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ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED ON APPLICATION

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interests of the lumber trade and 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 trader 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.

SHALL HARDWOOD LUMBERMEN ORGANIZE?

The letter of Mr. Anderson which appears in another column is designed to again draw the attention of the hardwood lumbermen of Ontario to the wisdom, if not the absolute necessity, of organization. It has long been felt by some engaged in the hardwood trade that valuable service could be rendered by an association having for its object the protection of the interests of the hardwood manufacturers and dealers. That no action has been taken is, we think, due to a disinclination on the part of those interested to take the initial steps. We cherish the hope, however, that in the near future organization may become more general throughout the lumber trade of the Dominion, and that one of the most active associations will be that composed of the hardwood manufacturers and dealers of the province of Ontario. It is not admitted that the necessity for organization is greater in this province than in the other provinces of the Dominion, but when the banner province of Ontario shall set the example the others will likely follow.

That provincial associations are preferable to a Dominion association will not be disputed. Indeed, we doubt if a Dominion association would be workable, so different are the interests of the hardwood trade in the various provinces. For this same reason the Lumbermen's Association of Ontario will not, in our opinion, properly cherish and advance the hardwood interests of the province. Without reflecting in the slightest degree upon the admirable work accomplished by the Lumbermen's Association of Ontario, we cannot overlook the fact that as it exists at present it

is essentially an association of pine manufacturers. But one illustration is necessary in support of this contention. It will be remembered that until a few months ago a discrimination existed in freight rates on hardwood lumber as compared with pine. At the earnest solicitation of one or two hardwood manufacturers who are members of the Ontario Lumbermen's Association, that association interceded with the railway authorities on behalf of the hardwood trade. The result, as is generally known, was that rates were equalized by advancing the rate on pine lumber to that charged on hardwoods, and it is a question if the pine manufacturers do not now regret their interference on behalf of the hardwood men. We do not contend that the railway authorities would not in any case have taken similar action, as they regarded the time as opportune for a general advance in freight rates, but the fact remains that their path was cleared by the representations made by the Lumbermen's Association.

It is almost superfluous to advance reasons why the hardwood lumbermen of Ontario should be organized. Almost every prominent industry of to-day has its association. But if reasons were necessary, we might point to the discrimination in hardwood freight rates which existed for years, to the exorbitant freight rates which are now charged on cedar lumber, and to the necessity of adopting uniform inspection rules on hardwood lumber. While cedar and hemlock lumber cannot rightly be classed in the category of hardwoods, yet the greater quantity of the hemlock and cedar manufactured in the province passes through the hands of the hardwood men, and for this reason we believe that these woods should be placed under the care of the hardwood association.

The adoption of uniform rules of inspection would be a great boon to the hardwood lumber industry of Ontario. There are some who contend that such action is not feasible, and while we must respect their views, we find much encouragement in what has been accomplished in this direction by the National Hardwood Lumber Association of the United States. This association came into existence about two years ago, when very few believed that a system of national inspection was a possibility, yet to-day it has been adopted by nearly four hundred of the leading lumber firms in various parts of the United States. The rules of the association have been printed for distribution to members, but being copyrighted, their publication in lumber journals is impossible. Persons in Canada interested may, however, obtain a copy of the rules at this office or by addressing the secretary, Mr. A. R. Vinnedge, of Chicago. The consideration of similar rules would be one of the most important questions to come before an association of the hardwood trade of Ontario, and whether adopted or otherwise, the interchange of ideas by practical men would in itself be of much benefit.

It is not expected that the hardwood lumbermen will unanimously endorse the sentiments here expressed; nevertheless, we court a free expression of opinion through the columns of the CANADA LUMBERMAN by those who feel an interest in the subject.

With a view to promoting the formation of an association, we have printed elsewhere a blank form. Hardwood manufacturers and dealers are asked to fill in this form and return it to this office, stating whether they are in favor of the formation

of such an association and whether they would endeavor to attend a meeting for that purpose to be held in the city of Toronto. It is our earnest desire that every person interested should espouse this invitation. Should a sufficient number announce their willingness to attend such a meeting, it is probable that further action will be taken.

THE SELLING OF TIMBER LIMITS.

Crown timber limits are virtually public property. When offered for purchase by private interests, no favoritism should be shown to prospective purchasers; it should be the object of the governments to so arrange the conditions to prevent as far as possible any advantage being obtained by one buyer over another.

The policy of the different provincial governments in the past in respect to the sale of timber limits has been one with which little fault could be found, and we hope to see this policy continued. It is doubtful, however, whether the course adopted with respect to the sale of timber limits to be held shortly by the Quebec Government has such as will give general satisfaction. The sale is announced to be held on March 28th, one month from time of writing, and yet, so far as our knowledge goes, no official announcement of the proposed sale has been publicly made. The writer, with many others, might have remained in ignorance of the sale but for a question asked in the Quebec Legislature by Hon. Mr. Flynn to the superintendent of the timber limits to be offered. This brought forth the reply that about nine thousand square miles had been selected for sale.

The rights of prospective bidders would seem to demand that, in view of the extent of the limits, at least three months should elapse between first public announcement of the sale and the time when it is to be held. This would give sufficient time in which we have the limits explored, and the terms of the timber made, and financial arrangements perfected. The lack of publicity may result, first, in giving one bidder an advantage over another, and, secondly, in curtailing the revenue which the people, through the Government, should receive from the sale of the limits.

LATH PRICES.

The lath market during last year was peculiar, and afforded excellent opportunities to the speculator to exercise his characteristic shrewdness with large pecuniary benefit. In the spring it would have been possible to purchase either in the Ottawa Valley or the Georgian Bay districts, millions of lath, on which the owner would have willingly relinquished his claim for one dollar per thousand pieces. But he visited the yards in search of lumber, and actually walked over these piles of lath, little thinking that their purchase would be a gilt-edged investment. The Michigan lumbermen being deprived of their usual supply of logs, had neither lumber nor lath to offer, and the dealers there, as well as in the Eastern States, scoured Ontario in search of stock. The result was that there was a general advance in the price of timber products, but the reasons which can scarcely be explained, seemed almost no limit to the price of lath. At the close of the year these same lath which had offered eight months previously at one dollar per thousand were held at \$3.25, and the owners were not at all anxious to part with them even at that figure. The advance was one of the most remarkable in the history of the lumber business.