

the future receive our attention. We are always glad to hear from any of our subscribers when they have information to give, or suggestions to offer in the way of business.—ED.]

MADAWASKA, N. B., Oct. 20th, 1889

Editor Canada Lumberman.

There is more than usual activity in the lumber interest, our lumbermen are waking up, and from all appearances there will be a greater output in the spring, providing we have a favorable winter; but owing to the scarcity of lumber, it is possible that the increase may not be much larger than in former years. Our cedar is being rapidly slaughtered, and our woods will soon be denuded. Considerable lumber came down from the upper streams during the raise of water, but too late to risk a drive to the booms. Most of it is lodged along the shores where it is likely to remain until next spring.

Many new buildings are going up in our county, and quite a number of natives are returning from Montana and other parts of the States, saying that Madawaska, with all her faults, is good enough for them.

I am of opinion that many of our lumbermen will fall short of their calculations. Lumber chances are scarce, wages high, and if unfavorable weather should interfere, their margin of profit will be very narrow.

The Ward steam mill was put up for sale and bid in by the mortgagee, and it is not known what will be done with it.

The Grand Trunk line to Moncton is progressing in good style, and hopes are entertained that they will soon put it through and open up the best portion of our province. It requires railroads to do it.

P. O. BYRAM.

LUMBERMEN AND THE G. T. R.

TORONTO, Oct. 5th, 1889.

Editor Canada Lumberman.

DEAR SIR.—After reading your editorial anent the miserable service accorded the lumbermen by the G. T. R. Company, I can fully endorse all you say and then one tithe of the whole truth has not been told. Some time ago a deputation of the lumbermen obtained an interview with Mr. Hickson at Montreal, and many of the grievances complained of were presented to him quite forcibly enough to have ensured redress ere this, but up to the present time nothing has been done, and in fact the evils complained of have been growing worse daily, and if the lumbermen have any sand in them they will take such steps before long as will compel the company to give some attention to the wrongs complained of.

I will now give you some of the many complaints we have to make of the treatment we receive at the company's hands. In the first place we never can depend on being able to supply any customer with a bill of lumber in time to complete his contracts, owing to the so-called blockade in the Toronto yard, so that frequently a month passes before a car arrives here after ordering from the mills. Then, again, if we require that car shunted to Parkdale we have to wait the company's pleasure and pay \$2 for the service, and this charge is still in force, although Parkdale is now part of the city. The company will send a car to the extreme east of the city without extra charge, but to the extreme west we are forced to pay them for so doing, and if we require a car to Carlton or Davenport (only four miles west of the city) two to three weeks are required to get it there. The facts are the company are so bound around with red tape, that Dickens' circumlocution office will only faintly compare with the company's method of doing their business. Another serious cause of complaint is the differential rates made over their road so that some shippers are able to bring lumber into our city and make nearly a living profit by the difference on the freight alone, and also able to undersell others in the trade. Then, again, one agent will make quotations for shipping to points on the other side of the lake, two cents per hundred less than another agent on an another division, although the distance covered is the same. This discrepancy in rates frequently deprives us of making a sale of what

might prove extensive orders. When any complaint is made as to the difference made by one freight agent over another, there is not the slightest attempt at giving any explanation; we are simply and very tersely told that this particular agent has nothing to do with the rates made by the other, although both men are under the control and acting for the same company. Then the matter of weights is another serious difficulty. Why should lumber not be carried by the thousand instead of by weight? The grain men know exactly how much per bushel their grain will cost them for carriage and the miller the same for his flour. The coal and wood dealers are in the same favorable position, wood being carried by the cord, so much for dry and so much for green, and one ton of coal will weigh the same as another ton, but with lumber we know nothing as to cost until it arrives here. If in a cattle car with one or two tons of manure this simply adds to the weight of the car of lumber that is all, and the unfortunate lumberman must stand the whole thing. The earnest prayer of all lumbermen here is that competition to the mills North may soon be an assured fact.

LUMBERMAN.

THE SAW DUST QUESTION.

BRIDGEWATER, N. S., Sept. 20th, 1889.

Editor Canada Lumberman.

DEAR SIR.—We were favored with a copy of your September paper and note your lumbermen have been hauled up for breaking the sawdust law. As we have had quite an experience of that for the last ten years we are interested in its action in other districts. In the greater part of our province the law is a dead letter, the officers, through political influence, not daring to act. On our two nearest rivers in Queen's County, the Liverpool and Medway, the law was suspended, since the whole population contended there was no good in enforcing it, and we are demanding similar treatment.

We did not operate last winter and still have 40,000 logs of our 1888 cut lying in the mill booms waiting for a chance to saw. Other mills on this river were fined severely, paying \$100 and having \$150 more demanded from one mill for about ten days work. The small mills working out the last of the timber near them are also suspended, and will have to be abandoned if the law is enforced.

The most exasperating part of the business is that other sections of our province are doing a most thriving business this season without the least interference, and in the County of Cumberland, as we are informed, over seventeen large mills are running freely. In the face of this the Minister of Marine says he is enforcing the law equally, and poses as a regular Solomon to us, and as noticed by our Ottawa despatch of yesterday, he replied to the Peterborough delegation. I only hope that he may stick to it, and next session of the House will kick both him and the Sawdust Act to their natural end. I enclose a subscription for the paper next year and hope to see this subject settled fairly all around.

Our small scrubby timber will not at present prices stand any more expense, in fact the last six years has been without any profit to very many of our lumbermen who have wasted their timber without anything to show for it, and we cannot see the justice of exempting the only rich men in the trade, as the Ottawa men and Gibson of New Brunswick, and then squeezing all us small fry to death. It is just the natural application of the "National Policy," but we are bound to make a howl over it and can change four Nova Scotia counties to the right side should such partiality continue.

FRANK DAVISON.

FORESTRY.

TORONTO, Sept. 27th, 1889.

To the Editor of the Lumberman.

SIR.—The following article, from the New York *Garden and Forest*, is of importance to Ontario; as we have made too many errors of a similar nature in clearing. Perhaps you would allow it space in your

columns. It is from the pen of one of the best informed writers in the United States.

R. W. PHIPPS.

FORESTS AND CIVILIZATION.

We might have some real forestry here in the State of New York if we had been sufficiently advanced in the art of living; if we had the interest in the public welfare and the perception of our obligation to coming generations, which are necessary to the development and persistence of civilization. The entire Adirondack Wilderness should have been held permanently in the possession of the state. Then a real school of forestry could have been established somewhere in the woods, and young men could have been trained in the practice of this art, and they could have been employed in the care of the forests and woodlands of other portions of the country. The whole tract of 8000 square miles was originally heavily wooded. The timber could have been cut off as the tree matured, and, of course, should have been so cut off. Nothing could be more absurd than the notion that trees should never be utilized or removed. Whenever a tree has come to its best it should be cut down, and its wood applied to some useful purpose, so as to obtain its value and in order to provide for a succession of generations of trees, and thus for the permanent life of the forest.

If the Adirondack forests had been thus intelligently managed and administered they would now have been for a long time yielding an increasing revenue to the people of the state. The whole population would have been greatly benefited by the reduction of taxation. Every man and woman in the state, would have been richer to-day—would have had more of the means of subsistence and of comfort and happiness than at present. Every child in the state would have been born to a better inheritance, and into more favorable conditions than now. The forests would have been better now than ever before, and they would have gone on increasing in value to the people of the state, with the increasing density of population, and on account of the exhaustion of the timber supply in regions fit for agriculture.

The Adirondack region is not fit for agriculture. No part of it is suitable for any other than forest-conditions, and these should have been maintained forever. It is indeed impossible to disturb these conditions very extensively, or to remove the forests permanently without destroying the regions itself and annihilating everything that makes it of any value. I doubt if an instance of more obvious and complete adaptation of a region to a special and particular use can be found in the whole world. Nature made this region for the permanent and everlasting growth of forests, and this sole and exclusive adaptation to a most important function should have been recognized.

As I said years ago, if the Adirondack forests could be saved by legislation, one of the best possible measures would be "An Act for the Discouragement of Agriculture in the North Woods." The lumber business is not by any means the only destructive agency at work here. Tens of thousands of acres, entirely unfit for any use except forest growth, have been stripped of trees, and by cultivation and pasturage have been rendered incapable of reproducing the only crop for which the land ever had any adaptation. It is strange—if any thing in human folly is strange—to see so many people persist in the effort to "farm" where the soil is so meagre, and the country so high and cold, that no profitable return for their labor is possible. The thin film of soil disappears after a few years, leaving only the bare, inert sand or gravel, and as most of the "farming land" here is rolling or hilly, the slopes soon begin to break down and wash away. Great gullies are formed, which grow wider and deeper every year, till vast waterless tracts of shifting sand, or of clay and gravel, varied only by rock-ledges and boulders, stretch before the unhappy traveller where once grew noble forests fed by perennial springs.

The region was meant to be let alone. It has no natural fitness for agriculture. It is pitiful to see the scanty growth of vegetation which the farmer's toil produces here cut off by frosts in both spring and autumn, and in many places, even in the middle of summer, while in the Southern States of this country there are millions of acres of fertile soil lying untilled beneath most genial skies. The effort to farm these inhospitable lands has also been the source of a large proportion of the fires which have destroyed so much of the remaining forest. Land is cleared by being burned over, and in a dry time the fire extends from the fallow to the woods, despite the best efforts to keep it within bounds, and it is a common saying in the woods that such a conflagration is often a convenient accident for the farmer, as he plants corn the next spring in the burned woods without any clearing whatever, and raises a crop in the ashes. A great deal of the "farming land" here has been brought into cultivation in this way. It is all from beginning to end, a most wasteful and suicidal progress, and the inevitable end, the ruin and disappearance of the soil itself, is speedily reached. Man has no power to create a new world. He has not yet learned how to take care of the one which he inherits, but his ability to wreck and exhaust is very great.

J. L. HARRISON.