

mation in their power connected with the trade there. With respect to the stock of timber on hand at that time, a large proportion was Baltic timber—I should say not less than about 80 per cent. of the whole. The Memel timber is beautifully made, all smoothly hewn, and four straight lines, and of equal size, from end to end. The Baltic red wood is a hard, harsh, knotty red pine, strong, and likely to be good for bearing weight.

It appears to me, by the information received here, that the repealing of the duties on foreign timber recently has not had the effect of reducing the prices to the consumer, for, just so soon as the change in the duties took place, the prices went up in the ports of shipment in the same proportion, and that the consumer in England does not get the timber any cheaper on that account.

The great bulk of all the Baltic timber is brought in foreign vessels, and the consequence is, that all the benefits arising out of the repeal of the duties—at least so far—have been to the advantage of the foreign exporter, and foreign shipowner.

I appointed a meeting with some of the gentlemen above named, and open to any others desirous of attending, for the purpose of explaining the different modes of taking the dimensions of wany timber; and although the mode practised here is the extreme caliper measure, the explanation was necessary, as certain parties in Liverpool who have interests here have tried to introduce string measure into Hull also. There were a number of people present in Mr. Wade's office while I was explaining the fallacy of string measure. Mr. Wade seemed to take great interest in the matter, and he and all the other parties expressed themselves satisfied, instructed, and glad of having had an opportunity of seeing it so plainly demonstrated. Mr. Wade and others of the gentlemen present took the dimensions and drawings of all the parts of the diagram, in order to have similar figures constructed. At the request of Mr. Burstall, I went to another office and explained to them with equal success, in so far as explanation was necessary. And although those parties agreed with me as to the absurdity of string measure, nevertheless, they said they would not buy any wany timber by any other than string measure. The reason given was, that the consumers, or converters (as they call them) in the country lying between Hull and Liverpool, would buy much more timber in Hull than they now do were the string adopted in Hull the same as in Liverpool—thus it will be seen that the Liverpool absurdity (if nothing worse) affects other parts of the country besides its own neighborhood.

Here they complained sadly of the culling of certain deals last year, and I must acknowledge that, judging by what I saw, they did not complain without cause. I am happy to be able to state that these deals were not culled by any of the cullers attached to this office. Complaints were also made that our birch timber is cut too short, and that large quantities of it would be used for railway carriages if cut even to average 15 feet in length. And also that our deals should be made much longer if possible, as in many cases Baltic deals have to be used, owing to their superior lengths, where Quebec would be