



MR. T. BARLOW WALKER, of Minneapolis, is another American lumberman—one of the big lumber kings of the United States—who believes that the forests in his country are fast being depleted of their best timbers, and that American lumbermen will have to look to Canada for limits. This is the way Mr. Walker talked to an interviewer when in our city a fortnight ago. He referred particularly to the Northwest districts of his country, where the new homestead law, reserving the land to the actual settler, is having a discouraging influence upon the lumbermen.

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"Saw mills in the vicinity of Little Current," said Mr. Froude, of Wallace Mines, near Little Current, "are very busy and will run until the snow flies. It is true great quantities of logs are being exported from this section by the Howry Bros. and others, but I cannot see that our mills are doing any less work on this account. On the contrary, as I have intimated, there is an increased demand for manufactured lumber. If our logs are going to the American side in large quantities, and undoubtedly this is true, there are increased shipments of sawn lumber finding a market there too."

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"Business with us in Bruce county," said Mr. A. McKaig, of Lucknow, "has been very good the past season, and we look forward to still better times ahead. Lumber matters are looking up. Our cut is chiefly square timber for the foreign market shipped on account of McArthur Bros. The shipments go to them at Quebec. Whilst it is true that lumber in Great Britain has been slow for a considerable time and the square timber trade has been quiet as a consequence, yet the largely increased shipments from Quebec, shown by the official returns, indicate a greater consumption of lumber across the Atlantic than for a considerable period of the past."

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A writer in an American lumber journal throws sentiment to the winds and gets down to very plain business when, in discussing the subject of forestry, he says: "The question is, how under our system of land holdings any effective measures can be taken to preserve forests around the head waters of the great rivers of the country. These forests are mainly in the hands of lumbermen who bought them to manufacture, and, particularly in the white pine country, prices have been paid which are only justified by immediate manufacture and which could not be justified by any forest culture methods. This is a problem that we can venture to say will not be solved within the life of any now living."

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Mr. E. C. Grant, manager of the Ottawa Lumber Co., Ottawa, Ont., takes a hopeful and, at the same time, a cautious view of the lumber situation. He says: "There has been a better demand for all grades of lumber this year than there has been for some time. Though the different yards have not such a depleted appearance as they had last fall, still it is not a sign that there are not ready sales, as nearly everything has been sold some time ago, most of which has passed into the hands of the middleman. A number of firms, ours included, have been considerably delayed by not having their logs come forward as soon as we expected through being detained by the jam on the Gatineau, as the Upper Ottawa Boom Co., as well as the mill men, are very much handicapped at present by the scarcity of men, who are leaving for the woods to accept positions at very much advanced wages to what they have been getting for some time. However, on the whole, we think that the outlook for next season tends to be quite as good as this, and we see no reason why the present prices should not remain firm."

Bay City, Mich., has a lumberman, in Mr. Albert Miller, who has not lost hope in the Saginaw valley as a good centre for a lumber business. If Michigan supplies are nearly exhausted he sees abundant stock across the border on this side of the line. Mr. Miller has suffered heavy losses from fire this year, yet he is ready for business again the first opportunity. He is reported as saying, "I do not know what business I shall engage in, but I believe a new saw mill on the premises burned over would be the proper move to make. I consider the chances of a saw mill better to-day than they were eight years ago. With the forests of Canada open to our doors, and a safe means of bringing logs to our shores, there is no reason why the mills of Saginaw river cannot continue to be as important a factor as ever in the business history of this city."

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A few weeks ago I had a chat with Mr. J. A. Spaulding, lumber merchant, Philadelphia, Pa. He was in the country, more on pleasure bent than business, but he was looking around to see what business might be doing. "I deal chiefly in pine," said Mr. Spaulding, "and this class of timber is becoming scarce enough in important parts of the States to make it necessary to look elsewhere for our stocks, and we have to rest in no small measure on Canada. There is little doubt that in Michigan in particular the supply of timber is nearly exhausted. Those interested may want this statement qualified, but actions speak louder than words, and the proof is in the migration of Michigan lumbermen, so far as seeking supplies is concerned, to Wisconsin, the South, your country and elsewhere where it is believed timber is to be found. What has surprised me as a reader of the CANADA LUMBERMAN is the modesty of your lumbermen in making themselves known to the American trade. Wholesalers like myself are constantly in need of stocks, which I am sure are in your country, but I should suppose that the announcements of men who have lumber for sale, to be found in your columns, represent but a small fraction of the number engaged in the trade in your country; and I suppose they are in business to do business."

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There are not many departments of trade more cosmopolitan in their character than lumbering. At one time or another, timber, in some quantities at least, has been found in almost every part of the globe. We look upon America as perhaps the greatest timber country of the world, but the view of most lumbermen is, we believe, broad enough to give them an interest in timber operations wherever they may be carried on, near or far. I admit to having been considerably interested in an account of the great teak forests of Northern Siam, some mention of which is made in another part of this month's LUMBERMAN. Some observations made by an American lumberman, Mr. P. Bergland, of Marinette, Wis., who has recently returned from Sweden, his former home, has awakened my interest in lumbering in another part of the world. I do not know but what his statements of the magnitude of lumber manufacturing in Sweden will perhaps surprise Canadian lumbermen. He says: "The northern portion of Sweden is a vast forest of timber, differing from our white pine and more resembling the Norway of this country, though of a better quality. The style of cutting the trees and delivering the logs to the mill does not differ much from the manner in which it is done in this country. In the mills are principally gang saws, varying from two to twenty saws in a frame. In most of the mills ten to sixteen gangs, and in one of the larger ones forty gangs. Circulars are not used, neither are band saws. There are no trimmers or edgers, as their work is all done by hand. Mills are run both by steam and water, but principally by steam. The lumber is more carefully manufactured than here. It is for foreign markets, Australia, France and other countries, and cut into much different styles of lumber than in this country. It is not estimated into the thousand feet, but by so many pieces of certain lengths and sizes. Different dimensions have different prices. After being sawed in the mills it is cut by hand into several classes required and cut with a great deal of care, giving it a finished appearance. It is kept under cover while piled. The scows upon which it is taken to the vessels for loading have a roof over them

so that the lumber shall not become injured by being wet. There is a great deal of labor placed upon it after it leaves the mill, which adds to its cost and value. The cost of such lumber there is in excess of our lumber here. The wages of ordinary laborers in the mill are 2½ to 4 crowns a day, a crown being 27 cents, making the daily wages 69 cents to \$1 a day. In single districts of 100 miles there are from 200 to 300 saw mills. The government regulates the cutting of all timber, no matter by whom owned, and no trees are allowed to be cut down below a certain size. A selection is made and trees marked by agents of the government designating such trees as must not be cut. In this way the smaller trees are given an opportunity to grow, furnishing good timber for each successive generation. Many of the mills there are constructed entirely of iron, not a stick of timber or wood being connected with them."

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The lumbermen of British Columbia took advantage of the recent visit of the Hon. Mackenzie Bowell, Minister of Militia, and ex-Minister of Customs, to that province, to discuss with him the question of the duties on Douglas Fir going into the United States. Where, under the McKinley tariff, white pine is admitted on a duty of \$1 per thousand feet, Douglas Fir is taxed \$2. Mr. R. H. Alexander, of the Hastings mill, who was spokesman for the lumbermen, stated that Douglas Fir was scheduled in the United States tariff as pine, but was classified as other woods, and consequently did not come under the \$1 regulation. The Americans, however, could buy logs here, and he thought the lumber should be put on the same footing as pine from Eastern Canada. Pitch pine and redwood were both admitted into Canada free, while British Columbia fir and cedar were dutiable in the United States. This usurped their home market, as the fir would be largely used in the eastern provinces. A quantity was used for railway car sills, but they had to compete with the pitch pine, and were at considerable disadvantage, as it could be got at a little less. The saw mill interests in this province thought that it was only fair that their products should be admitted free, or that Canada should retaliate. Their cedar wood was met by the redwood, even in Winnipeg. They were not afraid to compete on even terms if they would let the Douglas fir in free into the United States, as it was of better quality, having a closer grain. They would rather meet them fairly, and either have free trade or a duty on both sides. An interchange with Australia would be of the greatest advantage to this province. The colony of Victoria was proposing to impose a duty of 25s. per thousand feet on Oregon pine, and they classified their products as the same. Although it was really Douglas Fir they could not put on a differential tariff. Mr. Bowell in reply said that the matter, which was a very difficult one to settle, was already under consideration. The Americans had exempted spruce in the list somehow or other, doubtless because it was a great industry in Maine, which was then represented by Mr. Blaine, who showed that he was willing to sacrifice Michigan but not Maine. It was a question whether, considering the lumber botanically, the Douglas Fir is pine or spruce. After investigating the matter, and obtaining the opinion of well-known agriculturalists and botanists, like Prof. Saunders, it was decided that it was not really pine but spruce. If any one looked at the needles they were the same as the eastern spruce. He said he had sent to his son for some needles, and on examination they had come to this decision. He thought the Americans had not ruled it as pine. In reply to an enquiry of Mr. Alexander whether it was not the case that the Northern Pacific railway had taken Oregon pine into Manitoba, while building their line there, and used it in bridge, Mr. Bowell replied by stating that this was not correct, or, if so, they must have smuggled it in. They had had certain concessions, and they had a very long fight on the matter. Pitch pine was admitted free for use in shipbuilding, but but since the date of that arrangement Douglas Fir or pine had been used largely, especially in car building. A large number of freight cars, especially the flat ones, were built of this pine, as it was the best and lasted longest. Pitch pine and red wood were originally admitted into the country, because there was none to be obtained.