



JOHN CHARLTON, M.P., interviewed on lumber matters, said: "In common with all other business interests having relations with the United States for market of production in whole or in part, the Canadian lumber interest would be much benefited by some definite settlement of the tariff policy in that country, as trade in all departments seems likely to continue unsettled, and buyers indisposed to do more than meet requirements for immediate demands until it is known what tariff policy will be finally settled upon. The lumber trade outlook, however, is not a gloomy one; the production of logs last winter will probably fall somewhat short of that of the previous year. Nearly all of the mills in the Ottawa valley made highly favorable contracts several weeks ago, for the sale of the season's cut of deals in the English market at a material advance on last year's prices; and the English market for deals continues strong with fair probability of a further advance. As regards lumber which must find a market in the United States, prices are no lower than 12 months ago. One concern with a capacity of 40,000,000 has contracted 85 per cent. of its season's cut for the American market at prices fully up to the scale of 12 months ago, and the market in this great centre of the lumber industry, I think, is not likely to weaken." Mr. Charlton does not look for a reimposition of the export duty on logs. "If the American government," said he, "puts lumber upon the free list, the Canadian government will not for a moment entertain the idea of returning to the policy of imposing export duties. Even if the Canadian government were desirous of putting on the duty again, the provision of the Wilson bill as reported by the finance committee of the senate would render such a course impossible. Paragraphs 672 to 683, inclusive, place upon the free list logs, timber, boards, clapboards, bolts, ties, posts, lath, pickets, shingles, staves, etc., and all kinds of wood unmanufactured with a proviso contained in the last paragraph as follows: 'Provided, that all the articles mentioned in paragraphs 672 to 683, inclusive, when imported from any country which lays an export duty on any of them, shall be subject to the duties existing prior to the passage of this act.' This proviso makes the consequence of imposing an export duty so serious that the Canadian government would not entertain for a moment the idea of doing it." Along with others it is the opinion of Mr. Charlton that the spruce interest was not fairly dealt with at the time the McKinley bill became law. He said: "In 1890 the Canadian government promised officially to remove the export duty upon logs of pine and spruce if congress reduced the duty on lumber to \$1. There was a tacit understanding that this should be done before the promise was made, but congress failed to reduce the spruce duties. The result came near being a failure to secure the repeal of the export duties. It was done reluctantly, and with a feeling that the failure to reduce the spruce lumber duties by congress did not fall very far short of sharp practice. Since that time the spruce interest has stood for the reimposition of the export duty. Had congress made the same reduction upon spruce as upon pine lumber, this feeling would not have existed."

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"We are keeping reasonably busy," said Mr. George Cormack, of Whitby, whom I ran across in the city a few days ago. "I have been fortunate enough to bag a good big order for white pine shingles that will keep me busy a larger part of the summer. Several of the mills are busy turning out the stock for us. It will all go across the lines." Have you been there recently yourself? I asked. "Yes, not long back," said Mr. Cormack. "There is no rush in lumber trade in the States. I am inclined to think that if the depression continues much longer, prices, which all along have kept very firm, will break. We are doing a very fair trade throughout the province."

Mr. D. Gillies, M.P.P. for Pontiac, Que., has returned from the California Midwinter Fair, and whilst on the Pacific coast took occasion to make some investigations of the lumber trade of British Columbia. He has great hopes of the future of lumber in that province. As a large owner of limits in the Ottawa valley, he expressed the opinion that just as the supplies in that section and in other parts of the Dominion become exhausted we would be obliged to look to British Columbia for lumber. In time, he thought, we would have to look to that province entirely for our supplies. He did not think the Wilson Bill would effect the price of lumber, but it would materially increase trade, and thus be a great benefit to shippers in British Columbia.

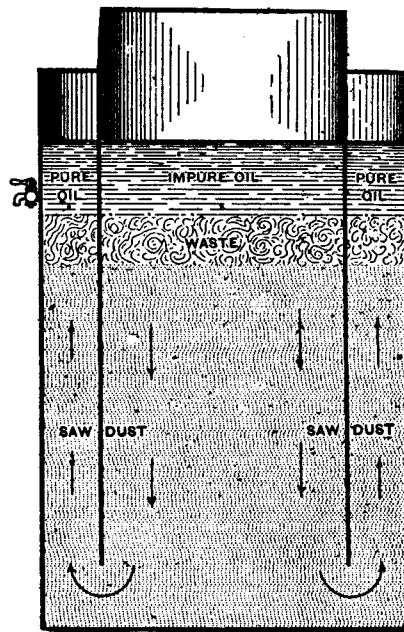
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The names of John Donogh and Jos. Oliver, constituting the firm of Donogh & Oliver, lumber merchants, have ever stood high in trade and monetary circles, both in the city and out of it. They are two manly fellows. As is my wont, when nearing publication day, I dropped in on these gentlemen, at their comfortable offices in the Board of Trade building, a few days ago. "Not very much to say about lumber trade these times," said Mr. Donogh. "Business is rather slow and we're just moving along hoping for better times after a while. In our own city and country, of course, there is always something going, but there is nothing very big to look forward to this season. We send our largest shipments of lumber to the United States and business there is, undoubtedly, dull. Trade has not really recovered from the depression of last summer, and, if anything, the past few months have been relatively duller than ever." "How about prices?" I remarked. "Well," replied Mr. Donogh, "these continue to hold up splendidly. It is the encouraging feature of the trade, indicating a solid confidence in the future of lumber." At the bottom of the present trouble, I suggested, tariff uncertainty likely rested. "There is the difficulty," said Mr. Donogh. "Mr. Oliver has just returned from a trip through the Eastern States, and he will be able to give you current opinion first hand." "Ask me something easy," was the response from this genial knight of the road, for every one, almost anywhere in Ontario and a large district of the neighboring republic, who touches lumber, knows "Joe" Oliver, and like him. "I was after orders," said Mr. Oliver. "And got some, doubtless," was my response. "Oh, yes!" he said, "we usually get there, even though we may not do as much as we would like. You ask me about the tariff. It is causing the chief trouble in lumber circles. Whether it is to be on or off no one can now tell, and consequently no one will buy stocks beyond immediate requirements, and the capitalists of the lumber trade are not going to make investments in lumber until they know just where they stand. As a result, I can say to you, that lumber business in the States, just now, is mighty dull. It had been supposed that if anything at all went through in the way of tariff changes it would be lumber, but the question is now in the Senate and the struggle has become so prolonged it looks as though nothing would go through. Lumbermen are saying settle the thing. They don't care now which way it goes, but let us know where we stand." "It really looks," continued Mr. Oliver, after an interruption from an office source, "as if these Democrats were going to fool long enough with the question to allow the Republicans to come back into power again, and then we may whistle for free lumber or any other change in that line. What fools these fellows are. They get everything in their hands snug and tight, and are hardly more than comfortably seated in their chairs before they throw away every advantage they have gained. There is no cohesion among them. Every man has his own little hobby to run, and we see the result. I was going to say, they remind me of a certain political party in this country, but I guess I had better stop there, or my friend Donogh and some of the rest of you may get mad," said Mr. Oliver, as he left us to look after some matters of business.

When news went abroad at Ottawa a fortnight ago, that the sawmills would commence work the following Monday, men flocked from all directions to get employment, and when the hour of starting came it was computed that a thousand men were on the ground ready to be employed.

HOME MADE OIL FILTER.

A CORRESPONDENT of Power gives the following description of a home-made oil filter which he has found to work successfully: It is made of an old oil can that will hold about 40 gallons. Inside this is placed a galvanized iron or tin tube, raised from the bottom by a couple of sticks and projecting about six inches



HOME-MADE OIL FILTER.

above the top of the can. The can and tube are then partly filled with clean sawdust, with a layer of waste or cloth on top, as indicated in the sketch. The impure oil is poured into the tube, filters down through the waste and sawdust and up again in the can, whence it may be drawn off through the cock as needed. By pouring in a few buckets of hot water first, you have a water filter for the oil, as it will pass through the filtering material in the same way. I have made two filters in this way, at slight expense, and they work all right.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

A CABLE from Paris says that Edmond Bartissol, a civil engineer, who helped pierce the Isthmus of Seuz, has made public his plan for completing the Panama canal. He proposes to build a stone tunnel about 10 kilometers (or 6 miles) long. Water from the Chagres river would be conducted by shafts to this tunnel, and there be used to carry to the Pacific the soil already excavated from the canal bed and thrown in the way of the current. The canal could be completed by such means in four years, M. Bartissol estimates, at a maximum expense of 500,000,000 francs. This plan was submitted some time ago to the Technical Commission of the Panama Canal Company.

TRADE NOTES.

THE Watrous Co., of Brantford, report recent machinery sales as follows:—

No. 3 Allis Band Mill, to the Huntsville Lumber Co., with band saw tools, wood grinder, to convert their refuse into chips, to be fed with sawdust to their boiler, with automatic fuel feeder. A similar plant to Graham, Horne & Co., Fort William, and two other band mills to Warren Curtis, Three Rivers. With these latter mills was sent one of their steel saw mill carriages of new design, one of the heaviest and strongest mill carriages built in Canada; also a Prescott direct acting steam feed, 42 feet long, a double Kelly log kicker or double deck unloader, and two Hill's patent stationary steam niggers. By the first of the month they will ship the same firm two 150 horse-power engines. A fifth band mill will be shipped the end of this month to G. & G. Flewelling, Hampton, N.B., together with saw carriage, double edger, live rolls and other machinery. Shipment has just been made of a saw carriage, edger, lath machinery, conveyors, &c., to Humphrey and Trites, Moncton, N.B., a saw frame and carriage to Mr. McKiernon, Eganville, and another to Jesse Cooke, Zephyr.

NEWS AND NOTES.

There is still sleighing in the lumber woods around Kippewa lake. Four of the Shepard-Morse lumber camps in that district are still in full blast.

Navigation has opened earlier this spring near Chats lake than for 20 years. There are 200,000 logs in the Schneaux bovin to be towed.

The annual meeting of the Alberta Lumber Co., was held recently. A satisfactory report of the past year's business was presented, and the following directors were elected for the ensuing year: H. J. Dexter, W. G. Bell, Winnipeg; H. B. Baird, Westby Fallows; James Robertson, Minneapolis.