



THE quantity of pine in the Georgian Bay district north of the Spanish river would seem to be somewhat limited. On this question Mr. Hale, of the firm of Hale & Booth, remarked to me that he had recently gone over that country and had seen but little pine. He said: "It is a big territory, but no such a pinery as the Ottawa valley. Indeed, I do not know where we are going for pine before long. Of the countries I have travelled through recently I have found none to talk about, and in my opinion, no time should be lost in taking some steps towards the better preservation of the forests."

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SPEAKING of the probable imposition of a duty on lumber entering the United States, Mr. Whitney, president of the St. Anthony Lumber Co., of Whitney, Ont., said: "It is my opinion that it will never be imposed. Cleveland is a free trade man, and not in sympathy with a duty of that kind. The Michigan men are already making a big noise over it, believing that, if imposed it would lead the Canadian government to put an export duty on logs, and consequently hurt their trade materially. At any rate, I think that if the United States imposes a duty it will be a very small one, and would not be felt by Canadian manufacturers during brisk business; but in a dull spell it certainly would be."

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As a proof that Canadian lumber manufacturers have not exhausted their bank accounts, I may quote the statement of a machinery manufacturer that during a recent tour through Ontario, he captured orders to the amount of \$40,000. This not only shows that the lumber manufacturers are yet in funds, but also that they have sufficient confidence in the future of the business to be willing to spend their hard dollars on new equipment. This is an encouraging condition of affairs. It is the opinion of shrewd observers in the business that we are on the eve of more stirring times. If this be so, then it is good policy on the part of the manufacturer to look into the condition of his manufacturing plant, and to put his mill in order to produce in the most economical and satisfactory manner what the market demands.

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To Professor Roentgen, the discoverer of the "new photography," this generation is greatly indebted. Its advantages are multifarious. By its application it is possible to photograph through wood or metal. Although the experiments are as yet in their primary stage, the results so far secured leave little room to doubt the ultimate success of the discovery. It has occurred to me that even those engaged in the lumbering and woodworking industries will await developments with some eagerness. When perfected, the lumberman will be enabled to tell just what standing trees are free from interior defects, which way to saw to secure the finest markings,

and how to cut knots and burls to get the best effects. The saw-miller will also be enabled to locate spikes in his logs, which so often destroy the saw. In fact, there seems to be no end to the commercial applications of this new kink in photography.

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Mr. David Halden, a prominent lumberman of Saginaw, Mich., is credited with the following statement: "Americans now either own all the saw mills in Ontario or control their output. So there is practically no need for the law that Mr. George Macdonald, of Algoma, proposes introducing in the Dominion House providing for restrictions being placed on the towing of logs across the upper lakes. Last year 142,000,000 feet of logs were towed to Bay City from Canada, but henceforth very little lumber will go there in that shape—it will go in board form. Nearly all the mills on the north shore of Lake Huron will be running night and day to fill contracts for the American markets." It might be pertinent to enquire what Mr. Halden has been drinking of late. If Americans either own or control all the saw mills of Ontario, I have been kept in blissful ignorance of the fact. Certainly a large portion of the output of Ontario mills finds a market in the United States, but I draw the line at the statement that the ownership of most of the saw mills of Ontario has passed into the hands of Americans. As to the quantity of logs which will be rafted across to Michigan this year, I have heard various estimates, ranging from two hundred to five hundred million feet. It must be admitted, however, that the Americans are getting tired of towing logs, and more manufacturing is likely to be done this year on the Canadian side, provided an import duty is not imposed by the United States government.

BY THE WAY.

THE lack of snow in the state of Maine this winter is said to have driven one man insane. He was a prosperous lumber merchant of Sangerville. Last autumn he took large contracts for the cutting and delivery of timber. He had the logs cut, but from dearth of snow, an unexpected and unusual contingency, could not get them out of the woods. Having expended large sums of money, he became financially embarrassed from inability to make collections, with the result that he became mentally deranged.

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As a result of the approach of the rafting season, many river improvement companies are seeking renewals and extensions for their charters. During the past two weeks the Ontario Crown Lands Department received four applications. The Pickeral River Improvement Co. applied for a limitation of their charter to fifteen years, in order that the company might establish a sinking fund under the statute. Their request was granted. The Muskoka Rivers Improvement Company recently purchased the assets of the Muskoka Slide, Dam, and Boom Co., whose charter had expired. Consequently, the former made application for a renewal of the charter for fifteen years, which was also granted. Application for incorporation was made by the Blind River Improvement Co. to construct slides, dams, etc., on the Blind River. This was opposed by Messrs. Cook Bros. and others, on the ground that the improvements were unnecessary

and that a large portion of the work for which they proposed to collect tolls had been built by the Blind River Lumber Co. in connection with their own mill. In this case inspection was ordered, and the matter is not yet settled. The fourth application for a charter was from the Big East River Improvement Co., which was opposed by the Whaley Lumber Co., of Huntsville, and the Brennan Lumber Co., of Hamilton, who argued that the proposed tolls were excessive. This is also under investigation.

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The firm of Messrs. Davidson, Hay & Co., of Toronto, have announced their intention of retiring from the lumber business. This action has been brought about by the steady increase of their already extensive wholesale grocery business and the unprofitable conditions which have surrounded the lumber business during the past few years. This firm have been heavy operators in lumber for a number of years, employing between three and four hundred men in winter and one hundred and fifty in summer. Their market has been principally in the United States, and they report having found no difficulty in disposing of their output, which is principally white pine. Of late years they have manufactured some red pine deals for the English market. They own extensive limits situated on Lake Nipissing and French River, consisting of 68 square miles, which they purchased some time ago at a figure reaching well up to \$750,000. These limits, together with their steam saw mill, electric light plant, steamers and all equipments, will be offered for sale on the 23rd inst.

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A DEPUTATION, including representatives of the leading pulp manufacturers, waited upon the Dominion government a few days since, urging the imposition of a duty of \$3 a ton upon pulp wood. Among the deputation were Messrs. John Foreman, of the Laurentide Pulp Co.; F. H. Clergue, of the Sault Ste. Marie Pulp Mills; W. H. Masterman, of Chatham, N.B.; Mr. Barber, of the Cornwall Pulp Factory; W. H. Rowley, of the E. B. Eddy Co.; C. Riordon, of the Riordon Pulp Mills; J. Davie, of the Niagara Pulp Mills, and others. Among other reasons for the imposition of the duty the following were given: At the present time there is very little pulp wood in the United States, with the exception of a quantity in the State of Maine, which, however, is rapidly becoming exhausted. Enormous quantities are therefore being imported into the United States from this country for the use of almost all the paper mills there, but when the product of the Canadian mills enters the United States, it is met with a customs duty, which handicaps the Canadian manufacturers, and constitutes a serious interference with the business. While about 100,000 cords are manufactured into pulp in this country, about 600,000 cords are exported. An export duty, it is claimed, would lead to the manufacture of pulp wood for the United States market in this country, and result in the investment here of many millions of dollars, and the employment of from 15,000 to 18,000 men.

The Beck Lumber Company, of Penetanguishene, Ont., are considering the erection of a new mill on the shore of Trading Lake.