across each other to damage them: then when the logs are cut and hauled out they go over it again and so on until all the timber is taken out. We had pretty fair weather all last summer and up to the middle of November then we had three weeks of very wet weather and a little snow. Then we had cool dry weather up to 21st December, when it snowed over 3½ feet in two days. On the 25th and 26th December it rained and took all the snow off. For four weeks we had fine bright weather, then it commenced to snow again and snow fell every day for two weeks, and now it is raining again. The coldest weather we have had this winter was 18 degrees above zero."

Mr. P. O. Byram, of Grand Falls, N.B., is not pleased with "A's" reference in the last LUMBERMAN to the small mill men of the country. Local milling, says Mr. Byram, "is needed to meet the wants of the farmers and pioneers of the country. It would be a big mistake for the country to encourage a monopoly in lumber at the cost of local milling enterprise. Are we to take away the market for our farmers, and worse still, drive our children to seek employment elsewhere? Mr. Phipps' observations in the same LUMBERMAN are, to my way of thinking, apt to leave a decidedly wrong impression. He says the cutting and hauling of the logs out of the woods is the main work of lumbering, and he would minimize the work of cutting these logs into lumber. The manufacturing of lumber consists not alone in cutting the logs into boards and scantling. If encouragement is given to home manufacturers it means that these boards will be planed, tongued, grooved, and a thousand and one articles made out of the lumber. More than this activity, in the mill means activity in the foundry and the machine shop. Force the small mill men to go out of business and you will curtail the output of every manufacturer of mill machinery of whatever kind in the Dominion. The evil is far reaching."

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"It is all nonsense," said Mr. N. C. Dymont, of Barrie, Ont., "to talk of a lumber combine. What does it mean? Simply that if such were the case, a lot of Americans would come over here and purchase limits, off which they would cut and ship logs. Now, does it seem reasonable that the lumbermen of Canada, who are here on the ground, and who know just about as much about the value of our limits as any American, would permit any such scheme to mature? The lumbermen of Canada are now the owners of all these limits, and if there is anything in them it is not likely that they are going to let the Yankees pull the wool over their eyes and get the advantage. The fact of the matter is, that no such proposition has been made and so far as I know there is no reason to make it. I quite agree from a Canadian lumberman's standpoint with the Dominion Government in their action in refusing to replace the export duty. If we put on our duty of \$1 again the American government would at once clap on the old duty of \$4 per thousand on cut lumber, and this would practically shut us out of their market for our manufactured lumber. It is true that there are two mills on the north shore of Georgian Bay shut down now, but I contend that if the duty was reimposed they would all shut down. The only feature that I see which we want improved is that our government should endeavor to have the remaining \$1 per thousand tax removed on manufactured lumber going into the United States."

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Mr. E. O. Elsemore, representative of several large Michigan lumber firms, has been doing some prospecting in the Georgian Bay and other northern lumber sections. During his stay in Toronto he makes his headquarters at the Walker. He considers the rumors of a big combine of Canadian and American lumbermen as mere newspaper talk. Mr. Elsemore had a hand in the purchase of \$500,000 of timber limits from McArthur Bros., of Toronto, in the early fall of last year. These limits are now being worked by their American owners. "We have had this winter," said Mr. Elsemore, "900 men, all Canadians, in our employ. The material and supplies for our seventeen camps was all bought in Canada. This expenditure ought to be of some benefit to Canada. Speaking of the present agitation for a reimposition of the log duty Mr. Elsemore said: "It would not drive American lumbermen out of Canada. They could let their timber stay there until the tax was removed again. No dues are payable until the trees are cut. It won't pay Canada to discourage American investments here. Last year we imported from your side 1,400,000,000 feet of timber. Of that amount 1,100,000,000 came from Ontario. Now, does it benefit you or not to sell us that timber? As far as I am concerned I don't believe in these two countries being divided up by a little patch of water. I say if we have anything to sell and you want it, come over, buy it, pay for it and take it away. If you have anything we want let us do the same without any interference from customs officers. I think things are leading that way, too, all the time."

A TALK WITH WORKINGMEN.

By E. L.

ONE of the arguments sometimes used for a reduction in the hours of labor is that workingmen may have more time for self improvement and education. It is by no means certain that this spare time, if secured, would to any large extent, be used in this manner. The men who are to-day improving their opportunities, despite the hours given to manual occupation, would appreciate, and no doubt wisely use, these additional hours. The men who spend their time now in ways that are neither healthful nor improving from a moral or intellectual point of view would in many cases only extend the dissipation of valuable time as a result of extra time on their hands. This, however, opens an interesting field of labor discussion, that we shall not follow further at the present time.

This much will be agreed to by all thoughtful men, whether the end is accomplished in eight hours or ten hours, or under even less favorable circumstances, that the workingman who expects to attain success in his work must read and study at least on the lines of his particular vocation. If one is satisfied to drift with the tide and be a nobody among the multitude of nobodies in his calling, he need not trouble himself about books or opportunities for intellectual culture. The many enquiries, however, that come to a journal of the character of the LUMBERMAN, asking what books one may read with most profit to a working mechanic anxious to become a better mechanic, makes clear that there are scores of workingmen sincerely desirous of self-improvement. Nothing in the work of an editor gives him greater pleasure than the opportunity to answer such enquiries and perhaps give a word of counsel that will prove an inspiration to some worthy seeker after knowledge.

Of course there are those ready with objections to suggestions such as we have here given expression to. But the lion and the adder are ever in the way of the man who does not want to do a thing. Some remarks on this point have recently appeared in the columns of a trade contemporary and we give them a place here as pat to the subject under discussion, and exceedingly practical. "With many of us, reading is largely a matter of opportunity, some think they lack the means of procuring books, or more frequently still, imagine that they have not the time necessary for the mastery of the helpful volumes. If one would stop to consider but for a moment, however, the amount of money we spend for cigars, amusements, etc., we would soon find that we could easily accumulate in a year's time a sufficient amount to be able to invest in a nice little library. I do not mean to deprive oneself entirely of amusements, because it is easy to realize that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." If we would, nevertheless, stop to consider the great benefit derived from a mechanical library, and the possible increase in salary by reason of intelligent use, or, at least, the being able to accomplish a day's work with a greater amount of ease, we would certainly profit by it far more in the end.

"It frequently happens that the taste or appreciation for what is advancing and ennobling in literature of this kind is lacking. This is the heaviest bolt on the gate of knowledge; for no amount of recommendation can give one interest in a book, and in mental as well as in physical food we are profited only by what we assimilate. But it is just for those who feel both longing and limitation that this article is written—simply to act as a finger-post indicating in what direction mental culture may be reached. Bear in mind also that there are "passing" books and "lasting" books. This we have more or less all of us experienced in books written in the form of romance, fiction, novels, etc. The same thing holds good on mechanical literature. One cannot expect to find the same amount of help in the books of the day as in the books for all time. Again, the manner of reading will differ. The one kind furnishes comparatively easy reading, because more on the level of our own knowledge and experience—but the latest book should not occupy the time to the exclusion of the older authors, who often give you their thought more by way of reward than of help, just as nature does not spread her gold upon the surface, but lets us search and dig, or crush the rock to get the precious ore. We must do some reading that requires thought and labor."