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THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

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THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interest of the lumber trade and of allied industries throughout the Dominion being the only representative in Canada of this foremost branch of the commerce of this country. It aims at giving full and timely information on all subjects touching these interests, discussing these topics editorially and inviting free discussion of them by others.

Special pains are taken to secure the latest and most trustworthy market quotations from various points throughout the world so as to afford to the trade in Canada information upon which it can rely in its operations.

Special correspondents in localities of importance present accurate report not only of prices and the condition of the market but, also of other matters specially interesting to our readers. But correspondence is not only welcome but is invited from all who have any information to communicate or subjects to discuss relating to the trade or in any way effecting it. Even when we may not be able to agree with the writers we will give them a fair opportunity for free discussion as the best means of eliciting the truth. Any items of interest are particularly requested for even if not of great importance individually they contribute to a fund of information from which general results are obtained.

Advertisers will receive careful attention and liberal treatment. We need not point out that for many the CANADA LUMBERMAN with its special class of readers is not only an exceptionally good medium for securing publicity but is indispensable for those who would bring themselves before the notice of that class. Special attention is directed to "WANTED" and "FOR SALE" advertisements which will be inserted in a conspicuous position at the uniform price of ten cents per line for each insertion. Announcements of this character will be subject to a discount of 25 per cent. if ordered for three successive issues or longer.

Subscribers will find the small amount they pay for the CANADA LUMBERMAN quite insignificant as compared with its value to them. There is not an individual in the trade or specially interested in it, who should not be on our list thus obtaining the present benefit and aiding and encouraging us to render it even more complete.

THE failure of the attempt of the two great railways of Canada to come to an amicable mutual understanding not to fight one another will hardly cause regret among the lumbermen. The want of success of the attempts of the officials of the respective roads to arrive at such an arrangement, and of the efforts of the shareholders to urge upon them the adoption of such an agreement, will give a check to the possible formation of a huge monopoly. A little fair competition is not a bad thing, and railways which must from their very circumstances be always somewhat of the nature of a monopoly, want this wholesome stimulus to make them value custom and exert themselves to serve their customers. In some respects the lumbermen have too often just grounds for complaint against the railway companies. With one great railway monopoly the situation would be still worse.

FROM recent advices from Vancouver we learn that the lumber trade is being rigorously pushed in that quarter, two new mills having been erected during the summer and arrangements having been made for the construction of others. The local demand in British Columbia is rapidly increasing as the towns grow, and lumber is also being shipped by rail to the prairies of the Northwest Territories. A little lumber has been shipped to China, but Australia is the chief foreign market, with which there is a considerable and growing trade that promises to be still more largely developed in the near future as commercial relations and intercourse of all kinds are facilitated. Ontario and Quebec men who have extended their operations to the Pacific coast are said to be well satisfied, so it is expected that their example will be followed by others.

PRESIDENT W. B. McMurrich and his directors have had an interview with Attorney-General Mowat and other members of the cabinet, regarding the proposed railway to James Bay. As the proposed new line is of particular interest to the lumber trade, a few words regarding it in these columns will not be out of place. The traffic of the Upper Ottawa has hitherto gone the way of Montreal and Quebec, but should the James Bay line be constructed, a strong competition would be brought about. Many prominent Ottawa lumbermen and merchants say that their supplies would be sent over the new line, as being the most expeditious and least expensive. Lumber merchants have hitherto taken their mills to the limits and sent cut lumber direct to the frontier. If this road were built it is probable that they would establish mills on Lake Temiscaming. Last year's cut from Pembroke to Sudbury, north of the C. P. R., was 750,000,000 feet, two-thirds of which was transferred by rail over the C. P. R. to whatever lines ran southward. There seems no doubt but that there are large stretches of red and white pine in that northern country, as well as valuable hardwood, such as beech and maple.

AN action has been issued by Messrs. Cook Bros., timber merchants of Toronto, against Singleton, Dunn & Co., timber brokers and commission agents, Glasgow, Scotland, for the payment of \$75,000. The defendants acted as agents for Cook Bros., in the sale of timber and wood goods. Between the years 1872 and 1875 several large consignments were made for sale on commission, and on each of these pursuers say there was a profit due to them. The savings on the various consignments amount together to the sum sued for. They claim that they have frequently asked the defendants to furnish them with an account in order to get a final settlement, but they declined to do so. The defence is that both parties had transactions with the late A. F. A. Knight, a timber merchant of Quebec, and as a result of such transactions there was due to the defendants in December, 1885, the amount of \$63,270, at the time he became bankrupt, and that they could not recover the amount. The balance due by the defendants in respect of the consignment after deduction of expenses, was \$28,740, and they claim that the plaintiffs acquiesced in the transference of Knight's account, and therefore they are barred from raising this action. The case is now being fought out in the courts.

THE Ontario mining commission has now suspended its operations for a time after having collected a great mass of valuable information in its peregrinations through the province. The result of their labors, when they have completed their investigations, will no doubt be embodied in an official report, which will be of great value to those interested in our mineral resources. The information published from time to time of the proceedings of this commission is of a nature to cause regret that the other proposed branch of this provincial stock taking was not also favored by the government. If it is advisable to know the extent and locality of your mineral property it is at least as important that a similar course should be adopted in regard to our forest wealth. The nature and locality of our remaining public forests and the approximate amount of the timber still left with other connected circumstances which would occur to the minds of such commissioners as have been enquiring into our mines, should be made public and the report would be of great utility. The officials would thus have a better knowledge of the property they have to administer; the lumbermen would

have a valuable guide for them in their operations and the community at large would learn the truth as to the extent and probable duration of the forests as to which so many different opinions are heard. A forestry commission, something like the mining commission, would be would all it would cost.

HON. WM. MACDOUGALL, it is stated, is at present endeavoring to put a new phase on the question of the export duty on logs. This Hon. gentleman having had considerable to do with framing the British North America Act, of 1867, points out that section 124 of that Act appears to specially prohibit the levying of export duties on timber or lumber by any authority. After extending to the province of New Brunswick the special power (which has since been commuted, of collecting export dues on logs, the section referred to winds up by saying "But the lumber of any of the provinces other than New Brunswick shall not be subjected to any such dues." A New Brunswick paper in commenting on the above holds that it is impossible for the federal parliament to levy export duties on logs without subjecting the timber of the provinces to such duties—unless by special enactment relating to the territories which, generally speaking, have no timber to export. If the closing proviso of the 124th section of the B.N.A. act was inserted merely to prevent the legislatures of provinces other than New Brunswick from levying export duties on logs, it would appear wholly superfluous, because the legislature possess no such power. If the provinces generally had a right to levy export duties upon timber why was special provision made for granting such a right to the legislature of New Brunswick? Lumbermen will await the outcome of Mr. Macdougall's investigation with a great deal of interest.

"PERIL to the Lumber Industry" is the suggestive heading of a leading article in a recent issue of the *N. W. Lumberman*. The term signal is flying, it says, and a crisis is approaching, that if not checked, will be brought about by producing beyond the requirements of the demand. In former years the manufacturers of white pine lumber had it all their own way. They had all the territory they desired to cover. They went west, south and east, and only in the latter direction, and then not till they were well toward the seaboard, did they meet with competition; then they came in contact with Maine and Canada lumber. During these years population in the western states was rapidly increasing, and in those states the demand for building material was large and constant. The territory so prolifically worked by the white pine men has gradually become smaller, and is growing smaller every day. Notwithstanding this the high water mark in the white pine states was reached in 1884, when the output was 7,935,033,054 feet. A year or two earlier than this, however, it was seen that the mills were running too fast, and an association was formed for the purpose of bringing about a curtailment of the log cut. The movement in great part was successful. In 1885 the cut of the mills dropped nearly 900,000,000 feet. The brakes were then removed. In 1886 the output increased about 400,000,000 feet. In 1887 it was 7,757,916,784 feet, and there is every indication at the present writing that the footing for 1888 will exceed those of the preceding year. There are unusually heavy stocks at many of the producing and distributing points, and the operators are as eager as of old for a big stock of logs. The result of such a condition as portrayed above cannot be satisfactory. The outlook is not bright. It is time that the wheels of many a mill were permitted to take a rest.