

# THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

VOLUME XIV.  
NUMBER 11.

TORONTO, ONT., DECEMBER, 1893

TERMS, \$1.00 PER YEAR  
(SINGLE COPIES, 10 CENTS)

## THE ORGANS ON THE LUMBER TARIFF.

THE *Globe* and *Empire*, representing opposite views on tariff matters, have given editorial space to a discussion of the question specially as touching lumber.

The changes in the lumber duties proposed by the Ways and Means Committee of Congress, are, in the judgment of the *Globe*, among the most important directly affecting Canadian trade. "All lumbermen" says the big Yonge street daily, "remember the boom that followed the reductions made by the McKinley Act, and the proposed changes will be still more effective in the same direction. Of course, the line between manufactured and so-called unmanufactured articles was necessarily drawn without system or reason." Having given particulars of lumber duties and the McKinley tariff the *Globe* then says: "The proposed tariff makes a clean sweep of the duties on lumber and wood of all kinds. The free list includes logs and unmanufactured timber, round, square or sided, firewood, hand bolts, heading bolts, stave bolts and shingle bolts, hop poles, fence poles, railroad ties, ship timber and ship planking, timber hewn and sawed, and timber used for spars and in building wharves, timber squared or sided, sawed boards, planks, deals and other lumber, pine clapboards, spruce clapboards, rough, hewn or sawed blocks for various manufacturing purposes, laths, pickets and palings, shingles, staves of wood of all kinds and wood unmanufactured. The benefits of these changes will be felt chiefly in the Eastern States, where the people almost entirely depend on Canada for their supply of lumber. The present tax is heavy on many of these lines. On blocks for hubs and other purposes it is 20 per cent., on staves 10 per cent., and on pine and spruce clapboards it is \$2 and \$1.50 a thousand, respectively. Canadian lumbermen will also share in the benefits, as the freedom will enable the people of the Eastern States to become greater consumers of their products. This class of goods is put on the free list, on condition that no export duty be imposed by the exporting country, on the articles mentioned. An export duty imposed on any of them will subject the entire list to the present American duties, when imported from the country imposing such duty. This, it is hoped, will settle the agitation for a Canadian export duty on logs. On manufactured or planed lumber there is still a duty of 25 per cent. This is more than sufficient to perpetuate the expensive necessity of unloading and reloading at the border, and of carrying lumber through Canada in its heavy and bulky form. The people of the Eastern States will still be paying, not taxation to the Government, but the price of wasted labor in Canada and at the border. A smaller tax that would be paid would lighten the burden and at the same time make a contribution to the revenue. The money taken from them by the impost might as well be spent in employing men to dig holes and fill them up again. Yet the protection theories are dying with encouraging rapidity."

The *Empire* points out that such strong pressure is being exerted by the owners of Southern pines upon Congress as against the free admission of sawn and manufactured lumber to the United States that the present duty upon Canadian lumber may be retained. "In such event" says the Government organ, "the only thing to be done by our Government, as foreshadowed by Mr. Foster the other day, is to seriously consider the question of reimposing the duty upon logs. At present, under the free removal provision, immense quantities of logs are annually towed from Canada to the mills in Michigan and Wisconsin. Mr. Aubrey White, of the Ontario Government service, has reported this draught at 250,000,000 feet, but prominent lumbermen say that 500,000,000 feet will be the better estimate. Then if the

country gains nothing else it will have such profit as may come from the sawing of the logs upon this side, and the American owner, who for some years past has been basily depleting Canadian forests, will stand upon the same plane as the native lumberman. The owners of Canadian limits who live in the northern states are in favor of free lumber. They have lost so much by tows breaking away and by the wreck of boats that they would much rather prefer to saw the logs on their own limits. But while they can get logs into the States free of duty they would have to pay the impost duty upon lumber shipped from this side. Therefore while the question of the free entry of lumber is in abeyance in the States some of them regard with disfavor the proposition to reimpose the duty upon exported logs. If the American Government grants free lumber, all well, but if it does not then Canadian interests should be protected. If our forests must be sacrificed, and they furnish the only timber supply upon the continent worth speaking about, then Canadians should have the full advantage. Left to the Ontario Government, which is always impetuous and seldom economical, the timber lands would be stripped in a few years by foreigners and all the return which would be got would be a few figures in the annual report of receipts and expenditures. It, therefore, behooves the authorities at Ottawa to regard closely the progress of the Wilson Bill through Congress and, if free lumber is not accorded Canadians, to force American lumbermen who own limits upon this side to cut their lumber on their own limits and to employ Canadian hands to do the work."

## LUMBERMEN'S VIEWS ON THE TARIFF.

ELSEWHERE in this issue of the CANADA LUMBERMAN we have discussed the proposed changes in the United States lumber tariff. Below will be found the views of prominent lumbermen in various lumber centres.

Mr. H. H. Cook, of the Ontario Lumber Co., said: "As the law stands to-day if Canada imposes an export duty on saw logs, the Americans will charge us an import duty of \$2 a thousand feet, board measure. We now pay \$1 a thousand feet. By the draft tariff manufactured lumber, from Canada, or foreign countries, will be admitted free. If manufactured, it will pay a duty of 25 cents per 1,000 feet. Unmanufactured lumber means sawn lumber, manufactured lumber means lumber that is planed and made ready here for building purposes. Should the talked-of export duty on saw logs be imposed, we would have to pay \$1 per 1,000 feet. The McKinley bill took off \$1 on condition that there should be no export duty on saw logs. In my opinion, such an export duty would be most unfortunate for the Canadian lumber trade. If the new tariff were to pass, it would be a great thing for Canada's lumber trade. I don't think there will be anything more about this proposed export duty. I hope not."

"I never was in favor of an export duty on logs," said Colonel John I. Davidson, ex-President of the Board of Trade, and of the firm of Davidson, Hay & Co, lumbermen. "I never was in favor of it, and I trust that in the face of the abolition of the American duty on lumber, no export duty will be put on logs by Canada. I was pleased to see that the new bill is intended to take off the duty on timber. It will prove of the greatest possible benefit to the Canadian trade."

Mr. David Gilmour, lumberman, Ottawa. "The lumbermen of Ontario just now are not saving much but keep on sawing wood. Four or five years ago free pine lumber would have been regarded as a great boon. To-day here's not many of us who care whether or not it is

made free. We have the pine, and the Americans are forced to buy from us to supply their own market. The abolition of the duty will give us a market for the poorer grades of pine lumber. If the Yankees want the higher grades the duty of \$1 per thousand does not cut much figure, in fact it has not kept them from buying so far. A few years ago we thought the taking off of the export duty was a blow at our industry. Since we have got to regarding it in a different light. New Brunswick and Eastern Quebec will be the chief beneficiaries, as they will be enabled to market their spruce."

Mr. John Donogh, Donogh & Oliver believes the proposed changes in the tariff would be beneficial to Canada. As he read the newspaper reports he took it that unmanufactured, that is sawn, lumber would be free. On manufactured, that is planed lumber, there would be a duty of 25 cents per 1,000 feet if there is no export duty on logs. If there should be such an import, the duty would remain as at present, \$1. He did not expect the Government would impose an export duty on logs now; there would be nothing to be gained by it. The proposals now made will tend to open still more the eastern and central markets of the States to the Canada lumber trade. The reduction two years ago of \$1 a thousand made a wonderful difference to the Ontario lumber trade, for it opened up a market for the coarser grade of lumber. The new tariff ought to be still more beneficial. I do not see what object American purchasers of timber would have to gain now by towing their logs. They would saw them on the Ontario side if the duty were taken off."

Mr. William Hurdman, Ottawa: "A decidedly good move, I am glad to hear, for it means better things for the trade. The striking off of that \$1 on unmanufactured lumber don't mean that the Canadian manufacturers will get the whole dollar to themselves. The American buyer will likely get half and the lumbermen here the other 50 cents. With regard to the manufactured lumber, the change will have the effect of causing more lumber to be dressed here, and consequently will give more employment."

Mr. G. B. Greene, manager of the Upper Ottawa Improvement Company, said "Reducing the duty on planed lumber will certainly be beneficial, inasmuch as it will give more employment and keep our planing mills employed all winter as well as summer."

Mr. John Bryson, M.P., of Fort Coulonge, Que., said. "I am glad to hear that the duty is taken off the unmanufactured lumber, and it should be the same with the manufactured, on which I see they retain a duty. It will undoubtedly be beneficial to the trade here. My idea is to do away with all duty on timber."

Mr. E. B. Eddy, of Hull, says that despite the general reduction of United States duties, the Canadian Government should reimpose the export duty on logs. "Put on the duty on spruce logs," says Mr. Eddy, "and the Americans must pay the duty and keep on buying our logs. They have no logs of their own worth talking about. The mills in New York State are getting 70 per cent. of their logs from Canada. The spruce trade is going to be the future lumber trade, not pine. Put the duty on spruce and you will make miles of spruce land in Ontario and Quebec worth millions which to-day are not worth the bite of the humble bee."

Mr. Hiram Robinson, president of the Hawkesbury Lumber Company, is not enthusiastic over the proposed changes in tariff. He says the changes may spur Canadian business slightly at present, but that they mean the more rapid destruction of Canadian forests for the preservation of the U. S. It will give the Americans cheaper lumber at the expense of Canada.