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THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interests of the lumber trade and of allied industries throughout the Dominion, being the only representative in Canada of this foremost branch of 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 upon 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 effecting 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 three 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.

WHO IS BLAMABLE?

A PAINFULLY unpleasant section of the news columns of this journal each month is the "Fires and Casualties." The items published tell of serious loss of property, coupled sometimes with loss of life, and always with great inconvenience and distress to the owners of the property destroyed, and the hundreds of workmen dependent upon them for a livelihood. Is all this inevitable? We may be Calvinists in religion, but when we get down to business, we are convinced that more fires occur as the result of downright carelessness and ignorance, than because it has been decreed, that they should take place. An item is before us at this writing, of a lumber yard, stores and other buildings burned down. How? The old, old story—children, matches, fire. Could not be helped. Children will be children—we are perhaps told. Do not talk arrant nonsense of this kind, when the matter is so serious. Children will not play with matches, if those who are responsible for their management, teach them different; and if this teaching is neglected, then care can be exercised to keep matches out of their way. It may be that a fire occurs because something that is capable of generating combustion is thrown down among the saw dust of a mill, there to remain until, in the stillness of the night, when the thoughtless act has gone from memory, the mill is discovered a mass of flames. "Did not know that any harm would come from this simple act?" Somebody should know; and it should be his business not only to impart this information to all directly concerned in the work of the mill, but to place it in so conspicuous a place that no man or boy could say he did not know. The CANADA LUMBERMAN, through its "Useful Information" column and other departments is constantly imparting information

of this character. Excuse can be taken from no man in this age of magazines and books, devoted to special interests, for not knowing all that he should know concerning his special business.

Reference is unnecessary surely to the fires that are constantly occurring through the carelessness of a smoker, or the negligence of a fireman, or oversight or indifference of some employee, whose especial duty it is to be careful, exact and faithful in his work. Unsympathetic as the words may seem, acts of this character, when freighted with so terrible results, can only be described as bordering on the criminal; and punishment commensurate with the evil done should be meted out to the guilty ones. And what apology shall be offered for the "campers' fitful fire:"

The careless one who nothing recked;
The man who thoughtless left the fire
That grew and spread destruction dire
One heedless act to forethought turned
And never a forest fire had burned.

Every one will sympathize with the man who loses a limb, or breaks a leg, or suffers the loss of even a finger, while engaged in his daily work. It would seem cruel not to extend to him this sympathy, when physically he is a sufferer, and besides he must lose time and money consequent upon the accident. And as the work of our saw mills grow and the number of employees is multiplied, these unfortunate fatalities increase. Yet, one who is at all observant and follows the causes of a large percentage of the chronicled accidents of each day, must be satisfied that gross carelessness is at the bottom of much of the trouble. Fatalities of this kind differ from fires in that, while the individual loss and suffering may be greater, the disaster in its entirety will hardly be as widespread, either as to numbers concerned or financial loss.

But the same causes give birth to both, and proper carefulness and thought applied in the two cases will act alike, in a large measure, as a preventative and remedy.

LABOR TROUBLES.

THE labor troubles among the mill men of St. John, N.B., particulars of which were given in the July LUMBERMAN, still remain unsolved. The mill men refuse to return to ten hours per day, whilst the mill owners are just as firm in their position that unless the change is made, they will not re-open their mills. One can readily understand, that having been granted nine hours a day last summer, the men do not readily see the point of going back to longer hours this summer. In labor circles this would indicate a retrograde step, as the policy of labor reform is to hold fast to every advance made and press the agitation for something better. But circumstances are not always the same. New Brunswick is near enough to the State of Maine, and the lumber products of the two countries are near enough alike, to bring the one country into competition with the other. In Maine the mill men work from 10 to 12 hours a day. Can New Brunswick hope to meet the competition of Maine with the disadvantage of from 6 to 12 hours labor a week on each man employed? Besides, there is little activity in lumber circles in New Brunswick this year, making the conditions of trade just to that extent unfavorable to them. Deals which a year ago were selling for \$20 a thousand bring only \$14 to \$14.50 now. A drop of this kind is a serious affair to a mill owner. One has said in an interview, that with his firm it would take \$100,000 off the season's business.

What have the mill men to do with this? Not a little. Capital and labor have got to be in sympathetic touch with each other, or else there will ever be discord, and continued loss and worry to both. We take the New Brunswick troubles for the purpose of illustration. Who more than the mill men of New Brunswick are interested in having the mills kept open? This is the source from which they obtain a livelihood? We are told that as a result of the present shut-down, 1,200 men are idle, and wages to the amount of \$21,000 a fortnight are stopped. Are not the mill men affected by these conditions? To many with families depending upon them, it means the difference between comfort and starvation. It means, besides, if the strike is continued for a lengthened period, that every day that a striker is out he is fixing a mortgage on every day's

work of the future, when work is resumed. Do workmen ever consider the extent to which a strike always hypothecates the future? The history of the labor strikes of this continent for a single decade present a record in this respect that is simply appalling.

In saying this much, we have not a word of justification for the monopolist, who would make every man his serf, rather than one with him, in extending his business. Commercial history, sad to say, contains too many blots of this character. But we go back again to the New Brunswick case for illustration. If trade is in such a shape, that it becomes a question with the mill owners, whether they shall curtail expenses, or may be close down business altogether, are not the men, as one of the parties interested, showing the better "horse sense" in lending their aid to keep the mills open? Our strongest sympathies go out with the workmen in their efforts to improve their conditions, and we believe that every day shows a greater desire on the part of capitalists to help in this direction. Despite even cases like the present the preponderance of facts in the labor world prove that employer and working man are being drawn closer together. But there is no reason why one's sympathies should not be broad enough to cover the capitalist and employer of labor. Has he no troubles? The records of trade tell of too many fortunes wrecked, and whilom capitalists, who in their struggle to keep things going have been obliged at last to give up all, and take a place in the ranks themselves. "It is not all gold that glitters," nor is the man, whose name appears on the sign above some large manufactory, the one who is finding the struggle for existence, the easiest.

The dark ages tell of a life for a life, even among gentlemen of aristocratic blood. Gentlemen do not settle their troubles to-day with an order for "pistols and coffee for two." International difficulties in the past could only be settled at the edge of the sword. Nations arrange their differences to-day around the arbitration board. Strikes and shut-outs only remain a barbarism of the present.

CANADIAN BANKING.

THE new Banking Act, which became operative on the 1st July contains several features of importance to the commercial and general public. One of these, and every one is interested here, is the large measure of protection it secures to note holders. Not only must the notes of the bank constitute a first lien on the assets, but each bank is called upon to contribute annually to what is to be known as a redemption fund. Many know from dearly bought experience, that the heavier losers, in the case of a bank failure, comes not unfrequently on those, who cannot afford to hold on for any time to the bills they may have in their possession, and their position being taken advantage of by speculators, they are influenced to dispose of this money at, what is to them, a ruinous sacrifice. It is expected that this redemption fund will be helpful in remedying this evil, as it is to be used, in the case of a bank's insolvency, for the purpose of meeting the notes of the defunct bank within sixty days. Another valuable feature is that all bank issues in Canada are payable at par. It is absurd that a Canadian bank bill should be worth one hundred cents on the dollar in one town, and be subject to a discount in some other town. The provision of the new act, which removes this anomaly, will be welcomed as a piece of common sense legislation. Playing at banking by novices, or starting a "money shop" by unscrupulous money sharks will not be so easy a thing in the future. A quarter of a million of dollars has to be paid in before opening, and no one is eligible as a director of a bank of \$1,000,000 capital or under, unless he has fully \$3,000 of paid-up stock. For a bank of over one million capital a director is obliged to have \$4,000 of fully-paid up stock. Whilst it would be unwise to enact any legislation, that would have a tendency to hamper so important an adjunct to trade, as the banking system of this country, yet from the very direct relationship, that it holds to each individual citizen of the commonwealth, and because so disastrous are the results to the entire community, when a false step is made, too great exactness cannot be insisted on, and the people can be depended upon to support all wise legislation in this direction.