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## THE DUTY ON HARDWOODS.

Mr. J. McGregor, of Owen Sound, Ont., writes to the Toronto Globe as follows on the subject of a duty on hardwood lumber :

Some dissatisfaction is being expressed by the lumbermen throughout the Georgian Bay district at the government because they have failed to make any provision for an export duty on saw logs in the event of the Dingley bill, now before the American Senate, becoming law in its present form, as far as it is applicable to Canadian lumber. But the lumbermen have shown a want of unanimity of opinion among themselves on this subject, as instanced by one body who waited upon the government a few weeks ago, asking for an export duty on logs in case the Americans should impose an import duty of more than one dollar per thousand feet on manufactured lumber, whilst another body who met a few days ago repudiated the views of the former and disowned their willingness to submit to a duty of over one dollar on lumber and asked the government to meet any such import duty by an export duty of a similar amount on saw logs and pulp-wood.

Our government have no doubt acted wisely in deciding to hold out no threat of retaliation in this matter, while the bill is yet before the American Senate, and where it is likely to be considerably modified before it finally becomes law. That body is well aware of the temper of the Canadian people in this matter. A large number of saw mill owners, operating in Michigan, and who depend upon Canadian logs to supply their mills—together with other Americans who are operating on this side of the line—are, or have been, in Washington for some time, fighting against the imposition of more than one dollar on Canadian pine lumber; and while there is yet a strong probability of the duty being placed at the latter figure, and a possibility, however remote, of its being entirely abolished, our government have, I think, acted wisely in waiting the issue of events. It is altogether likely that the Canadian parliament will still be in session when the Dingley bill finally becomes law, and there will then be opportunity to act upon it.

I understand that in the Dingley bill, as passed by Congress, hardwoods are taxed equally with pine at \$2 per thousand feet, and as no one has been saying a word for the poor hardwood men, it is likely to be left at that figure, no matter what is done with pine. Now, this will be a great hardship on hundreds of small saw mill men throughout the Dominion, but principally in western Ontario, who operate almost exclusively in hardwoods, the pine having long since disappeared from their lands. They purchase their logs chiefly from the surrounding farmers, who cut and haul them in the winter season when other work is scarce, and it is a considerable source of revenue to them. These saw mill men, like the pine men, depend largely

upon the American market to dispose of their products, and if the two dollar clause goes into effect, it will almost entirely shut them out of that market, for a time at least, until the return of better times may have the effect of stimulating the demand and raising the price.

It is to be hoped, if any hint has been, or is likely to be given by our government to the authorities at Washington as to its probable action in the matter of an export duty on logs in case the lumber duties are not modified, that the interests of the hardwood men will receive equal consideration with those of the larger and wealthier pine men.

## MR. D. H. GILLIES.

We have pleasure in presenting to our readers the accompanying portrait and particulars of Mr. D. H. Gillies, manager of the firm of S. Gillies



MR. D. H. GILLIES.

& Son, lumber dealers and saw mill proprietors, of London, Ont.

Mr. Gillies was born near Buckinham, on the Ottawa river, on May 21st, 1861. When about 12 years of age his father moved to western Ontario, starting a lumber business at Ailsa Craig. After leaving school the subject of our sketch entered into partnership with his father and brother in the Ailsa Craig mills, and two years ago, wishing to still further enlarge their already prosperous business, they purchased the London mill, which Mr. D. H. Gillies is now running. The volume of business of the first year, coupled with present prospects for a large trade in 1897, indicate his good judgment in the venture.

Mr. Gillies confines his operations at London mostly to hardwoods, sawing the greater part of his lumber from logs brought in from all parts of the country, and shipping the products of his mill to different points in Ontario, Quebec and the United States. He has already acquired an enviable reputation for the quality of his output, and always obtains the highest prices ruling.

Owing to the first-class education in the business obtained under the direction of his father, Mr. S. Gillies, of Ailsa Craig (who is well known as one of the best experts in the timber line), Mr. Gillies is enabled to give a practical supervision to the minute details which always ensure success to any line of business. To meet the demands of his trade he has been obliged to put in a larger engine, of Leonard make, which together with a new Waterous carrier, has just been put in operation. He is also a clever machinist, as evidenced by the labor-saving and work-facilitating devices of his own construction in his mill, which has a capacity of 50,000 feet per day. As an expert judge of timber and lumber he enjoys a wide reputation. The yard at the mill is well stocked with logs, and orders are already booked to cover almost the entire season's output. Eighteen hands are employed at London. Besides the mills at Ailsa Craig, which employ about 50 men, the firm have a large mill at Davidson, Michigan, managed by Mr. John Gillies.

Mr. D. H. Gillies has recently purchased the London Show Case Works.

## FORESTRY TREATMENT.

A DETAILED report on forestry made by the Committee of the National Academy of Science has been laid before the United States Senate. The report goes into details as to the European experiments regarding the influence of forests upon climate and spring flow, and says that figures demonstrate a considerable progressive reduction in the mean annual, and lowest water levels upon all the chief rivers draining central Europe. Millions of dollars have been expended in recent years in Europe in checking the force of floods, due to denuded mountain slopes, by the construction of dams and river-beds, and the committee predicts similar expenditures on this continent to maintain the narrow valleys of the west habitable.

The report also condemns the government's action in permitting free pasturage on the reserved lands, not only because of the damage thereby done to them, but because of the fact that one class only is deriving benefit therefrom. In order to be just to all sections, land more valuable for its mineral deposits or agricultural crops than its timber should be taken from the reservations and sold to miners or farmers.

On these lines a general scheme for the administration of reserved lands by the government has been submitted.

The most scientific forester in Europe says the oldest trees in Northern Europe are the pines of Norway and Sweden, and that these are not known to live more than 570 years. Germany's oldest oaks live only a little more than 300 years.