

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR.

THE annual report of the Department of Interior was presented to the Dominion Parliament on the 11th ultimo. Owing to the early meeting of the session the report covers only the first ten months of the year 1895.

The revenue from timber, mineral, and grazing lands was shown to be \$73,620.28, as compared with \$90,584.46 for the corresponding time in 1894. This does not include sales of lands containing minerals.

The timber dues received amounted to \$58,360.94, being a decrease of \$7,357.14 as compared with the previous year. Of the revenue derived from timber, \$16,642.34 was for bonuses, ground rents, royalties, and dues on timber cut from lands in the railway belt in the province of British Columbia, being a decrease of \$3,186.68. The total revenue received from timber in Manitoba and the North-west Territories up to the 31st of October, 1895, was \$1,080,047.10, and the total revenue from timber within the railway belt in British Columbia up to the same date was \$267,541.55.

During the first ten months of 1895, 30,010,491 feet of lumber were manufactured from timber cut under license in Manitoba, the North-west Territories, and within the railway belt in the province of British Columbia. In the Winnipeg agency, which comprises Manitoba and portions of Assiniboia and Saskatchewan, the following quantities of lumber were sold:

	Feet.
Canadian pine from Lake of the Woods	34,900,000
Canadian pine from Fort William	6,000,000
Canadian spruce manufactured in Manitoba	12,559,033
United States pine	6,776,518
British Columbia products (approximately)	10,000,000

It will be noticed that the quantity of lumber exported from the United States into Canada was small when compared with that of Canadian manufacture, and notwithstanding the fact that the product from the United States comes in free of duty. Canadian millmen are supplying the country with lumber at a price which largely shuts out American competition.

Approximately 60,000 cords of wood were sold at Winnipeg, the price for car lots being at the rate of \$3.50 per cord for tamarac and spruce, and \$2.00 for poplar. Of the above quantity, only 2,318 cords were imported from the United States.

The crown timber agent at Winnipeg and his

staff of forest rangers, have completed the selection of lands valuable for timber at Turtle and Moose Mountains, which are to be set apart as timber reservations with the view of securing a continuous supply for the future needs of the settlers. Work is proceeding at Riding Mountain with the same object in view.

The prairie fires during last summer were more

tions and improvements made by them for the purpose of floating saw logs and other timber down the river. The question raised by the appellants was whether they came within the provisions of the R.S.O., ch. 120, which are taken from 47 Vic., ch. 17, an Act passed in consequence of the litigation in McLaren v. Caldwell, 6 A.R. 456; 9. App. Cas. 392, which established the right of the public to float timber and logs down streams during the season of freshets, even if such streams were rendered floatable only by means of improvements made by the owner of the bed of the stream, and to use such improvements without compensation. The appellants contend that their mill-dam was an improvement within the meaning of the Act, for the use of which by others they were entitled to payment of reasonable tolls. The application and appeal were opposed in the interest of other lumbermen, on two grounds, viz.: (1) that the Little Bob, not being a navigable stream, and the channel being the property of the Dominion Government, and part of the property and public works of Canada, was not within the legislative authority of the province, or subject to the provisions of the Rivers and Streams Act; and (2) that, even if it was, the improvement in question was one which, by sec. 20 of the Act, was excluded from its operation as coming within the third and fourth sections of the Act respecting mills and mill-dams. R.S.O., ch. 118. Held; that the dam in question being a mill-dam, built by the appellants for the purpose of their mill, and not intended, except as incident to that, to facilitate the floating or transmission of logs and timber, the effect of sec. 20 of



THE CIRCUMLOCUTION OFFICE.

HARDWOOD LUMBER MILL MAN:—"Sir Oliver, we want you to send a competent man to Europe to see if a market cannot be obtained for Canadian Hardwood more favorable for this important industry than the present American market, which is played out. You ought to do this, as the lumber trade is a valuable contributor to the Provincial Exchequer."

SIR OLIVER: "A very striking state of affairs, truly! Be good enough to just drop the whole thing in here?"

[Gentlemen of the lumber trade, you'd never get it out of that bag again. Take our advice and send a man yourself!—ED. LUMBERMAN.]

numerous than in former years, but no forest fires of any consequence occurred, with the exception of one at Moose Mountain.

INTERESTING LEGAL DECISION.

RE LITTLE BOB RIVER DAM AND SLIDE.—Judgment on appeal by Messrs. Boyd and Company, from order and judgment of the judge of the County Court of Peterborough dismissing an application made by them under sec. 13 of R.S.O., ch. 120, an Act for protecting the public interest in rivers, streams, and creeks, to fix the amount which they may be at liberty to charge for tolls under the Act, for the use of construc-

the Rivers and Streams Act was to exclude them from its operation, and to leave them simply in the position and subject to the burdens of the mill-dam owner under R.S.O., ch. 118, the stream being one of the characters mentioned in the 20th section of that Act. No opinion expressed as to whether the stream or channel is, or is not, one subject to the provincial legislation. Appeal dismissed without costs.

The Voek planing mill in Mitchell, Ont., was offered for sale by public auction by the assignee of the estate, but was withdrawn, the highest bid not covering the amount of the mortgage.