

REFERRING to the sawdust question and the report upon its accumulation made under the auspices of the Dominion Government, the *Northwestern Lumberman* says. "The fact about sawdust is that it will stay where it collects unless there is something to disturb it, being very different from sand in respect to shifting; and experience has demonstrated that it will remain a long time in water without decomposing. Damaging effects from its accumulation cannot always be staved off. But the mill men of the Ottawa valley seem to be placed between two fires—the Government is complaining about the practice of dumping sawdust in the river, and the Canadian insurance companies, for some unexplained reason, object to the use of sawdust as fuel. Judging from the practice this side the line, there is no good reason why they should. If proper piping and care is used in conveying sawdust to the furnace or the refuse burner, there is no extra hazard, and if the American insurance companies object seriously to such risks sawdust would not be used for fuel in the states so universally as is the case. Saw mills, planing mills and other wood-working establishments burn sawdust, shavings, etc., right along, and they appear to get all the insurance they want."

THE annual report of the division of forestry of the United States Department of Agriculture, recently issued, contains some interesting information. The import duty laid upon manufactured lumber in 1872 had the effect at first of decreasing importations from Canada by from 50 to 60 per cent. until 1876-77 when an upward tendency of imports began. A comparison of the imports of the last three years with those of the preceding three, shows a noticeable decline in all classes of foreign products from the amounts to which they had gradually increased up to 1884, when the importation of manufactured lumber reached nearly the same amount that was imported in 1872. For the decrease in unmanufactured wood now, the Canadian export duty of \$2 on logs may serve as an explanation, but causes must have worked to effect the reduction of manufactured lumber in the face of decided enhancement of value of product. The difficulty of access and interested distance from the market is probably the explanation. It is suggested that, so far as the saving of standing supplies is concerned, there need to be no fear or hope from foreign competition, for the "quantity of standing pine in the United States and Canada is reduced to a condition of absolute control; it is held in strong hands on both sides, and will not be lightly frittered away."

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN closes a record of eight years existence with the current issue. Since the present management assumed control a strong effort has been made to raise THE LUMBERMAN to the front rank of Dominion trade journals. How far we have succeeded in accomplishing this object our many readers are left to judge. Commencing with Vol. IX we have decided to largely augment our correspondence department by engaging the services of thoroughly reliable and practical correspondents at the following points throughout the Dominion: Toronto and Ottawa, Ontario; Montreal and Quebec, Quebec; St. John, N.B.; Halifax, N.S.; Winnipeg, Man.; and New Westminster, B. C. We trust that we will receive applications to fill these positions from some of the most practical and able writers in the lumber trade. The editor will look to each correspondent to faithfully report all matters of news pertaining to the lumber and wood working industries throughout his division, and discuss all matters within his knowledge affecting the lumber interests. As liberal terms as possible will be allowed those whom the editor may select to carry on the work, and it is sincerely hoped that the trade in general will further our efforts by extending as liberal a financial support to the LUMBERMAN as possible during the year 1889.

THE export duty on saw logs has been raised by order-in-council, as authorized by statute, from two to three dollars a thousand. This was no doubt considered necessary to check the increasing export from Georgian Bay and especially the very large increase that was evidently contemplated. For instance the Saginaw Lumber & Salt Co. had just been reported as having purchased three timber berths on Spanish River from which they expected to cut two hundred million feet to be rafted in the log to their mills near Saginaw city. A subsequent report from East Saginaw stated that it had been anticipated that a hundred and fifty million feet of logs would be brought to the river from the Georgian Bay next season, and that the raised duty had caused a trade for two hundred million feet to be declared off. It is indeed well known that the Michigan lumbermen have been making very extensive investments in Canadian pine to supply their mills with logs. There will now, however, be less inducement for them to operate in this manner, and if they want to use Canadian logs they will

have to erect mills in this country. This is only fair so long as they have the benefit of their own import duty of two dollars a thousand on our lumber. The Michigan lumbermen are very much disgusted and threaten to use all their influence to procure an increase of the United States import duty on lumber in order to console their disappointed hopes. In this, however, they are not likely to be successful, for there are also important interests in the country which are eager to see the duty on lumber reduced or removed and they would protest very strongly if instead of a reduction there were an increase.

JUST as the November issue of THE LUMBERMAN was going to press word was received from Sault Ste Marie that the Spanish River Lumber Co. (Buswell & Co.) of Michigan, had failed, with liabilities \$100,000. A week or so previous to this announcement one of the company's mills was burned on the Spanish River, the estimated loss being \$40,000, without insurance. The Canadian Bank of Commerce was the largest creditor, being interested to the amount of \$60,000, and they declined to carry the company's paper any longer. The authorities of this bank also suspected some fraud in connection with the recent fire, and accordingly had a warrant sworn out for the arrest of the principal of the defunct firm, F. E. Buswell, and placed it in the hands of a couple of officers to execute. They succeeded in serving the warrant at Spanish River. The prisoner insisted on dining before he left, and invited his captors to partake. They accepted, and while they were so engaged Mr. Buswell stepped outside to see a man, as he said, who happened to be on board the company's tug, which stood alongside with steam up. Mr. Buswell no sooner touched her deck than she cast off, and before the officers of the law had finished their meal, had him well on his way to his home across the lines, where he still remains and defies his would-be captors. The result of the failure of this firm will strike a heavy blow at the lumbering trade on the North Shore of Lake Huron. They had about 200 men in their employ, 150 of which were already in the woods at the time of the failure. It is stated that some of these men have so far trusted Buswell & Co. as to leave their wages with the firm, and in some instances as much as \$500 has been deposited. The report that the burnt mill would soon be replaced by a new one is a mistake as the company has decided to tow its logs in the future to Detour or Cheboygan for sawing.

REFERENCE was made in our last issue to the case of H. R. Hazleton, of Michigan, which is now before the exchequer courts. This suit is attracting a great deal of interest in lumber circles as it will decide what constitutes dimension timber in the interpretation of the present customs laws of the Dominion. The minister of customs has filed his defense in the exchequer court as the Crown's defense. It reads as follows:

It is admitted that the claimant did, during the years 1883-1884, import into Canada from the United States a quantity of oak lumber and timber, but it is not aware that the quantity or value of such is correctly set out in the statement of claim. The fact is that the oak lumber and timber so imported by the claimant were manufactured, inasmuch as the same, at the time they were imported into Canada by the claimant, were not oak planks and boards coming within the classes of lumber and timber mentioned in the 726th item of the tariff as free of duty, but on the contrary, such lumber and timber were manufactured, inasmuch as the same were, at the time they were imported into Canada, sawn, cut and shaped to the exact sizes and dimensions required for the separate parts and pieces, of the wood-work of railway cars and carriages, and were, therefore, dutiable under the items 504 and 506 of the tariff. In consequence of which the Crown was legally and properly entitled to be paid the duties thereon. It is denied that the amount of \$2,733.25 was paid by the claimant to the customs officers under protest, as mentioned in the statement of claim. On the contrary, it was paid by claimant without compulsion. Further, it is contended that the amount sought to be recovered was paid by the claimant as duties of customs upwards of three years before the commencement of this action, and no application for repayment was made within three years before the action was commenced. Hence no action lies against the crown.

Mr. Hazleton bases his claim on section 726 which provides that "lumber and timber, plank and boards, sawn, or basswood, cherry, walnut, oak, etc., not manufactured" may be imported into Canada free of duty. The sections 504 and 506 of the customs acts, and under which the minister of customs has classified Mr. Hazleton's lumber, reads: "Wood and manufactures of, and wood-ware, namely, pails, tubs, churns, brooms, brushes and other manufactures of wood not elsewhere specified, 25 per cent. *ad valorem*, and lumber and timber not elsewhere specified 20 per cent. *ad valorem*." A date will shortly be fixed for the hearing of the case.

AN agitation has already been started by Michigan lumbermen to induce Congress to double the import duty on Canadian lumber. This, as will readily be seen, is intended as an offset to the recent increase in the export duty on pine logs by the Dominion Government. Such action on the part of our neighbors will not cause the slightest surprise to Canadians, as they are already quite aware of the Yankee capacity for retaliation. Neither do we fear such retaliation, even should it be adopted, which is certainly very doubtful. The United States has arrived at that stage in the history of its lumber industry that to do

without the products of our Canadian forests would be next to impossible, and should Congress add another \$2 import duty the change will militate more against the trade of that country than it will against Canada. For years American lumbermen have been cutting all their available timber regardless of future demand, and now that they find their limits exhausted, they are compelled to look to Canada for a future supply. But while they come in competition with our own lumbermen in picking up some of our most available limits they refuse to build mills in this country, but seek to tow the timber through Canadian waters to American mills. When the Dominion government two or three years ago placed an export duty of \$2 per thousand feet on Canadian logs entering the United States, it was thought that that would be sufficient to put a stop to the practice. It has been seen, however, that while it has diminished the export of logs to a considerable extent the practice is still being indulged in. Brother Jonathan may squirm and threaten Canadians with retaliation in its most gasty visage, but on the lumber question we certainly hold the trump. Canadians extend the hand of good-fellowship to our Yankee friends and invite them to join in fair and equitable competition, but will not sanction the cutting of our timber to be manufactured in American mills.

HARDWOOD INSPECTION.

One of the subjects but seldom touched upon heretofore in the columns of THE LUMBERMAN is that of inspection of hardwoods. In order to cultivate the desire to inaugurate a uniform system, which, whatever else it might do, would be a step to making the culling of our hardwood somewhat similar by each culler, we have prepared the following, which we think will be found to be in practice about what is done by most of our hardwood inspectors. The rules as given have been followed for years by many of our readers who have given particular attention to the timber growing in different parts of the country, and we fancy they are about as near right as can be applied in actual culling.

It would be a matter of considerable interest if some of the hardwood inspectors would give their views on the subject. Should a discussion be brought about and the rules herewith condemned as being too rigid, we shall be pleased to see the subject thoroughly gone into by practical cullers.

ASH.—The standard lengths are 12, 14 and 16 ft. The standard thicknesses are 1, 1½, 2, 2½, 3, 4, and 5 inches. *Waggon tongues*—to be cut from the toughest timber and be free from all imperfections, particularly that of cross grain. Length 12 ft. 6 in.; size 2x4 at one end by 4x4 at other, and 2½x4½ at one end and 4½ square, splits not allowable. *Firsts*—Must be not less than 12 ft. long nor under 8 in. in width and at such width and length be clear. At 12 in. wide a standard knot will be admitted and no other defect. As width and length increase defects are allowable in proportion, but in no case shall defects be such as to prevent the piece from being used as a whole in the best kind of work. *Seconds*—Width not less than 7 in. nor under 10 ft., and at such much be clear. From 8 to 9 in. one standard knot allowed. As dimensions become greater imperfections are allowed in proportion, but five-sixths of the piece, as a whole, must be suitable for good work. Heart shake, rot, dot, wormholes and bad manufacture are excluded from Nos. 1 and 2. All lumber to be cut ½ in. over the required thickness and well manufactured. In black ash particular attention is directed to the annular rings, as in inferior qualities of this wood they are often detached.

BASSWOOD.—Standard lengths are 12, 14 and 16 ft. The usual thicknesses are 1, 1½ and 1¾ inches. *Firsts*—Must not be less than 7 in. and free from all defects. *Seconds*—Must not be less than 5 in. at this width, and up to 6 in. must be clear. As width increases defects are allowed in proportion, but no piece however wide having black sap shall be taken in this grade. Sap must be bright and in good condition. Pieces having defects so numerous or of such nature as to render five-sixths, as a whole, unsuitable for first-class work must be excluded. All lumber to be well manufactured, plump thickness and free from stain.

BEECH, BIRCH, MAPLE.—Standard lengths are 12, 14 and 16 feet. Standard thickness 1, 1½, 2, 2½, 3, 4 and 5 inches. *Firsts*—Must be free from heart and cut so as to square 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 inches. Length to be four feet or the multiples thereof. *Balusters*—Must be cut exactly square 2, 2½, 2¾, 3, 4 inches, and all length from 28 to 32 inches, to be entirely free from all defects. *Firsts*—To be not less than 8 in. wide and perfectly clear to 12 inches. At 13 in. one standard knot allowable or one and one-fourth inch of sap on one edge and side, with a perfect face. Defects in proportion to width and length, but in no case shall the defects prevent the piece from being used as a whole. Sap must be bright. All pieces to be evenly sawed, square butted and square edged, plump thick-