

General Business.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER Absolutely Pure. This powder never varies. A marvel of purity and softness. It is the only one that makes the ordinary bread and cake so light and so delicious. It is the only one that is pure and clean. It is the only one that is safe and healthy. It is the only one that is economical. It is the only one that is reliable. It is the only one that is the best.

UNPRECEDENTED ATTRACTION. Louisiana State Lottery Company. Incorporated by the Legislature in 1868 for the purpose of raising money for the education of the poor. The Louisiana State Lottery Company is the only one of its kind in the world. It is the only one that is pure and clean. It is the only one that is safe and healthy. It is the only one that is economical. It is the only one that is reliable. It is the only one that is the best.

Grand Monthly Drawing. At the Academy of Music, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 15, 1889. Capital Prize, \$300,000. 100,000 tickets at 30 cents each. Total \$3,000,000. Prizes amounting to \$1,000,000.

CAUTION! The subscriber would caution persons about purchasing SPECTACLES. To come or send direct to The Medical Hall, as he keeps the only Diamond Cut Spectacles in Canada. Every pair is plainly stamped. MACKENZIE, CHATHAM.

Teacher Wanted. A second or third class female teacher is wanted for District No. 1, (Lower) Newcastle. Salary, \$100 per month. JOHN G. BROWN, Lower Newcastle Dec. 10th 1888.

Teacher Wanted. For District No. 2, Newcastle. (Mortified) Second class female - age from 15 to 30 preferred. WM. GRAY, SECOY.

Teacher Wanted. A second class male teacher is wanted for District No. 1, Chatham. Salary, \$100 per month. Dennis Sullivan, Secy. to Trust.

LOCKET LOST. A GOLD LOCKET with the monogram "J. W. C. W." in relief, and containing a hair, was lost on the street in New Brunswick. A reward will be given to the finder for returning it to the ADVERTISER.

Miramichi Advance, CHATHAM, N. B., JANUARY 10, 1889.

THE STAMPS QUESTION.

The Committee representing North Shore lumber interests have had a conference with a Committee of the local Government at Fredericton and the Stumpage Question was quite fully discussed. The gentlemen of the Government seemed, at first, to take the ground that they were to be only listeners at the conference, but they became so much interested in the points presented by the different speakers that the proceedings became quite animated and the debate was, for much of the time, participated in as much by the Attorney General and his colleagues as by the Committee.

By having one of the best stenographic reporters in Canada with them, the North Shore men have secured a full and reliable record of the proceedings, and as the question at issue is of vital importance to a large number of the people of the province, we propose to publish a full report of the Conference. The claims of the North Shore lumber interests have never yet been fully laid before the people of the province, and although opportunity was not afforded to have them presented to the Government as completely as the Committee anticipated, yet sufficient was advanced by those who spoke in support of the Memorial to establish the fact that until the excessive rates of stumpage and millage at present imposed on the lumber trade by the Government are modified, the four Northern Counties will have cause to complain of having great injustice done to them. We have space, this week, for only a portion of the report of the proceedings at the conference of Thursday night. It began about eight o'clock, p. m., and lasted until after one. After the opening remarks of the Committee's Chairman and the reading of the Memorial Messrs. K. F. Burns, J. B. Snowball, H. S. Miller and D. G. Smith addressed the Executive Committee. We close this week's instalment of the report with Mr. Burns' speech and will, in following issues, publish those of the other gentlemen. It will be observed that there was very little opportunity permitted for uninterrupted speaking, but we think it will be generally admitted by all candid and unprejudiced people who follow the whole debate through, that the advocates of justice for the North Shore got their case in a fairly good shape before the Government, and that they have a strong and reasonable basis on which to urge their claim for relief from the present ruinous stumpage impost.

A Committee representing the North Shore lumber interests visited Fredericton on Thursday last, 3rd inst., and held a conference with a Committee representing the Government. The members of Government present were Hon. A. G. Blair, Attorney-General, presiding, Hon. J. A. Mitchell, Surveyor General and Hon. D. McLellan, Provincial Secretary. The Committee representing the lumber interest was composed of Messrs. Geo. Burchill, Chairman, J. B. Snowball, K. F. Burns, H. S. Miller, Allan Ritchie, Scott Fairley, J. D. McKay and D. G. Smith, Secretary.

The Assembly representatives of Northumberland, viz. Messrs. L. J. Tweedie, E. Hutchison, John Burchill and John Morrison were also amongst those present. Mr. F. H. Risteen, stenographer, accompanied the Committee in his professional capacity. Before the business of the meeting was entered upon, Hon. Mr. Blair made a statement, explaining that his failure to meet the Committee on two previous occasions had not been from any lack of desire on his part to confer with the lumbermen of the North, but was owing to storms which had taken place on both occasions, making it difficult, if not impossible for him to attend. Mr. Allan Ritchie, as to the first occasion, corroborated what Mr. Blair said. Mr. George Burchill, Chairman of the Committee then said: The Attorney General's explanation I think is quite satisfactory to the meeting. At the meeting he speaks of certain resolutions were passed and representatives were named on behalf of the lumbering interests of the North Shore to present their claims before the Government in the shape of a Memorial, for some relief from the burdens at present imposed upon the lumber interest of the Northern section of the Province. A number of the representatives at that meeting are here and as Chairman of the Committee appointed at that Meeting it devolves upon me to introduce the subject under consideration. It

must be evident to all that the lumber business is a waning industry with us on the North Shore and we trust the representations we are going to make in the shape of a Memorial to the Government will be considered favorably and liberally towards those involved in it. Without taking up any more of the time of the meeting, I shall call up on the Secretary to read the Memorial. Mr. D. G. Smith Secretary to the Committee, then read the following—

Memorial on the subject of the Stumpage Tax on Crown Lands in New Brunswick and its adverse effects on the Lumbering interest of the Northern Counties of the Province, submitted at a conference between members of the Government and a committee representing said interest, at Fredericton, on Thursday, January 3rd, 1889.

In the interest of the North Shore of New Brunswick, the property of whose people, generally, depend mainly on that of the lumber trade, the facts and conclusions set forth in the following Memorial are respectfully submitted for the consideration of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor and the Hon. the members of the Government. The unprofitable and discouraging condition of the lumber business on the North Shore, which was the subject of a conference between members of the Government and representatives of the trade, at Fredericton early in 1888, of a resolution of the Municipal Council of Northumberland, addressed to the Lt. Governor-in-Council in January of the same year, and subsequently of a Memorial appealing for relief in the form of a Stumpage charge imposed upon the Crown Lands Regulations, still continues, and imperatively urges another call upon the Government for the consideration which has, up to the present, been withheld.

Those actively engaged in the business submit, that for the past six or seven years, they have continued to suffer from a general depression, discouragements and reverses which have been marked features of the trade during that period. They have been impelled to this course by the fact that many of them have lost their property, and even more, invested in mills and other property, to prevent which from lying idle, going to decay and becoming a total loss, they have had to continue business, even at a loss. They were, however, not without hope from year to year that the business would gradually improve, and that their former activity, but in this they have been disappointed, the result being that although the greatest economy has been practiced in all departments of their operations, the outlook affords no hope of the trade continuing in this section of the province, to exist in even its present condition, unless such reductions are made in the stumpage charges as will place the North Shore operators on Crown Lands nearer on an equality than they are with their Quebec and Nova Scotia competitors in the British and continental markets.

The statistics of the lumber trade between Great Britain and the countries from which she draws her wood supplies, show results which suggest that the excessive stumpage levied on the New Brunswick Government is having a very damaging effect on this the most important industry of the Province. They show that while the Baltic ports are increasing in output for the British market, and Nova Scotia and Quebec are about holding their own, the imports from New Brunswick are sharply declining, the relative decrease being from the North Shore being much greater than from St. John and other Bay of Fundy ports.

The fact that the shipments of the Miramichi have steadily declined since 1883, when they were valued at \$1,000,000, and that until they were only 68,000,000—less than one half—last year, and that a corresponding decline has taken place in Bathurst, Dalhousie, Richibucto and other North Shore ports, is proof of the startling want of this important industry, and of the necessity for special effort to avert its gradual extinction.

We submit that the importance of this industry as a contributing factor in the maintenance of the general business of the country, demands for it fostering regard and treatment, rather than excessive taxation, at the hands of the Government, and supplies which go largely into the production of our lumber are furnished very evenly all over New Brunswick, and it is owing to the fact that lumber can be obtained as a mere article of commerce more cheaply in Quebec and Nova Scotia than in this province—such capital now employed here as is floating, be transferred to those provinces or otherwise, that it follows that the whole of New Brunswick must suffer. In these days of easy and rapid communication and transit and of keen competition, no business that is fettered by state restrictions or handicapped by discriminating, excessive or special government imposts, can hope to survive. It is for this reason that the protection of manufacturers has become a recognized policy of both the great governments of the North American continent. Not only so, but in Germany, France and other leading countries in Europe, the attention of their statesmen is occupied every industry within their boundaries. Those that are threatened with competition from abroad are protected; others that are weak and struggling are encouraged to continue and extend by bounties and having extra facilities afforded to them. May we not urge, then, that the lumber industry of the North Shore, which is being paralyzed by the enormous burden of the Crown Land tax, is worthy of the prompt and considerate attention of the Government.

We earnestly desire to impress upon the Government the fact that the natural and geographical disadvantages against which the North Shore counties have to contend are not recognized in the present, even to

the meagre extent that they were in the earlier stumpage regulations; not only so, but it has, unfortunately for us, been the practice and policy of Provincial administrations in the past, while they were every ready to meet the demands and facilitate the operations of the trade in other sections of the province, to withhold from the North Shore equally fair consideration. The effect of this policy is seen in the fact that while the North Shore Crown Lands are held and administered as if all the Province were equitably entitled to a common interest in them, those of the Central and Southern counties have, for merely nominal considerations, been transferred to private and corporate owners who, in turn, have allowed public sentiment and a fear of excessive Government stumpage rates, in order that their own cheaply-obtained areas might have imparted to them a high value, which is acquired by the fact that the lands of the Northern section of the province, paralyzing its most important industry, destroying the investments embarked in it, and giving the people cause for discontent and despondency which are gradually leading to the depopulation of the country.

Even if it were not true that the Crown lands of the Province had been transferred as stated, and that the government was not only because of the means of livelihood which they have ceased to find within them. We ask that the means of livelihood which they have ceased to find within them. We ask that the means of livelihood which they have ceased to find within them. We ask that the means of livelihood which they have ceased to find within them.

At an illustration of the trend of governmental policy by which the North Shore lumber interest has been most unfairly treated, we refer to the fact that you that when the Export Duty of 20 cents per M was levied, that import bore equally the burden of the duty. The Province, the four Northern Counties contributing about one-third of the revenue under that plan. By the principle of the lumbermen of the Province at Ottawa the Dominion Government—largely with a view of relieving the Province of the burden of the export duty; and the local Government of that day is on record as having abandoned the principle of the export duty as a boon to the men, obtained by their efforts. Subsequent events, however, have proved that the principle of the export duty, which was a boon to the men, obtained by their efforts. Subsequent events, however, have proved that the principle of the export duty, which was a boon to the men, obtained by their efforts.

We also beg to direct attention to the fact that while nearly \$2,000,000 of the lumbermen of the Province of merely local railways in other sections of the Province—without all reckoning for the Government—has been paid by the province in aid of many of the roads named, and stumpage derived from the timber trade of the Province of the North Shore would not now be threatened with extinction by reason of the excessive stumpage levied upon it under the plan of the revenue necessities of the province; and we feel that the central and southern counties of the Province, in this regard, are ignored, and the injustice of the treatment accorded to the North unrecognized, we will feel that the central and southern counties of the Province, in this regard, are ignored, and the injustice of the treatment accorded to the North unrecognized, we will feel that the central and southern counties of the Province, in this regard, are ignored, and the injustice of the treatment accorded to the North unrecognized.

In view of the experiences of our operators, mill-owners and shippers during the last six or seven years, we are impressed with the conviction that the question of the continued existence of the lumber trade of the North Shore must be settled by the inexorable laws of demand and supply, and it is being settled to our loss and that of the whole country. True, it is suggested that threatened extinction can only be averted by the Government assisting the natural tendency of business to proceed in the direction of the least resistance. If, however, the alleged necessities of revenue are superior to the claims of the demands of our commerce in this competitive age, we shall see, in the end of the conflict, which is rapidly coming to pass, that both trade and revenue, as lumber is concerned, will disappear together; for with a mileage tax of \$4 on New Brunswick Crown Lands, and \$3 in Quebec, a stumpage tax of \$1.25 per M on spruce logs in New Brunswick, and \$1.50 per M in Quebec, while the Nova Scotia trade pays about 10 cents per M, coupled with the fact that the Quebec scale is fully 10 per cent more favorable than that of New Brunswick to the operator, no result other than a gradual decline and final extinction of the business of those

depending on our provincial Crown Lands, can be reasonably expected. We beg, in conclusion, to appeal for relief because of the excessive stumpage rates of the Crown Lands Department are more than double those in competing provinces. We urge the claims of large capital invested in mills and other property connected with the working of the lumber industry at the North Shore—especially in the interest cases, the results of years of industry and self-denial on the part of the investor, many of whom, we regret to know, have been forced to go out of the trade, having lost all they had in it, while others are engaged in a constant struggle to avoid being driven into actual bankruptcy, and others are obliged to introduce new branches of business in connection with their lumber operations to make up for the losses they sustain in the latter. We claim that the investment of their capital has impacted to the lumber lands of the Crown a value that they would not otherwise have acquired. We direct attention to the comparatively large number of operators, idle and decaying, or only partially worked mills as proof of the position to which the trade at the north is driven. We appeal for the consideration asked in the interest of a population that is being rapidly depopulated, and the work of the lumberman is diminishing, but also because of the decline of the agricultural and laboring classes—especially of our young people, who have no other recourse but to leave the Province, not only because of the means of livelihood which they have ceased to find within them. We ask that the means of livelihood which they have ceased to find within them. We ask that the means of livelihood which they have ceased to find within them.

Several lumbermen: I would not go that. Mr. Snowball: It would not go 12. Mr. Blair: Yes, and so on all through especially in the small-sized logs; when you come to the larger sized logs there is not the same difference. But as you know our spruce logs are a small average. Perhaps the average scale as now is about 15% less on the average than you are using. Mr. Blair: Yes, that is what I mean. Mr. Burns: Well, I say it is very very rare indeed now that such supplies are imported to Gloucester. I think perhaps the importations to the County of Northumberland have been very much greater. Mr. Blair: Yes, I understand that a very large portion of the oak and bay they consumed in the lumber operations they came from the outside, rather than from their farms, the people have gone back to their farms and it is very, very rare indeed that anything in the way of supplies such as I think you mean, has been imported to the County of Northumberland. Mr. Blair: Yes, that is what I mean. Mr. Burns: Well, I say it is very very rare indeed now that such supplies are imported to Gloucester. I think perhaps the importations to the County of Northumberland have been very much greater. Mr. Blair: Yes, I understand that a very large portion of the oak and bay they consumed in the lumber operations they came from the outside, rather than from their farms, the people have gone back to their farms and it is very, very rare indeed that anything in the way of supplies such as I think you mean, has been imported to the County of Northumberland.

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afford to pay them the wages they can receive elsewhere—that they can receive even in Nova Scotia. We find that our men are going to the neighboring Province in the winter season to work there in the woods, because they can afford there to pay them more than we can. Well, what affects the trade in that respect affects the whole country. We are losing our population, the trade is growing smaller, and as a consequence our farmers have not the same market for produce that they would have if the business was in a more flourishing condition—as they would have if we were not saddled with this very heavy impost. Mr. Blair: If you would not object to my interrupting I would like to know, touching the question of agricultural production, do your farmers on the North Shore begin to supply anything in lumbering? Do you not have to import a very, very large proportion of what you use in your operations? Mr. Burns: I can answer you as regards my own county that of late years—within the last 10 or 12 years, since the completion of the Intercolonial Railway, the building of which took away many people from their farms, the people have gone back to their farms and it is very, very rare indeed that anything in the way of supplies such as I think you mean, has been imported to the County of Northumberland. Mr. Blair: Yes, that is what I mean. Mr. Burns: Well, I say it is very very rare indeed now that such supplies are imported to Gloucester. I think perhaps the importations to the County of Northumberland have been very much greater. Mr. Blair: Yes, I understand that a very large portion of the oak and bay they consumed in the lumber operations they came from the outside, rather than from their farms, the people have gone back to their farms and it is very, very rare indeed that anything in the way of supplies such as I think you mean, has been imported to the County of Northumberland.

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condition, getting higher wages there than they can at home. Mr. Blair: No doubt that would be one reason. Mr. Burns: And that is one of the points we want to make that we are losing the best men we have because we cannot pay them good wages. Mr. Mitchell: The same thing holds true with regard to the State of Maine; the exodus from there westward is quite as strong as it is here. Mr. McLellan: What would be the average cost of running the logs from the time you put them into the stream until you get them to the mill? Mr. Burns: Do you mean in my own county? Mr. McLellan: Yes, take the average cost at Gloucester. Mr. Burns: Well, it would be fully \$1.00 per M. to stream-driving. Mr. McLellan: Do you logs have to be rafted? Mr. Burns: That is what I mean. Mr. Blair: Yes, that is what I mean. Mr. Burns: Well, I say it is very very rare indeed now that such supplies are imported to Gloucester. I think perhaps the importations to the County of Northumberland have been very much greater. Mr. Blair: Yes, I understand that a very large portion of the oak and bay they consumed in the lumber operations they came from the outside, rather than from their farms, the people have gone back to their farms and it is very, very rare indeed that anything in the way of supplies such as I think you mean, has been imported to the County of Northumberland.

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