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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 commerce 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. Announcements 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.

**A NEW YEAR'S GREETING.**

THIS issue of the CANADA LUMBERMAN bears the date of a new year, and marks the commencement of the sixteenth year of publication. The year left behind has not been one to draw forth the enthusiasm of the lumber trade, which started in with great expectations, but commercial depression quickly laid its hands upon it, and the year through it has been a struggle to make things go. However, the outlook in the closing days of the year improved, and not alone as a matter of happy custom, but with grounds for the expectation, we may wish all our readers a happy and prosperous New Year. There is good reason to believe that these hopes will be realized. So far as this journal is concerned no effort will be spared to help to give prosperity to the lumber trades, and one earnest of our effort in this direction will be the commencement at once of the publication, as already announced, of a weekly edition of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.

**FRAUDS IN LUMBER.**

THE remarks in these columns last month of fraudulent buying has brought to light the fact that there is, perhaps, more of this business carried on, both in Canada and the United States, than is generally supposed. For some time back lumber journals across the border have been paying attention to this subject, and exposing very thoroughly the transactions of certain firms who have sent forth their cards as lumber dealers. Some times the fraudulent transaction takes the shape of securing goods for which there has been no intention, nor is there ability, to pay. Again the fraud consists in a dispute as to the character of the inspection, even though this had been thoroughly covered at the time the sale was made. It would appear that dishonest practices of the latter character are practiced near home. The LUMBERMAN is in receipt of a letter within the past week from Mr. Joseph S. Wallis, lumberman, of Port Carling, Ont. After referring in complimentary terms to the position assumed by the LUMBERMAN in its treatment of this question last month, Mr. Wallis says: "All the

frauds are not confined to the United States. I have had the misfortune to have an inspector come to my yard, go carefully through the stock, and to make things sure, go carefully through the figures several times, leave a statement, agree to pay prompt spot cash less a given discount, get the lumber in his possession, and long after the spot cash should have been forthcoming, send on a statement to the effect that there was a shortage, and I would have to take back so much or—, and the so much would amount to 8% less than the price agreed upon and the amount of statement given and figured by the inspector, and terms extended by the buyer, without the consent of the seller, to some two months. The above is not a case of being actually done out of the whole amount of money, but it is a case 'give me my own terms or do your best.' I am of the opinion that, to say the least, some of our Ontario buyers need a little care exercised on the part of the seller, as well as with some of the United States buyers."

Mr. Wallis closes his letter, in which he very clearly shows how a certain class of frauds are worked, with the enquiry: "Can't you help?" We may, in plain terms, say that our purpose is to help the lumbermen of the Dominion to put an end, as far as possible, to all such attempts at dishonest business, indicated, not alone by what Mr. Wallis writes us, but by what comes to us from various other sources. We should be glad, if lumbermen who have had the experience of Mr. Wallis and others would write us, giving full particulars of transactions. The information will be used with the one purpose only of getting after the dishonest dealer, and of helping the trade, who are striving to hold up the true ideal of business in the lumber industries.

**WHY NOT GROW TIMBER?**

FOREST preservation is viewed by the majority of lumbermen so largely as an abstract question or one of theory or sentiment, that it requires almost the proverbial Scotch operation to get the trade to look at the subject as one of strict business. There is nothing new in the remark, whether lumbermen give credence to it or not, that the forests of this country, so rich at one time in pine, are already furnishing evidence of depletion. Five years ago, though the warning note had been sounded a decade before that, lumbermen of Michigan, laughed at those who talked of there being only sufficient pine in that great pine state to last a few years longer. In cold, hard, matter of fact language, Michigan lumbermen say to-day that were it not for the supplies of pine that they are enabled to secure in Canada, Wisconsin or Duluth, they could not keep their mills running a twelve month. Michigan lumbermen, in fact, do not do their lumbering in their own state, outside of the sawing of the logs that are brought from elsewhere.

Let this suffice, at present, for white pine. Hardwood men are in the position of having no virgin soil that they can tap when they have orders to fill for any particular class of hardwood. There is still a fair quantity of hardwood in Ontario, and other parts of Canada, but it exists in patches, only secured by increased labor and expense in haulage and freights. The question has been asked the LUMBERMAN, would it not be a good stroke of business for those who realize this position to take steps to reforest some parts of the province with hardwoods that are most in demand and that will remain practically, for a long time to come, in demand as a commercial commodity. Hon. Mr. Joly, of Quebec, has with energy and enthusiasm shown how well it will pay to plant walnut and secure for the future a supply of this valuable wood.

What this improvident disregard for the future means is shown in the case of certain counties where certain kinds of wood existed, but which had been recklessly cut down by those who recognized no wealth in the standing tree. Take, for example, the county of Kent. Oak that sold there 15 or 20 years ago at \$4.50 per 1000 feet could now be marketed at \$25. per 1000 feet, and walnut which had only brought \$14. per thousand feet, would to-day command \$100. Readers of the LUMBERMAN will remember an account given in these columns some time ago of an ingenious fellow, who managed to strike certain points in the States where roots of walnut trees were to be found in considerable quantity. He bought these up and by economy and ingenuity in

cutting up, was able to realize quite a handsome turn-over from his venture. The farmer has on his 100 or 200 acres a few patches of hardwood and he sees little use for it beyond the trifle it will bring him when cut down. While the agriculturalist would be sleeping he might be making money by allowing this timber to stand. There is not much money in certain branches of farming to-day, with wheat netting Ontario farmers about 45c. a bushel. Why not engage in tree planting? Is there not more than theory or sentiment in the suggestion of our correspondent?

Special correspondence from the Maritime provinces, telling of methods of lumbering down by the sea, is suggestive in the matter of tree planting. This writer tells us that in many sections spruce forests, not cut too close, will reproduce themselves in from 10 to 12 years. As he remarks, what a rich harvest is in store for the shrewd lumberman, who can look far enough ahead, when he has a product like spruce that can be grown with as little trouble and as quickly as, it is stated, is the case with this particular product of the forest.

Growing trees may not be a chimerical scheme after all.

**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

THE woods of Australia are pushing themselves into the markets of the world in several different directions. We referred last month to the possibility of certain woods from the Antipodes finding a market in Canada, especially in the construction of harbor works, because of the fact that the wood is proof against the ravages of the toredo. Native woods of Australia and New Zealand are commencing to appear on the English market. This applies specially to hardwoods. The New Zealand government has sent to Great Britain a timber expert, whose chief object is to introduce to the notice of English buyers specimens of the numerous woods, of which the colony he represents is so well provided. Karri and jarrah, and New Zealand kauri pine have already established themselves in the United Kingdom, the first two being used to a large extent for wood paving purposes, and the latter as a furniture wood. One of the new woods that is being introduced goes under the name of stringy-bark. Whilst it is the boast of the lumbermen of the mother land that all parts of the world are placed under contribution for various woods, yet lumbermen there are disposed to look with caution upon the present movement, which they fear may result in placing on the market large quantities of woods that will be found to possess comparatively little value for practical purposes, and the result will be to depreciate the woods of the Antipodes that have already proven to be useful and desirable.

AN effort is being made by the lumbermen of the Southern states to bring about an increase in values in yellow pine. The remarks noted in our Eli page from D. L. White, of Michigan, as also by a representative of the LUMBERMAN, show very clearly that yellow pine, for some time past, has been sold at a price so far below its competitor white pine that evidently unhealthy influences have been at work to cause this. It seems that it has been the practice of lumber operators and small mill men in the south to combine in a manner to place yellow pine stocks at a central point at prices below any prices substantial manufacturers are willing to quote. A year or so ago in an interview published in these columns it was shown that it was the practice of unscrupulous dealers to operate in lumber at certain points in the south, hire negro labor, get the stocks shipped east before the season was finally over, and then the operators themselves cleared out without having paid the negroes for the labor performed. This is only another of the difficulties that the lumbermen of the south had to contend with and they are organizing and have already held several meetings, hopeful that they will be able to suppress this unfair and dishonest class of competition. That some good has already been effected by these means is shown in one instance in Chicago, where a contract for yellow pine, ties and guard rails, which was taken at \$16.50 has been abandoned and re-let for \$18. White pine men will certainly wish the legitimate trade of the south success in the direction indicated, for they themselves know something of the unfair competition that exists between yellow pine and white pine.