

# THE CANADA LUMBERMAN.

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## THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

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THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interest of the lumber trade and of 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 of them by others.

Especial 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 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 letters 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.

It is a settled question that the crops throughout Ontario are abundant, and that they will be gathered in good shape is now assured, so we may look for better times the coming winter. Hay is abundant and the lumbermen are assured of a plentiful supply at low prices. Large numbers of shanty men are already engaged in the Ottawa district for the coming winter. Wages will be about the same. Log makers will not be so much in demand as there will be more square timber made. For the latter the wages will be for scorers, \$36 to \$38 a month; liners, \$40 to \$42; hewers, \$50 to \$60, and general hands about \$20. A great many teams are now being sent up from Ottawa to the woods. With rare exceptions the lumbermen have been able to get a plentiful supply of logs, and with a good demand for export and fair prices being obtained, the lumbermen have no reason to be dissatisfied with the season's business.

THE American Consul at Ottawa has brought to the notice of the Customs Department the fact that a duty is imposed on railway ties, poles and round posts coming into Canada, while the statute defines, under section 725 of the Customs Act, that all logs and round unmanufactured timber shall be admitted free of duty, and which are admitted into the United States from Canada on the free list. The Customs officials hold that whenever the logs have labor performed on them, as in the case of railroad ties, fence posts, and telegraph poles with the bark taken off, are subject to duty. The Consul now says that all these articles will be affected by the bill which will be pressed before the next congress in connection with the log exporting duty question. The third section reads that all articles on shipment into the United States, whether embraced

on the free list of the United States or otherwise, shall pay no less a rate of duty than is or may be imposed by the laws of the country of export on like articles imported into the said country from the United States.

HITHERTO nearly all the box shooks made in Ottawa by Messrs. Barnes & Co. have been sold to the Standard Oil Company of the United States, to be used in making up packages of oil for exportation. On showing to the satisfaction of the United States customs authorities that the shooks so imported from Canada have been made up into boxes and exported the company have been able to secure a refund of nearly the whole of the duty paid upon shooks when brought into the country. The treasury department at Washington has recently decided that Canadian shooks used in the manufacture of boxes are not entitled to the benefit of a drawback on exportation on the ground that the nailing done to shooks in the United States is not of sufficient importance to be considered part of the process of manufacture. This decision must lead to the full manufacture of boxes in the United States to obtain the benefit of the drawback, and it may compel the manufacturers to move their establishments over to American territory or quit the business.

THE log situation at Saginaw looks much better than it did a few weeks ago. The president of the Titabawassee Boom company estimates the total quantity of logs to come out of the Titabawassee and tributaries at 400,000,000 feet, but he does not expect that the company will be able to raft out much more than 300,000,000 feet. It is estimated that the output of the streams in the Saginaw district will aggregate 523,000,000 feet. Probably from 75,000,000 to 100,000,000 of these logs will be on hand at the close of the manufacturing season. The other sources of supply for the Saginaw river mills are the Flint and Pere Marquette and Michigan Central railroads, which at a conservative estimate will bring a total quantity direct to Saginaw river of 175,000,000 feet. It is estimated that 35,000,000 feet will be rafted from Georgian Bay to the Saginaw river and from Au Sable, Presque Isle county, and upper Michigan ports there will be rafted at a low estimate 80,000,000 feet. The total product for the supply of the Saginaw river mills the present season is approximated at 864,500,000. There will be sufficient logs to keep the mills running the remainder of the season.

THE St. Catharines Milling and Lumber Company have sued the Dominion government for \$215,000 damages for the loss of logs, plant, &c. It appears that some six years ago, a number of gentlemen secured a license from the Dominion government to cut timber and transact business of lumbering generally on Lake Wabigoon. After obtaining the license they formed a company, secured incorporation by letters patent, and started business. Some two million feet had been cut, when in 1884 the Ontario government secured a decision of the Privy Council of England, the highest tribunal in the Empire, on the question of the ownership of the portion of the country in which the St. Catharines Milling company were operating. On the strength of this decision, the Ontario government served writs of injunction on each of the members of the St. Catharines company restraining them from further operations, at the same time seizing their season's cut of logs and plant, which were subsequently sold. The federal government, using the name of the company, resisted the provincial authorities in the courts, claiming that although Ontario had a right to the land, to the federal govern-

ment belonged the minerals and the timber. Judgment being given adversely to the Dominion, an appeal was again made to the Privy Council, which upheld the decision of the Supreme Court and gave judgment in favor of Ontario. The company subsequently waited on Sir John Thompson, Minister of Justice, and asked to have the matter referred to arbitration, but the government decided to refer the matter to the Exchequer court for settlement. Sir John Thompson denies that the company are entitled to anything. The outcome will be awaited with much interest.

AN exchange says. Matthew Slush, the pine land estimator and agent for Wm. Whitney, who recently arrived in Bay City from Ottawa, declares that while in Ottawa it came to his knowledge that Sir John Macdonald had written a letter to a prominent pine land owner who lives in the States to the effect that Canada is willing to remove the export duty on logs just as soon as the United States removes the import duty on lumber. "I have been up in the Ottawa district," said Mr. Slush, "looking over a tract of timber which is to be sold there in August at auction. I was there at the instance of a United States syndicate which talks of purchasing the tract. It contains about 300 square miles. I find the subject of reciprocity growing in Canada as well as in the States. I believe that it would be one of the best things for this valley that could happen. With the rate at which Canadian stumpage is now held, Canadians could not interfere with our lumber market. It will cost them as much to place the lumber in our market as it does us, and at the same time we will have the advantage of getting stocks for our mills from Canadian territory." The statement in regard to Sir John A. Macdonald may all be true, and then again it may be a cunningly devised fable, most likely the latter, as Sir John is not likely to foreshadow what he may or may not do in certain events, in any letter he may have addressed to a private citizen of the United States. Our American friends, however, can rest assured of one thing, they are not going to get Canadian logs free of duty to manufacture in American mills so long as they retain the import duty on Canadian lumber. It is claimed by some that they can get along without our lumber, if this be the case, they can also get along without our logs; but it is a well-known fact that they want our lumber and that they want it on their own terms, and that they are more eager to get our logs than they are our lumber, and these they want on their own terms also. Do they suppose for a moment that we Canadians are so bereft of business prudence as not to see that we have the matter in our own hands—that we hold the trump card? The hot heads on the other side can talk as much as they please about coercion and retaliation; but fortunately the wiser ones know that retaliation would, like the Australian boomerang, return on themselves. They can if they choose build a Chinese wall along the boundary line from one end of the continent to the other and shut us out entirely; but in doing so they close themselves in. If the American ports were closed against us to-morrow no Canadian lumberman need give himself any uneasiness regarding the finding of a market for his lumber. With our numerous waterways, and trunk lines extending their iron arms from the Atlantic to the Pacific, our lumber is bound to find a market, if not in the States by a little extra push in other countries. Canadians are not made of the kind of stuff to be awed into measures by threats of force, coercion and retaliation. When our American friends are ready to talk reciprocity in lumber we are willing to sit down with them and smoke the pipe of peace.