



MR. H. B. Turner, of Little Current, Ont., when in the city a week ago, told of the effect of the free export of logs, upon that particular section of the Province. He said: "When that duty was in force we had three large saw mills at the Current running on full time. Now one of these, with a capacity of 100,000 feet, daily, is lying idle and another is only half stocked. Before the change in policy 125 men were employed in our own town on the mills and in loading lumber, and an American company were negotiating for the purchase of Goat Island as a site for another mill that would have added largely to the number of employees. But this latter deal is off now and companies that would otherwise give work for from one to two hundred men in the town employ only six or seven. The innovation has also reduced the price of labor in the woods. American companies now bring in Poles and Hungarians who work for \$12 to \$18 a month, and this has brought down the local standard of wages that formerly stood at \$26 a month. This is a matter that affects Toronto as well as the Manitoulin Island and the North Shore. The transfer of the work of manufacturing lumber from mills at Little Current, Midland, Parry Sound, Serpent and Spanish River, to those at Bay City and Saginaw, has enormously reduced the sales formerly made by Toronto wholesalers in our country. There is no division of feeling in the lumber towns of the north. They are all for a restoration of the duty on logs and we feel, in view of the facts I have just stated, that Toronto ought to help us in this."

It is no easy matter to down a lumberman. Physically they will hold their own with most men, as the case which I am going to recite is evidence. They have a faculty of "getting there," to employ an expression of Sam Jones. When they run for parliament they are usually successful. When they aspire to office and honors in other directions the occasion is a rare one when they are beaten. Mentally there is a robust vigor about them that commands attention, whether in asserting a business proposition or in any other work of life. Perhaps the active training, many have had in fighting their way through the bush, and in levelling, after persistent blows, the hardy giants of the forests, is an exercise that has developed muscle and mind. They seem, all through life to have drunk in the ozone of success. Now to illustrate. The story comes from the Lower Province, and tells of the forcible resistance encountered by a couple of officers of the provincial police in their efforts to execute a warrant upon a citizen of New Brunswick and the incident has adventure enough in it to recall to mind the story of Morrison, the Lake Megantic out-law. The present case arises out of a timber dispute, Mr. Connor, a rich timber merchant in a small town called after him, at the terminus of the Temiscouata railway, being the party for whom the officers of the law were sent to the sister province. A client of Mr. C. E. Pouliot, ex-M. P., and a resident of Temiscouata, took a seizure upon some logs he had sold to a Mr. Chisholm but that the latter had not paid for. Mr. Connors made a claim upon the logs, too, and finally a seizure was made upon them in his hands. This Mr. Connors entirely disregarded, and also resisted arrest at the hands of a bailiff sent to capture him, knocking down the officer of the law. Then Detective Patry and Sergt. Burke, of the Provincial Police, of Quebec, were sent for by telegraph. They succeeded after some time in discovering their man, who is described as a perfect Hercules, is also a millionaire, and was found hiding behind a barrel in his shop. He was brought out by them, despite the desperate resistance he offered, but immediately shouted to his employees, who were in the vicinity, to come to his assistance, and in less than five minutes 250 of them were crowding around the officers, and naturally succeeded in freeing Connors, although the police gal-

lantly stuck to their man until forced to the last extremity and compelled to leave him and return to Quebec.

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Mr. Geo. Bertram, who has a very complete knowledge of lumber matters, from the fact of being largely interested in Canadian timber limits and saw milling, as well as being in the way of supplying mills with much of their equipment, is of the opinion, that the passing of the Wilson free lumber bill will be the means of stimulating saw milling in Canada in a very marked degree. Speaking, as he says, out of his own experience and knowledge, he refers to a saw mill at Midland, which has been lying idle for some time. It is owned by a Michigan firm, and just as soon as dressed lumber is admitted into the States free, that mill, he says, will be started running. At Parry Sound a large mill there is lying idle. To-day it is only a matter of negotiation, who will take the active management of it, and with free lumber, sawing will commence there. The same conditions apply in other places, that might be named; and what is more, Mr. Bertram is quite convinced that United States lumber concerns will, in a very short time, commence the erection of mills in Canada and send there stuff forward manufactured. It is just like this, argues Mr. Bertram, To day much lumber is being sent to Michigan in the shape of logs. There it has to be sawed into lumber and distributed from that point. With mills sawing on this side of the line, in many cases manufactured lumber can be sent direct from here to the point of destination without stopping midway and then being reshipped. It may be remarked here that this view is voiced very plainly by lumbermen from Bay City and other Michigan points. Some of these views are given elsewhere, I understand, in this month's LUMBERMAN.

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A conversation I had the other day with Mr. F. N. Tennant, lumberman, confirms the reports reaching the east of the unsettled condition of the shingle market in British Columbia. Mr. Tennant has been handling red cedar shingles in considerable quantities and had anticipated a solid growth of trade in this province. A combination of the shingle men of British Columbia was perfected in the early spring season with the idea of helping in that direction. "It is just like this," said Mr. Tennant, "the combination is still in existence, but prices have not been maintained, though there is no cutting as yet, as far as I know, among the manufacturers themselves. Prices are uniform. The prices of cedar shingles had been fixed at \$2.75. This figure has now been dropped to \$2.60, for the reason that some manufacturers had taken orders, perhaps up to the amount of 200 cars, at a lower rate than that fixed by the combination, before this organization had been formed, and these men and their customers in Ontario have insisted that in so far as they are concerned the lower price must hold good. The result is that red cedar shingles to-day are being sold in many hands throughout the province at a reduced figure, which does not give any inducement at present to push things. Of course when the supply at the lower figure is exhausted, the expectation is that prices will go up again, but 200 cars of shingles reaches close to the estimated consumption of the province for one season. Possibly 50 cars additional would be sold, but not any more. There is no money to the British Columbia manufacturers in this change. In fact, to quote the words of one of my correspondents, 'If they manage to get themselves out of the hole even this season, they will be satisfied.'" I asked Mr. Tennant if he anticipated that free lumber would have any effect upon shingle manufacturing on the Pacific coast. His reply was that, "He feared our people there would find strong competition from Puget Sound manufacturers. When the Dominion government announced that the duty was taken off shingles, we, along with other dealers, no doubt, in the province, received circulars quoting shingles from the Sound at \$2.35. Of course pressure was brought upon the government, and they returned the duty until such a time as free lumber would become a certainty. It looks as though this time had about arrived, the Senate having passed that clause in the Wilson bill. So soon as this regulation comes into effect, I fancy, we are likely to hear more from the Puget Sound

shingle men. They will be able to drop thirty cents, the present duty, and freight rates are in their favor, the United States roads carrying freight at a less rate than the Canadian roads." Mr. Tennant says that the lumber business generally throughout the province is very quiet, there not appearing to be any activity in building operations in the rural sections. He looks upon free lumber as a step that will help to revive trade and that will probably lead to a very considerable increase in saw milling in Canada, as he thinks United States lumbermen will find it will pay to cut their lumber here, when it can be exported free of any duty, rather than ship the logs and then have them cut up and re-shipped again to the trade. Being reminded of a statement that I had heard made, namely, that nearly all the oak and birch used for manufacturing furniture in Canada was brought in from the States, and the reason given that our mills could not cut these timbers in a manner to make up into furniture, I asked Mr. Tennant if he could give any explanation of this strange condition. He said the statement was perfectly correct, and putting his hand on a handsome desk at which he was sitting, he said it was not possible, or at least it was not being done by our hardwood saw mill men, to cut oak so as to make up into stock of that kind. He had frequently spoken to hardwood men about the matter and their only reply was that it paid them better to go on as they were going, cutting the timber more in the rough.

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How true it is, that, as a people, we know little of the beauties and riches of our country. Fashion compels us to go abroad for recreation and sight-seeing but the greater beauties are at our own door, within the limits of our own beautiful Dominion. It is not the first time that reference has been made in these columns to that very interesting portion of country known as the Lake of the Woods. It delights everyone, who has had an opportunity to visit it. To lumbermen it has not alone the attractiveness of picturesque beauty, but it has been learned, that in this country there are wonderful riches of timber, that will yet prove most valuable to our people. One who has recently been there says of the Rainy River: "The river without doubt is one of the most beautiful on the American continent, if not in the world. The banks of the Rainy river on both sides, along its entire length, are clear cut and well defined, and are from 20 to 30 feet past high water mark. The well-tilled fields and comfortable homes, many of them of pleasing, attractive exterior, the large barns, the sleek horses, cattle, sheep and hogs, all along the Canadian side of the river, bear ample witness of the richness and productivity of the soil." Norway pine is the principle wood of the Rainy lake country. Some of this is of quite an inferior quality, but large quantities of valuable logs have nevertheless been cut there, floated down to Rat Portage and cut up into lumber. There are timber limits of Norway pine with a sprinkle of white pine of considerable dimensions tributary to these waters. On the American side an agitation is going on for a railway into this country. The statement is that hundreds of millions of feet of pine are still standing unsurveyed on that part of Minnesota. Another writer who has travelled over the ground expresses the opinion that one of the best opportunities on this continent for lumber mills is now opening out in the vicinity of Rainy river, either on American or Canadian soil. I like in these monthly chats to keep readers posted in regard to lumber affairs in all parts of our province and it is especially interesting to hear from men of a particular section of country, which they have been able to observe with their own eyes.

DROWNED AT FRENCH RIVER.

THE death by drowning at French River, on Thursday, June 21, of Mr. John E. Waldie, second son of Mr. John Waldie, of this city, president of the Victoria Harbor Lumber Co., and who has for years been one of the most esteemed and representative members of the lumber trade in the Province, was a sad shock to the many friends of the deceased. The younger Waldie was 25 years of age, and had the management of his father's affairs at French River. The accident happened through the capsizing of a canoe which the young man had been paddling. Deceased leaves to mourn his loss, besides his parents, a number of brothers and sisters, to all of whom the LUMBERMAN extends its warmest sympathy.