

The Lumber Trade and Prices.

According to the Vancouver Daily Province, British Columbia millmen and loggers are face to face with the fact that American lumbermen are cutting into the trade of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories to a very appreciable extent, and it is said that a strenuous effort is being put forth to induce the Dominion Government to place an import duty on rough lumber, such as is now crossing the international boundary. A similar but unsuccessful attempt, was made some years ago, when an open letter dealing with the question and setting forth the reasons why such a duty should be imposed was sent to all the members of the Dominion House.

Under the free entry terms prevailing, it is pointed out that American millmen are able to undersell the prices for British Columbia lumber. The real reason for this condition is regarded by some as a mystery, while the local trade interests assert that the American home market is so glutted that the millmen across the line are glad to get rid of their surplus cut, even at a loss. On the other hand, it is claimed that British Columbia cut lumber is placed on the market at such a high price that the Americans can easily undersell them and make a good profit.

For some months the "Farmer's Advocate" has had representatives operating in British Columbia, and, consequently, is in a position to speak with some degree of authority upon this question. The statement made by the British Columbia lumber trade, that Washington mills were overstocked, and were selling at a loss, has not been substantiated. In this American territory many small mills, it is true, have sprung up during the last year or two, and have been producing large quantities of lumber, at a minimum, which has lately been going on the market in competition with the larger mills, the latter being obliged to lower their former prices on rough lumber one dollar or more per thousand.

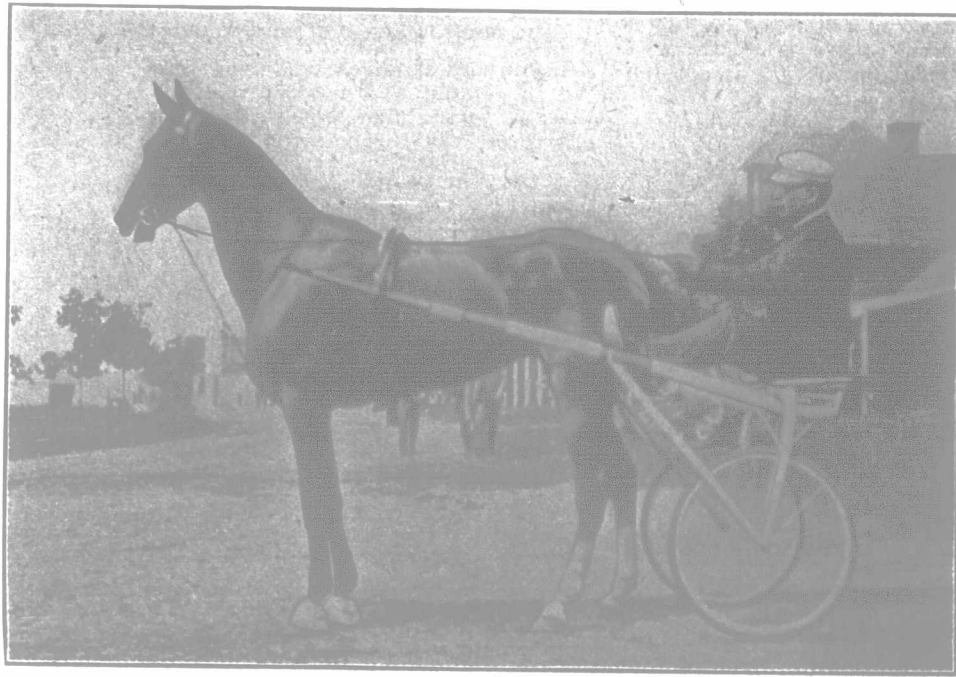
By this home competition of American mills it might appear that the British Columbia millmen had some ground for complaint, but in looking still closer we find that previous to the output of the smaller American mills being felt in the market the larger mills in the same territory were giving every encouragement to their agents in Eastern Manitoba to secure all possible business at a rate of from one to one and a half dollars per thousand in rough lumber less than British Columbia firms could lay down the same grade. At present we find these big concerns of the Washington coast making similar efforts, and advising their agents to get business, and that they still have a margin, although the price on some lines is now from two to three dollars per thousand less than their Canadian competitor when laid down in Eastern Manitoba.

The contention, too, that the Washington mills are overstocked has not been found true. Indeed, quite the reverse has been found to be the case. Some Winnipeg contractors receiving large orders from Washington, have been unable to get prompt shipment of late, owing to a shortage in some lines. The truth appears to be that the British Columbia lumber dealers who are organized to corner the trade have been aiming for too great a graft from the Manitoba and Territorial consumer. Unfortunately, the American coast mills have not been able to compete with the British Columbia millmen in Western Manitoba and the Territories, owing to freight arrangements, but at Winnipeg and southern points they have been getting in their stock much to the advantage of those who are building. Minnesota and Dakota lumbermen, too, have been practically driving British Columbia pine lumber out of Southern Manitoba, and are likely to continue doing so. Under the present tariff arrangement, rough lumber is allowed to cross the boundary free, while the duty on dressed lumber varies from twenty per cent. upward, according to quality and the amount of dressing.

It is not likely that the present effort of the British Columbia lumber trade to have the duty on rough lumber increased will be successful. The people are already paying too much for their lumber. British Columbia millmen already have too great a monopoly on the markets of the West, and any government that would undertake to unduly protect these dealers, to the disadvantage of

the farmers of this country, would surely be short-lived.

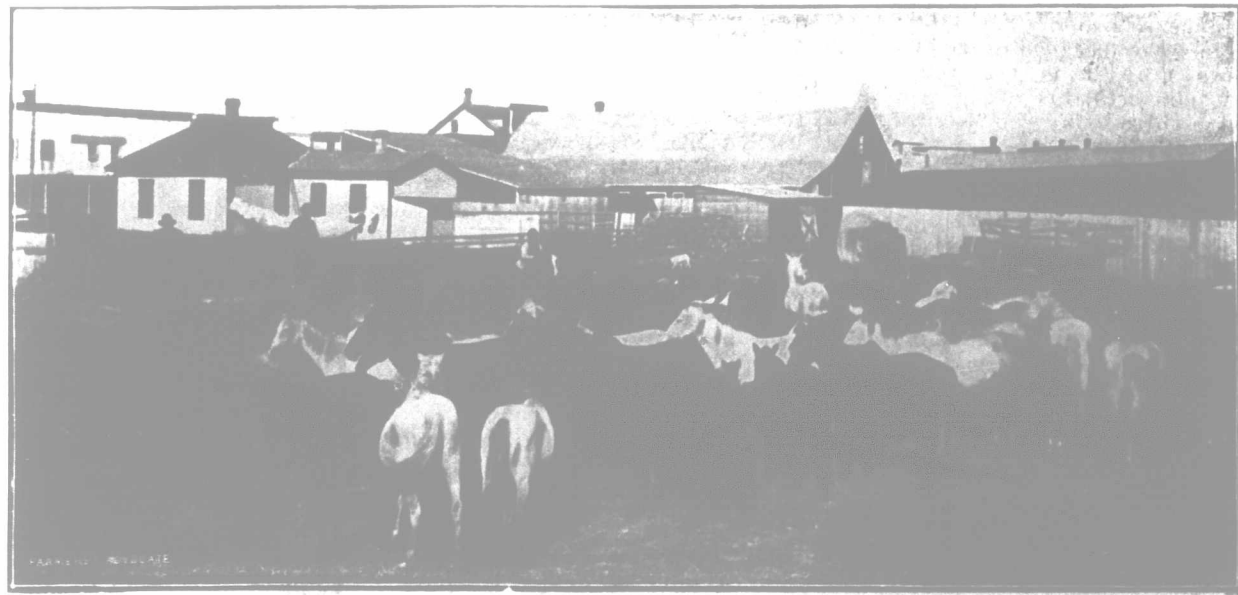
It is the earnest hope of the "Farmer's Advocate" that farmers will let themselves be heard on the lumber question during the coming winter. Some time ago a commission was appointed to enquire into the existence of a lumber combine, but at present that august body appears to have become so wound up with red-tape that it is almost if not already hung. Meanwhile, those who must buy lumber are obliged to go deep into their pockets, and the progress of this agricultural country remains in some measure retarded for the want of a much needed article at an honest price.



LOU DILLON, 1583.

On another page of this issue there appears a short article by Prof. Grisdale on the value, use and culture of rape, which we trust will be read and remembered by every farmer who keeps live stock, either cattle, sheep or hogs, upon his farm. There is probably no plant which ought to be more generally grown in this country. It will grow almost anywhere upon the prairie soil, and, in fact, conditions in Manitoba and the West are in many respects more suited to its growth than anywhere in Canada. With some farmer's scarcity of laborers may stand in the way of adopting crops of this kind. There need be, however, very little work with a few acres of rape, if the land be properly prepared, and the results will be startling to those who have never tried it.

The largest cargo of Canadian flour that ever left the Pacific Coast for the Orient was taken by the steamship Empress of India from Vancouver recently. It included nine hundred and forty-two tons. It is expected that large shipments will continue for at least a few months. Owing to a disagreement between certain steamship lines, the rate has been reduced temporarily from five to three dollars per ton.



TYPICAL MONTANA HOMES, OWNED BY A. J. BADEL, LACOMBE, ALTA.

The Home Department of the Farm.

The relative importance of the Home Department of the farm journal is, perhaps, a point which is too often overlooked by the "lord of creation" element. Absorbed, as the farmer is, in problems of live stock, cultivation of soil, and kindred topics, he is all too apt to forget that in the household department of his domain there are also many problems to be solved, upon the correct solution of which depends, perhaps to a greater extent than he is aware, not only the comfort of himself and his family, but their health and happiness as well. If he has any doubt upon this point, let him compare the home of a man who has married an intelligent, thrifty housewife with that of one who has been so unfortunate as to have a careless, ignorant or slatternly one at the helm of affairs in his household. Yet, since it has become almost an aphorism that in every department of life there is ever "room for improvement," it goes without saying that there is no home so perfect that it cannot bear a little higher degree of perfection—none so bad that its state is beyond amelioration.

The work of inciting this ambition for a higher order of affairs in the home especially to the Home Department. Who can say that the object is not a worthy one? The improvement of home conditions; the solving of the enigmas of domestic science and economy; the suggesting of ways for beautifying one's environment, for bringing into it more happiness and common sense, better health, and a greater degree of good-cheer, intelligence, and refinement—these are a few of the things which make up the curriculum of the ideal "Home Department" as well as of the ideal home—this the curriculum whose results the Home Magazine department of the "Farmer's Advocate" strives to attain. Our Home Magazine, in short, aims not merely to amuse or entertain, but to help, to instruct, and to educate; and also to furnish that which appeals to the appreciation of the youth in our homes.

We do not think that our woman readers wish simply to be entertained. Entertainment is all right in its place, and will be given its place in due proportion; but a great change has come over the character of womankind within the last century. Women no longer wish simply to be amused and to amuse. The delicate, languid type—at the one extreme of life or the slave at the other—of one hundred years ago has given place, or is, at least, giving place as rapidly as may be, to the woman of better balance, who wishes to live the broad, sensible life, such as should be lived by every reasoning being. This, we believe,