

REQUISITION FOR AN IMPORT DUTY.

THE DOMINION GOVERNMENT AGAIN MEMORIALIZED TO EQUALIZE CONDITIONS IN THE LUMBER TRADE.—THE SITUATION REVIEWED BY WESTERN MANUFACTURERS.—TWO DOLLAR DUTY ON LUMBER IS WANTED.

A deputation from the Lumberman's Association of Ontario waited on the Dominion government on the 8th ultimo, and asked that an import duty be placed on lumber, shingles, and lath, corresponding to the duty on like products



VIEW OF CAMP AT COAL CREEK—C.P.R. MILL.

imported into the United States. The position of the lumbermen was clearly set forth by memorials and statements by Messrs. John Bertram, James Scott, John Waldie, C. Beck, J. E. Murphy, Thos. Conlon, D. C. Cameron, The Sutherland-Innes Company, and P. D. Gordon, the latter representing the British Columbia Lumber and Shingle Manufacturers' Association. Lack of space prevents the publication of the statements in full, but a synopsis of each is given below:

MEMORIAL FROM LUMBERMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

A memorial on behalf of the Lumbermen's Association of Ontario was presented by Mr. John Bertram, the president.



CONSTRUCTION GANG—C.P.R. MILL.

This embodied the various resolutions setting forth the views of the association as expressed at different meetings, and which have already appeared in this journal. The memorial concluded as follows:

We do not come asking for protection against the competitor we are not able to meet, but only for fair play, and in the present keen competition for business do not want to occupy a defenceless position.

The lumbermen of Canada are operating on one of the greatest material resources in the Dominion; incidental to their business they are converting into current merchandise a vast amount of raw material, and while quite willing to enter the markets of the world in free competition, they do not wish their own markets troubled with an irregular and disturbing force. Through the varying demands of commerce lumber may at one time be cheaper in the United States than in

Canada, and vice versa; free and open competition the lumbermen in Canada are willing to abide by, but are averse to carry on a commercial battle with hands tied behind their back. If the Americans are to be at liberty to make a raid over the border on our trade, we want to be able to strike back in the most friendly fashion. As the interests of the Dominion are wide and far-reaching, we must be helpful to each other and stand or fall together. No word of opposition has been heard to our views from the Maritime Provinces or Quebec, and, indeed, they have only a languid interest in the question. They are not liable to attack, like Ontario and British Columbia, who are almost unanimously of the opinion that we should, in self-defence, impose on lumber the same duty as our neighbors.

If a small corner of territory is fearful that they may by carrying out this policy have to pay a little more for their lumber, they can hardly dominate the Dominion, and reasons will be offered to you to show that their fears are ill-grounded. We have no desire whatever to hamper the important work of the High Commissioners, and express our confidence that any agreement they may come to in the pending negotiations our interests will be safeguarded.

MR. SCOTT'S STATEMENT.

Mr. James Scott, of the Georgian Bay Lumber Company, reviewed at some length the conditions existing in the Canadian lumber industry. This industry was admitted to be, next to agriculture, the most important in Canada. To-day the trade in lumber between Canada and the United States stood on a different footing from that on which it stood in years gone by. As far back as 1870 an import duty was imposed by the United States, but the very favorable conditions then prevailing here enabled the Canadian producer to compete with the American producer in his own home market. Those conditions, however, did not now exist. At the present time the cost of production is quite as high, if not higher than, in the United States. The American producer had the advantage of being able to utilize nearly every part of the log at his mill door, and of being able to find at home in a free market ready sale for all the products, including what is to the Canadian an

expensive waste. The Canadian manufacturer had to construct expensive plant for the destruction of such waste, thus losing doubly as compared with the American.

Mr. Scott pointed out that for several years southern pine had displaced white pine for many purposes even in the markets of the United States. It was produced entirely by negro labor and from standing timber which cost the producer merely a nominal sum as compared with the cost of Canadian pine. The American lumbermen had another advantage in cheaper transportation both by rail and water, but particularly by rail, owing to the keenness of competition by rival lines in the United States.

The Canadian lumbermen, Mr. Scott stated, made no objection to the United States duty on Canadian lumber, that being a matter entirely within the right of the United States Government. He admired the spirit which led to the adoption of this course, but had not the same admiration for a condition which gave to the American the control of his own market and permitted him to open to Canada and dump on us the surplus products of his mills. Having a large absorbing market at home, he could afford to sell in Canada at lower prices, and these lower prices determined the prices of the Canadian product.

STATISTICS BY MR. WALDIE.

Mr. Waldie, president of the Victoria Harbor Lumber Company, presented statistics and data showing the conditions that have prevailed during the past four or five years, beginning with the period when the mills of Michigan found the pine trees tributary to their localities along the east coast exhausted. Several manufacturers then removed to the western end of Lake Superior, with the result that the products of mills erected in the district had a disturbing effect upon the trade not only of Western Ontario, but all through the Northern States. The market was glutted and prices sent down below the cost of production. The condition which existed in 1898 was the cause of bringing about the legislation of a pro-

STATEMENT OF LOGS EXPORTED FROM THE GEORGIAN BAY DISTRICT, ONTARIO, TO THE UNITED STATES BY AMERICAN AND CANADIAN LIMIT OWNERS IN 1896, 1897 AND 1898.

	AMERICAN OWNERS.			Total in 3 Years.
	1896.	1897.	1898.	
Holland & Emery, East Tawas.....	41,000,000	19,000,000	.....	60,000,000 feet.*
Wm. Peter, Bay City.....	6,750,000	9,000,000	8,000,000	23,750,000 "
Moore Lumber Company, Detroit.....	11,880,028	.....	.....	11,880,028 "
Eddy Bros., Bay City.....	22,000,000	12,202,000	12,000,000	46,202,000 "
C. K. Eddy, Bay City.....	5,500,000	.....	.....	5,500,000 "
S. G. M. Gates, Bay City.....	8,292,170	.....	7,222,915	15,515,085 "
Moore, Glover & Company, Bay City.....	.....	.....	1,815,612	1,815,612 "
H. L. Glover, Bay City.....	.....	.....	8,400,000	8,400,000 "
Bliss & VanAuken, Saginaw.....	14,000,000	9,000,000	.....	23,000,000 "
Brownlee & Company, Detroit.....	2,269,610	1,270,000	.....	3,539,610 "
Albert Pack, Alpena.....	12,000,000	8,424,660	.....	20,424,660 "
Theo. Hynes.....	3,519,000	.....	.....	3,519,000 "
Turner & Fisher, Bay City.....	35,000,000	17,000,000	21,000,000	73,000,000 "
S. O. Fisher, Bay City.....	.....	.....	5,332,040	5,332,040 "
Delta Lumber Company, Detroit.....	8,000,000	.....	5,000,000	13,000,000 "
Central Lumber Company, Bay City.....	4,500,000	2,500,000	4,668,000	11,668,000 "
Lippincott & Company, Bay City.....	.....	3,154,570	2,214,000	5,368,570 "
Thomas Smith's Sons, Cheboygan.....	4,000,000	.....	1,764,000	5,764,000 "
W. & A. McArthur Company, Cheboygan.....	9,677,000	.....	12,409,000	22,086,000 "
Saginaw Lumber & Shingle Company, Saginaw.....	12,000,000	3,000,000	8,005,000	23,005,000 "
Alger, Smith & Company, Detroit.....	9,000,000	12,500,000	8,833,400	30,333,400 "
Edmund Hall, Detroit.....	14,000,000	8,418,410	10,732,000	33,150,410 "
Hardy Lumber Company, Alpena.....	14,067,892	12,327,630	14,537,000	40,932,522 "
Total by American owners.....	237,455,700	117,797,270	131,932,967	487,185,937 feet.
	CANADIAN OWNERS.			Total in 3 Years.
	1896.	1897.	1898.	
J. & T. Charlton, Lynedoch.....	3,800,000	3,000,000	3,700,000	10,500,000 feet.
Muskoka Mill & Lumber Company, Toronto.....	.....	2,325,190	.....	2,325,190 "
Alex. Barnett, Renfrew.....	.....	4,000,000	8,991,284	12,991,284 "
Hale & Booth, Ottawa.....	20,266,530	19,000,000	28,000,000	67,266,530 "
Booth & Gordon, Ottawa.....	.....	10,170,000	.....	10,170,000 "
Booth & Shannon, Pembroke.....	.....	6,000,000	.....	6,000,000 "
Munro & Gordon, Pembroke.....	.....	11,000,000	.....	11,000,000 "
Cutler & Savidge, Cutler.....	.....	.....	4,002,144	4,002,144 "
Conger Lumber Company, Toronto.....	.....	.....	14,500,000	14,500,000 "
Parry Sound Lumber Company, Toronto.....	.....	.....	3,639,000	3,639,000 "
Cook Bros. Company, Limited, Toronto.....	.....	14,000,000	5,000,000	19,000,000 "
Peter Wallace, Midland.....	1,253,855	.....	.....	1,253,855 "
J. J. McNeil, Gravenhurst.....	.....	.....	1,302,020	1,302,020 "
Collins Inlet Company, Toronto.....	9,124,424	5,206,479	.....	14,330,903 "
Spanish River Company, Spanish Mills.....	.....	10,000,000	10,000,000	20,000,000 "
Carswell & Francis, Ottawa.....	.....	.....	1,893,290	1,893,290 "
Loveland, Roys & White, Midland.....	.....	.....	4,410,606	4,410,606 "
Playfair & White, Midland.....	.....	.....	15,663,563	15,663,563 "
Total by Canadian owners.....	34,444,809	84,701,669	101,101,907	220,248,385 feet.
" " American ".....	237,455,700	117,797,270	131,932,967	487,185,937 "
	271,900,509	202,498,939	233,034,874	707,434,322 feet.

* Now have mills in Canada. † Limits sold to Canadians. ‡ Limits now cut off.