

THE Canada Lumberman

MONTHLY AND WEEKLY EDITIONS

PUBLISHED BY

The C.H. Mortimer Publishing Company
of Toronto, Limited,

CONFEDERATION LIFE BUILDING, TORONTO.

BRANCH OFFICE:

IMPERIAL BUILDING, MONTREAL.

The LUMBERMAN Weekly Edition is published every Wednesday, and the Monthly Edition on the 1st day of every month.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:

One Copy, Weekly and Monthly, One Year, in advance... \$ 1.00

One Copy, Weekly and Monthly, Six Months, in advance... .50

Foreign Subscription, \$2.00 a Year.

ADVERTISING RATES 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 trade in Canada information in which it can rely in its operations.

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 percent. 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.

WESTERN CANADA EDITION.

THE July number of the CANADA LUMBERMAN will be designated a "Western Canada Edition." Some one has said that before many years Canadian lumbering will be confined to British Columbia. While this is an extreme view, the fact is apparent that the Province of British Columbia has already become a very important lumbering centre, and that her magnificent forests are daily attracting greater attention. This, in conjunction with the rapid growth of population throughout Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, demands that special attention should occasionally be given by this journal to the interests of the lumber manufacturers and dealers of Western Canada. In the July number it is hoped to introduce special features which will be of particular interest to them.

Throughout Manitoba and the Territories there are several hundred retail dealers. It is the purpose to place a copy of this number in the hands of each of these dealers, in addition, of course, to the saw mill owners, logging contractors and others identified with the lumbering industry. This number will offer an excellent opportunity to reach the lumbermen of the West—an opportunity of which advantage should be taken by all manufacturers and dealers in saw-mill machinery and supplies, as well as by lumber manufacturers seeking to secure a portion of the rapidly growing trade of Western Canada.

The lumber market of Manitoba and the

Territories is gradually being wrested from the hands of United States manufacturers. During the year 1901 the quantity of lumber imported from the United States was only 11,000,000 feet, as compared with 24,000,000 feet during the previous year. Canadian lumbermen should put forth every effort to totally prevent the importation of American lumber.

TIMBER INVESTMENTS.

THE forests of Canada constitute one of the most promising fields for the investment of money. Whether in lumber or standing timber, opportunities are afforded for persons with capital to secure good returns on their investment. It is most necessary, however, that the character of the investment and the conditions existing at the time should be carefully considered.

It is contended by some persons that within the past three months there has been reckless buying of white pine lumber by certain concerns. Be that as it may, the present is, in our opinion, a time for caution and conservative adventure. There have been several years of prosperity in the white pine trade, and while the constant and extensive development of this country would seem to warrant a continuance of such conditions, it is well to remember that trade depression frequently comes so gradually as to almost conceal its existence until felt quite keenly. We are not pessimistic as to the future of white pine, which is certain, on account of the declining supply, to advance towards a higher value, but as all commodities are subject to periods of depression and inflation, so white pine lumber is likely to rule at a lower price temporarily, whether this year or five years hence. The dealer who exercises caution in the extent and character of his purchases, and the manufacturer who limits his production, reserves his timber, and reduces his holdings of lumber at favorable opportunities, will follow the safest course.

The investment of capital in timber limits is almost certain to prove profitable. Mistaken judgment and unexpected events have been responsible for a few losses in this direction in the past, but the person who invests in timber is likely to reap handsome profits in years to come. The one great risk in purchasing timber limits is destruction by fire. It is wisdom on the part of owners to employ an efficient staff of fire rangers. The number of fires extinguished each year by rangers, as reported by the different provincial governments, proves conclusively the economy of such service.

Investment in stock companies calls for the exercise of shrewd judgment. There are comparatively few lumber companies whose stock is offered to the public, as where such companies exist the stock is largely held by those identified with the business. The pulp industry has apparently presented a more attractive field for the flotation of stock companies. If timely advice should be given to the investing public, it is to discriminate between companies organized by Canadian capitalists and those controlled by United States capitalists, as the

former are almost invariably on a more solid footing. It is the custom of the United States press to belittle Canadian enterprise, but it is vastly more desirable to proceed conservatively than to encourage such a disaster as occurred recently to the North American Lumber and Pulp Company. This company, capitalized at \$2,500,000, acquired 200,000 acres of timber lands in Nova Scotia for the supposed purpose of manufacturing pulp and paper. The recent crash on Wall Street makes it extremely doubtful that the project will ever be undertaken, even if it were intended at one time that it should be.

THE MEASUREMENT OF LUMBER.

Lumber exporters on this side of the Atlantic will learn with much satisfaction that at a recent meeting of the Timber Trades Federation of the United Kingdom a proposal was adopted that in future all American hardwood lumber should be measured by the board measure rule. The unanimous sentiment of Canadian shippers is doubtless voiced in the wish that the movement may not end here, but that the American method of measurement may become universally adopted in Great Britain. Eliminating, if possible, all prejudice in the matter, there seems no good reason why there should exist such a complicated system of measurement as is in vogue in the Mother Country, unless it be the well known and oftentimes wise conservatism of the Britisher. What is known as the American system is simple, while at the same time accurate.

From the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, in Canada, lumber and logs are sold by the thousand feet, a foot being one inch thick, twelve inches wide and twelve inches long. The basis for square timber measurement is the cubic foot. In Great Britain numerous terms and systems of calculation are employed. In wholesale transactions deals and boards are usually sold by the St. Petersburg standard containing 1,980 feet board measure, but in some parts of Ireland the Irish standard of 3,240 feet is used. Thus, to an already complicated system is added the uncertainty, on the part of exporters, as to which standard is adopted in the particular port to which they may be shipping. When deals, boards and planks are sold by retail, the square or superficial foot is usually taken as the basis on which to fix the price. At public sales in England battens are usually sold by 144 feet run, mouldings and flooring by 100 feet run, palings by 100 pieces of four feet, laths by the bundle, lathwood by the fathom, and mahogany by the square foot one inch thick. The measurement applicable to square timber in England is the cubic foot, as in this country, but it is customary to make sales on the basis of a load of fifty cubic feet.

It is no easy task for Canadian shippers to acquaint themselves with the numerous terms as above indicated, and their consequent calculations. Business between the two countries would be greatly simplified by the adoption of the board rule as the standard of measurement. The time is opportune for such a change, inasmuch as the tendency is for the manufacturer and consumer to come closer together. In the past the manufacturer, being unfamiliar with the