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THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interests of the lumber trade and of allied industries throughout the Dominion, being the only representative in Canada of this foremost branch of the industry 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 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 on which it can rely in its operations.

Special correspondents in localities of importance present an 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 affecting 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 15 cents per line for each insertion. Announcement of this character will be subject to a discount of 25 per cent. if ordered for four 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.

#### LOG EXPORT DUTY.

AT the sessions of the Dominion Parliament each year that section of the lumber trade, who feel that the free export of logs to the United States, is an injury to the saw mill business in Canada, have not failed to make their protest heard. This season, however, these claims have been urged with much greater energy and force than ever before. All along the northern lumber section of the province, an effort in one direction and another to influence parliament to reimpose the log duty has been made. The question was brought before a recent meeting of the Orillia town council and a resolution on the line of preventing a continuous export of logs to the States was vigorously discussed by the municipal fathers of that burg. Early in the month a strong deputation, representing a considerable percentage of the lumber interests in the Georgian Bay district, waited on Sir John Thompson and pressed upon him the importance of placing an export duty on logs exported from Canada to the States. It was alleged by the deputation, in consequence of the large growth in this method of lumbering, that many mills in that district were closed down.

According to the despatch that appeared in the daily and weekly press, both in Canada and the United States, the statement was made to the Premier that over 500,000,000 ft. had been sent from the United States to Canada during the past year. Obviously this was an egregious error on the part of the gentleman, who acted as spokesman for the Georgian Bay interests, or else it was a very unwise statement to make. In dealing with matters, as exact as those of commerce, exaggerated statements must always react upon those who make them. So able and enthusiastic an advocate for the protection of our forests as Mr. William Little does not place the export much beyond one half of 500,000,000 ft. It is probable that the total export during the past year was about 300,000,000 feet, and owing to a smaller cut, a result of the depression in the lumber trade, the export of logs for 1894 will hardly exceed this figure.

In a more public way the question of an export duty came before the House a few days ago, Dr. Sproule introducing the matter. He argued that the export of logs from Canada was steadily increasing. These were the figures given as taken from the trade and navigation returns: In 1889, \$440,805; in 1890, \$615,194; in 1891, \$615,320; in 1892, \$1,044,134; and in 1893, \$1,517,000 worth of logs. It is to be remembered, of course, that at the time the smaller figures prevailed an export duty of \$3.00 per thousand ft. on logs existed, and further that after the removal of the export duty American lumbermen became extensive purchasers of Canadian limits. Dr. Sproule made the statement that 50 big mills on the Georgian Bay had been closed down, as a result of this change in the tariff, and thousands of dollars worth of machinery were lying idle and rusting away because of this policy.

Mr. Charlton in reply to Dr. Sproule, noted the point that the source of supply for the Collingwood, Parry Sound, Midland and other idle mills on the Georgian Bay was just as far distant as to the mills on Saginaw and other American points where Canadian lumber was being sawn. So far as any practical purpose was concerned Dr. Sproule's suggestion did not meet with favor by the House and the tariff on this point remains undisturbed. A summary of the debate is published in these columns.

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN has, during recent years, presented this duty question in its many different bearings. There has been no interest that has not been fully represented. By Mr. Little, "Canadensis" and others the argument in favor of holding to Canadians our Canadian lumber has been very exhaustively presented, whilst other writers, with as great fullness, have given the opposite view of the question.

The contention of some that the closing down of our mills is a great sacrifice of Canadian labor and machinery is met with the statement that the larger cost goes on the logs before they reach the mill and any circumstance that gives an impetus to extensive logging, means an enlargement of the labor market. Then there is this to be remembered that, with the removal of the export duty on logs, came the concession from the United States Government of a reduction on the duty of manufactured lumber from Canada to the States, and it is a matter of commercial record that the result of this has been to very largely augment the trade in the United States for Canadian lumber. Not without its force is the statement that the change in the tariff has also been the means of introducing into Canada large amounts of foreign capital, that would not, probably, have been placed here under other conditions.

That the people generally of the towns and villages in our northern district should feel warm on the question is natural, and Canadians everywhere must sympathize with them in their efforts to prevent, what, they believe, means the destruction of those commercial interests that have proven the main stay of their different communities. To men and women, who live in a community, who probably own their little properties there, whose social and family ties are centered around and about these places, it is no trifling affair to find, as it were, the cord that has held all these interests together being broken at one point and then another, and they forced to make sacrifices and seek other fields to make their bread and butter. This, we believe, is the strongest force at work in an agitation for a reimposition of the export duty on logs and it is one that calls for much consideration. When this phase is presented to lumbermen, who believe that the best interests of the trade are served by leaving tariff conditions, as they exist at present, the reply is that the local view of the question, as affecting certain districts of the country, must give way for the wider view, touching the country as a whole.

It is to be remarked, so far as parliament is concerned, while it is said that the cabinet is divided on the question and the Minister of Finance has shown a strong disposition favorable to protection of our forests, that the Hon. W. B. Ives, president of the council, himself a saw mill owner, is not an ultra-protectionist, so far as lumber is concerned, and nearly all the prominent lumbermen in parliament, including speaker White, are opposed to a change.

There is a Canadian or national phase of the question,

that is not often discussed, and yet it is one of much moment to our people as a people, independent of any commercial interest in the article of lumber. We refer to the statement frequently made, that in Ontario, at least, our forests are becoming rapidly depleted; and it is worth considering, how far we should sacrifice a present advantage only to meet with ultimate and almost irrecoverable loss.

#### TARIFF CHANGES.

CERTAIN tariff regulations, as affecting the lumber interests of the country, announced by the Minister of Finance in his budget speech, have, within the past ten days, undergone material change. It will be remembered that wood pulp was placed on the free list by Mr. Foster. We pointed out in the April LUMBERMAN that this was placing Canadian wood pulp manufacturers at very unfair advantage in competition with Americans. The wood pulp industry at the time of the changes effected by the McKinley tariff, was unfairly dealt with, and the step taken at the opening of parliament was only an aggravation of the evil. We are glad to see that the Minister of Finance has struck out wood pulp from the free list, a duty having been placed on this article of 25.

The consideration, as frankly stated by Mr. Foster in his budget speech, in placing lumber and shingles on the free list was to conciliate the Northwest farmers. It was clear from the outset, so far as shingles were concerned, that this change would, if not immediately, certainly at no late date, work serious injury to the red cedar shingle industry of British Columbia. Washington territory shingle interests have been sufficiently disorganized for some time to make the manufacturers of those territories anxious to place their shingles wherever it was possible to secure a market, even though this should be done at a considerable cut in price. Pressure was promptly brought by British Columbia commercial interests on the government, and a result has been that shingles have been taken off the free list and placed at a duty of 20%, as before the change.

In the case of the lumber interests of Manitoba, the situation, if anything, has been aggravated by Mr. Foster adding to the item of undressed lumber on the free list, the words, "or dressed on one side only." He said that the original concession was not found to be as useful to Manitoba and the Northwest as it was intended to be. The government intended to give the people of these territories their lumber in the best available form, without entirely making lumber free and entrenching too much on the large interests involved in dressing and preparing lumber for completion in its various forms. Mr. Martin, the Liberal member for Winnipeg, said that in this the government was making a valuable concession, but he would like it to go still further, and moved an amendment to add the words, "and including matched lumber." The amendment, however, was defeated, and the item as amended by the Finance Minister was carried. A rejoinder by Mr. Haslam to Mr. Martin that the farmers of Manitoba wanted the whole earth and the fence around it, very pertinently expressed the situation as it affects the lumber interests of Manitoba. In the framing of our tariff, at all times, it is unfortunate that politics more often than business is the preponderating influence in fixing rates. If certain changes will secure votes in some particular direction, the change is usually made. Nothing has been plainer than this in noting the many and continued changes that have been made in the tariff since it was first presented to the House at the opening of Parliament. It was felt that something would need to be done to conciliate the discontent that had taken possession of a considerable section of the farming population of the Northwest, and even though a large and important industry, like that of lumbering, was to be sacrificed at the altar of politics, it mattered not. Just how Mr. Mather, of the Keewatin Lumber Company, and other lumbermen of that section of the province feel, is told in their own words on another page. They have had the serious drawback of excessive freight rates, and other difficulties to contend with, in competition with the lumbermen of Minnesota. From a business point of view the Minister of Finance would find, on investigation, many stronger reasons for considering the claims