

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

VOLUME XVI.
NUMBER 7.

TORONTO, ONT., JULY, 1895

TERMS, \$1.00 PER YEAR
Single Copies, 10 Cents.

MANITOBA LUMBERMEN.

SKETCH OF THE WESTERN RETAIL LUMBERMEN'S ASSOCIATION AND ITS OFFICERS, WITH PORTRAITS.

"In union there is strength."—Old Proverb.

LUMBERMEN in Canada have been slow to realize the force of the old, but timely, saw which we have here quoted. Where lumbermen's associations are found in good numbers in other countries, especially in the United States, their growth in Canada has been slow and stunted. True, in Toronto there is a Lumbermen's Section of the Board of Trade, but it is restricted to lumbermen who are members of this institution, and whilst in particular cases it has put forth a good influence, yet, it can hardly be termed an association in the usual meaning of the term. Talk with lumbermen and they will admit the desirability of a union of the various members of the trade, but whatever the reason may be, it has been found next to impossible to get them together so that this end could be attained. In western Ontario, there did exist a few years ago an organization of hardwood men, which served an excellent purpose, and through methods of mutual protection, made money for by saving losses to its members. But if not actually dissolved, this association has been an inactive force for several years. About a year ago, lumbermen of the Maritime Provinces got together and formed an organization, which started out hopefully, though we are not hearing as much about it as ought to be the case with a living organization.

It is to the west that one must journey to find an illustration of a real live organization of lumbermen in Canada. In Sept. 1891, there assembled in the city of Brandon, Man., about 25 retail lumbermen, having in view the starting of a lumbermen's association. Compared with the membership to-day, and in fact with that which was reported at the second annual meeting, the members were few, but we are told that they were unanimous in purpose, and there and then the Western Retail Lumbermen's Association was formed: constitution and by-laws were adopted; and officers appointed.

Primarily, the organization is of retail men, and for their protection. To quote the Constitution: "The title of this Association shall be the Western Retail Lumbermen's Association, and it shall have for its object the protection of its members against sales of wholesale dealers and manufacturers to contractors and consumers, and the giving of such other protection as may be within the limits of the co-operative Association."

Every trade has experienced the injustice of wholesalers and manufacturers passing the retailer by and selling direct to the consumer. More than once, with the purpose of remedying this trouble, a Round Robin has been signed by retail men in different mercantile lines, resolving to boycott certain wholesalers who have been guilty of this sin. The stand taken by Manitoba lumbermen has been simply this, that they were in the field as customers for the wholesaler and mill man, and they could be depended upon to supply the needs of the consuming public. This position did not mean antagonism to the wholesaler or manufacturer. On the contrary, one of the first steps was to enlist the interest of this branch of lumbering, and a clause was adopted in the constitution admitting as an honorary member any wholesaler or manufacturer who should pay into the treasury the sum of \$10 annually. To the honorary members were given all the privileges of membership except that of voting upon any question at the meetings of the Association. At the end of seven months, when the first annual meeting was held, the membership consisted of 130 active members and 15 honorary members, which we are told included practically every

wholesale and retail dealer within the jurisdiction of the Association.

One excellent purpose has been served by this organization in keeping down unhealthy competition. No one is debarred from entering the lumber business in any town, but by fixing uniform prices, cutting of prices is suppressed, and when a town becomes over crowded with retail lumbermen conditions soon adjust themselves by one or more dropping out of the business. The scope of the Association has been further extended by admitting to honorary membership manufacturers in British Columbia, as it is from that section, a considerable quantity of lumber of Manitoba and the Northwest is drawn. Questions of freight rates and like matters have always received the attention of the Association, and when a grievance existed, active and business-like methods were promptly adopted to right matters.

The territory of the Association covers the Province of Manitoba and certain portions of the Northwest Territories. The first president was Mr. Alex. Black, of Winnipeg, and this position he held until the annual meeting in February of this year, when Mr. J. L. Campbell, who had been vice-president, was made chief executive officer. The first secretary-treasurer was Mr. G. B. Housser, of Portage la Prairie, to whose energetic efforts, at the inception of the organization, is very largely due its success. At the end of the first year he was succeeded by Mr. I. Cockburn, who has since filled the position with much satisfaction to all the members.

The whole management of the Association has been business-like and energetic. The treasury is never without a reasonable balance on hand. The secretary was made a paid officer, and devotes a large part of his time to the work. The Western Retail Lumbermen's Association is a living example of the advantages to be gained by lumbermen forming themselves into a business organization for self-protection, mutual advantage, and common interest.

The CANADA LUMBERMAN is pleased to publish in this number, on page 10, portraits of the officers of this successful association. These are: President, J. L. Campbell, Melita; Vice-President, Alex. Black, Winnipeg; Sec.-Treas., I. Cockburn, Winnipeg. Directors: D. N. McMillan, Morden; J. M. Neilson, Carberry; R. H. O'Hara, Brandon; J. B. Mather, Glenboro; T. A. Cuddy, Minnedosa; J. Dick, Winnipeg.

THE CURIOUS PAPAW TREE.

AMONG the curiosities of the tree world is the papaw tree, called by botanists *Carica papaya*. This tree is a native of South America, and has been widely scattered in the tropical countries. It is popularly called the "melon tree." It grows to a height of 20 feet. Its leaves are deeply 7-lobed, 2 feet in diameter and borne on footstalks 2 feet long. The fruit is somewhat like a melon in appearance, 10 inches long, oblong, ribbed and covered with a thick fleshy rind. The fruit is eaten raw or made into a sauce when ripe, and the green fruit is boiled as a vegetable or made into a pickle. The leaves, twigs, trunk and fruit contain an acrid milky juice, which has the singular quality of quickly softening the toughest meat boiled with a little of it. Even wrapping the meat in the leaves or merely hanging it among the leaves will cause it to become tender. The seeds are used as a vermifuge. The leaves are saponaceous. The proteolytic ferment obtained from the half ripe fruit is called papain, and it differs from pepsin in the respect that its proteolytic action goes on in either mental or alkaline solutions as well as in acid solutions.

The total revenue from timber in Manitoba and the Northwest to 1st January, 1895, was \$1,038,328, and the total revenue from timber within the railway belt, \$250,899.

BY THE WAY.

A THIRD attempt to float a large raft of logs on the Pacific is about to be attempted. We do not know how wise this movement is to be considered. It would be worth something to lumbermen to be able to transport logs in this manner, but the two previous attempts were so disastrously unsuccessful, involving a loss of about \$40,000, that it may well be questioned whether it is the part of business wisdom to make another attempt. It may be that there is luck in odd numbers and that the third trial will prove a success. Let us hope that it may be so. The new raft is about 525 feet long, 52 feet wide, 30 feet deep, and draws 21 feet of water. The route will be out of the Columbia and down the Pacific Coast to San Francisco.

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THE prodigal manner in which the most valuable of timbers are cut and wasted is always a question of serious concern with thoughtful lumbermen. There are few men in the present day, who do not realize the sacrifices that were made through the manner in which white pine in times past suffered by the woodman's axe. To-day white pine is prized and every tree counts. The Northwestern Lumberman reads a lesson to those who would slash and cut down oak, as though the country was full of this valuable product. It pertinently says: "Perhaps after northern and southern pine there was never a more lavish and inconsiderate cutting of any American wood than of oak. The impression seems to have prevailed that there was no end of oak." Oak occupies a very strong position on the market to-day, and it is simply suicidal to allow it to be sacrificed. It is a case of throwing gold dollars away.

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A TRADE journal, published in the Southern States, loses its head, when it says that it will take more than a reduction in freight rates to induce the people to go back to the use of common articles of twenty-five years ago, and classes as among these out-of-date materials white pine. In its ecstasy of delight at the success of yellow pine, it says: "It is a much more beautiful wood for finishing than white pine; it is more serviceable; has greater strength, and takes a superior finish as a building material. White pine is a back number, as far as beauty, taste and business uses are concerned." Let us give even the devil his due, and admit that yellow pine possesses many useful qualities. But when its fame is to be exalted by disparaging white pine, where the daily newspaper might be excused for this kind of nonsense, it is hardly pardonable in a class journal that ought to know better, and ought to speak on all subjects by the book. As has been remarked, more than once, yellow pine has owed its foothold in white pine districts largely to the price at which it has been sold during a period of depression when the mass of consumers had to satisfy themselves with a cheaper article. Yellow pine has come to stay and will not want a ready market, but for many of the best purposes to which lumber is put white pine will, as it always has, hold indisputable supremacy.

A skillful carpenter ought to be able to ex-plane all j-oaks knot to in-tree-cate, and fir-three-more he should be able to put up jams without jars.

A European firm has adopted the practice of packing pieces of leather one against the other in the grooves of wheels used for wire rope driving, securing the leather at intervals by wire cord passing through the leather and holes in the pulley rim. The resistance to slipping is immensely increased, and the rope in some cases wears fifty per cent. longer.—Power.