

side should be taken in our home industries and support given them accordingly, even if it is necessary to abandon the theory of preference to the limit.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

It may not be amiss to call attention to the merits of spruce timber as a box material. It has not been used to a greater extent in the past is doubtless due to the lack of familiarity with the wood. For box-making purposes it is superior to white pine; in fact, there is no better box material to be obtained. Boxes for butter, fruit, etc., it is very desirable, as it does not taint the contents. There would seem to be good reason to expect large consumption of spruce in box-making in the near future.

When wages are high and employment plentiful there is more or less difficulty in retaining the services of employees. In no other industry is this felt to a greater extent than in the lumber trade. Lumbermen report that they are unable to keep their men working in the woods; they are very unsteady and will leave upon the slightest provocation, knowing that their chances of securing employment elsewhere are good. In some districts men have been compelled to close down their shifts owing to the scarcity of good workmen. These conditions are likely to have the effect of materially reducing the output of lumber next season.

A representative of the CANADA LUMBERMAN, who recently visited the Georgian Bay district, stated that the question of uniform grading of lumber is much talked of, and that there is a strong feeling in favor of such a system. The LUMBERMAN has always recognized the advantages to be derived from the adoption of a standard system of grading by all manufacturers, and we believe that before long steps to that end will be taken. A majority of the manufacturers already admit the necessity of a change from the present system, which consists of each manufacturer defining his own grades. What is wanted is that two or three energetic persons take the matter in hand, and have no doubt that they would receive the support necessary to carry it to a successful issue. If some action is not taken Canadian lumbermen are likely to lose in competition with the United States, where standard grading of both pine and hardwoods is now recognized.

At a recent convention of box-makers, held at Rochester, a gentleman made the surprising statement that the quantity of lumber imported from the United States from Canada was now about one-eighth of what it was under the old tariff. He also said that the price of lumber in Canada is now very much lower than in the United States—the result of the duty. These remarks are so far from the facts as to make contradiction almost unnecessary. The statistics show that our exports to the United States last year were almost up to the average of the years before the imposition of the duty, while the price of lumber in this country is quite as high as in the United States, and higher than

it was before the duty. The duty was imposed in the summer of 1897. In the spring of that year two-inch picks and uppers were selling in Toronto at \$34, dressing and better at \$22, and mill culls at \$10. To-day prices for these grades in Toronto are: Picks and uppers \$38, dressing and better \$24, and mill culls \$13. Instead of lumber selling lower than before the United States duty was imposed, there has been a substantial advance. This, of course, is due in part to improved commercial conditions.

#### THE GOVERNMENT TIMBER SALE.

It was a distinguished gathering of lumbermen that waited patiently in the Legislative chamber of the Parliament Buildings on the 17th ultimo for the limits with which they hoped to enrich themselves to be placed under the hammer. Before the arrival of the auctioneer, Mr. Peter Ryan, every desk in the room was occupied. Every white pine district of the province was represented, and there was a goodly quota from the once famous pine state of Michigan. Altogether about 400 square miles were offered. The conditions governing the sale contained the now customary manufacturing clause and also provided that the pine on the Algoma and Thunder Bay berths should be taken off within ten years and that on the three forfeited berths within five years.

The sum realized for the berths sold was approximately \$733,000, or an average of about \$1,842 per mile. Considering the quantity and character of the timber, the result was no doubt satisfactory to the Government. The opinion was freely expressed after the sale that the prices were high although not exorbitant. They are regarded as another proof of the growing appreciation of the value of pine timber.

The bidding from the outset was quite brisk, so brisk indeed that the auctioneer could not have felt the necessity of calling upon his abundant fund of humour in order to encourage bidding, as is his wont. The large plums were secured by Messrs. Dymont, Beck, Spohn, Barnett and Munro. The familiar voice of Mr. John Waldie was occasionally heard, but it was not his lot to secure any of the coveted property. He showed, however, that he still had abundant faith in pine limits.

It was a source of satisfaction that a limit of 13½ square miles was knocked down to Mr. J. E. Murphy. Mr. Murphy has been known in the past as a hardwood lumberman, but as his timber supply has become pretty well exhausted, he is evidently turning his attention to pine.

Considering the number of American lumbermen present, it was expected that they would secure a goodly portion of the limits. Their presence was surely not the result solely of curiosity. The limits sold were all in the Georgian Bay district and in the vicinity where the Michigan lumbermen are operating.

Those present at the sale included the following: J. B. Fraser, H. K. Egan, Lieut.-Col. W. G. Hurdman, R. J. Blackburn, Ottawa; W. A. Chariton, M.P.P., John Waldie, J. B. Miller, W. P. Bull, Joseph Oliver, R. Laidlaw, H. M. Weller, Hugh Munro, George Cook,

W. B. McLean, John Gray, H. Hancock, W. Ryan, Thomas Southworth, Toronto; Thomas Mackie, M.P., J. W. Munro, M.P.P., J. R. Munro, Robert Booth, P. Shannon, A. B. Gordon, B. C. Bahnsen, Pembroke; H. S. Brennan, Hamilton; Hon. John Charlton, Lynedoch; James Playfair, D. L. White, jr., Midland; R. McConnell, Mattawa; G. R. Dupuy, A. Trotter, Wallaceburg; H. C. Hamilton, John Collins, Sault Ste. Marie; P. McDermott, South River; A. Barnett, J. A. McFadden, Renfrew; W. J. Sheppard, Waubaushene; N. Dymont, Barrie; C. Beck, Dr. Spohn, Penetanguishene; J. E. Murphy, Hepworth Station; Peter McArthur, Quebec; J. Whitesides, Huntsville; R. Vigars, Port Arthur; A. E. Dymont, Thessalon; George McCormick, M. P.F., Orillia; C. A. McCool, M.P., Geneva Lake; Selwin Eddy, J. O. Fisher, A. E. Eddy, J. Boyle, Bay City, Mich.; Maurice Quinn, Matthew Slush, Arthur Hull, Saginaw, Mich.; E. W. Sparrow, Lansing, Mich.; James M. Rankin, St. Clair, Mich.; A. McIntosh, Cheboygan, Mich.; J. W. L. Galloway, Hillsdale, Mich.; J. Mullin, Duluth, Minn.; J. S. Gage, Vineland, N.J.; J. C. Spry, C. O. Hotchkiss, Chicago, Ill.; F. J. Arpen, D. Scott, Grand Rapids, Wis.

#### DUMPING SAW-DUST IN RIVERS.

In June, 1897, an act was passed by the Dominion Parliament forbidding the dumping of saw-dust into the Ottawa river, the Ottawa lumbermen having previously been exempt from the working of the Fisheries' Act in this respect by special legislation. In order that the lumbermen could make other arrangements for consuming the saw-dust, the time for the enforcement of the act was, upon representation to that effect, extended to January 1st, 1898, and subsequently one year later. It seems that since that time the law has been ignored by some parties, who have continued to dump saw-dust into the river. The first prosecution took place on September 10th, when Mr. J. R. Booth, the millionaire lumberman, of Ottawa, was fined \$20 and costs. Afterwards Mr. Booth stated that it had been his intention to build a burner to consume the saw-dust, although this could not be done within perhaps six months. He continued to discharge the saw-dust of his mill into the river. A second prosecution was the result, the fine in this case also being \$20 and costs. It is reported to be the intention of the authorities to continue to prosecute Mr. Booth until the act is complied with, while Mr. Booth is said to be considering the removal of his mill to another point. The outcome will be watched with some interest, as the removal of the mill will be a great loss to Ottawa and Hull.

The state of Michigan has just appointed half a dozen officials and scientists to report as to the best method of reforesting a tract of 57,000 acres in the great pine belt, which had been burned over.

Attention is directed to the advertisement of the Dominion Leather Company, 528-530 Front street west, Toronto, which appears on front cover page of this issue. This company manufacture "Hepburn's" pneumatic belt, made of specially prepared canvas, gutta percha and balata, they being sole representatives for the Dominion of Canada. This firm make a specialty of lumbermen's leather mitts in all sizes.