

during the past five years, notwithstanding the growing scarcity of pine, we fail to hear of any lumbermen who hold pine, getting into the "financial cramps" of which Mr. Smith speaks, because of holding pine; and if he expects to see white pine stumpage decline in the ratio that his cordwood declined, as he narrates specifically, his expectations will never be realized.

The *Timberman*, we believe, is nearer the truth than Mr. Smith on the question of pine prices; but suppose a sudden demand arose and prices stiffened would the rush from the white pine states—and let us include Canada with the dollar duty against her—force the price down, or would the increased, or raised, price allow yellow pine holders to get their stocks worked off at the market quotations for that wood? This factor in the home market of the United States is now a prominent one with Canadian shippers of coarse grades, and when Canadian coarse grades meet in competition with yellow pine, planed or almost ready for domestic use, the keenest of competition follows. Clean stocks of white pine are not subjected to the same competition and we have no hesitation in saying that Michigan men have more cause to fear southern pine as a price lower than they have of Canadian culls.

#### RECIPROCITY.

UNDER the heading "Against Reciprocity," we republish the opinions of the *Northwestern Lumberman*, Chicago. We have never questioned the value of reciprocity in lumber to Canada, but we have in a variety of ways asked our contemporaries who clamor for it and blame the government for not obtaining it to show us the *open sesame*, to show us how it can be obtained. Before another issue of *THE LUMBERMAN* the representatives of the Privy Council of Canada will have opened negotiations of a reciprocal nature with the authorities at Washington. It is not known whether lumber will come under discussion or not. If so, the daily report of the proceedings will be doubly interesting; if not, the articles under discussion will, in a measure, include difficulties similar to or inherent to the lumber interest.

If no other product of Canada were involved, and lumber *per se* was the bone of contention, i.e., if the commission under Sir Charles Tupper, who, as he puts it: "Themselves a branch of the Anglo Saxon race, thoughtful Americans need not be told that a sister branch of that remarkable stock may be won but cannot be coerced, and that if negotiations are entered on Mr. Blaine or his colleagues will not be actuated by any other thought than the making of such an arrangement as will accrue to the benefit of the American people." If this commission met to arrange free trade in lumber only it is the opinion of the most profound thinkers on the subject that it would never be granted.

We recognize the opposition from Michigan, Minnesota, the southern pine states, and to some extent on the Pacific coast. On the North-eastern slope of the Atlantic, and in the states directly south of what is known as old Canada, is situated a section of the American Republic that is compelled to buy from three outlying portions of the continent. From Canada on the N. E., N. and N. W. by W., from sister states to the S. S. W. and W. and from the N. W. White pine men in the states will find enough to do to attend to the cheap stumpage and nigger labor of yellow pine without being bothered with the products of the older provinces of Canada. One enemy in the front is sufficient to fight without an enemy on the flank. Yellow pine men are pushing their manufactured stuff against a common foe, the one crippled by geographical position slightly, the other handicapped by the duty.

The position cannot be altered, but it can scarcely be expected that an auxiliary in the fight, such as duty, will be thrown away without a strong effort being made to retain it. That white and yellow pine men would join hands, and that the interests of mill men in the N. E. States, who operate on the residuum of pine on the Alleghenies would go with them would be a certainty. If the question of reciprocity in lumber is discussed in conjunction with our other productions, the same influences will be brought to bear. It will not be from a mill man's standpoint, what is best for

the welfare of the manufacturing states of the N. E. Atlantic coast, it will be what is best for myself. We repeat that whatever shape the negotiations assume, the interest taken in them will be greater than in any friendly attempt at reciprocal relations since confederation. Almost a new nation sways the future of Canada since '67. Those old enough to recognize the significance of the event at the time, even the urchin who fired off his squibs on our first Dominion day wondering what the fuss was all about, have now a vote, and take a deeper interest in their native land than could be expected from their fathers who adopted it. The school master has been abroad for the last quarter of a century, and every twist and turn of the proposed negotiations will be argued, self-constructed, self-interpreted and willfully tortured to suit the political exigencies of the case.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

WE want a few copies of the *LUMBERMAN* for March, will some of our friends kindly remail their copies to the office of publication, Canada Life Building, Toronto, we will look upon it as a great favor.

LIKE Homer's, the birth-place of the inventor of the circular saw is a doubtful quantity, and several places dispute the location of his graveyard. Now that mills are being opened for spring business many an employee will not be particular as to the inventor's graveyard, but it is quite possible they will wish that he never was born. Disciples of Esculapus and knights of the scissors owe considerable to the circular.

THE New York *Press* cartoon is very *apropos* to the discussions and attempts recently made to conserve the forests still remaining in the Adirondacks. The Adirondack Lumber Company appear in the foreground felling trees. George Washington, of hatchet and cherry tree fame, sticks his head out of the zenith and is represented as remarking: "and to think I was reprimanded for cutting down one little tree."

CANADA on both seaboard has taken the lead in cultivating the lumber trade in South America. Foreign lumber markets are not any too active in Europe and stagnation describes the condition of South America. The Argentine Republic is in the throes of a cramped money market; Chili is engaged in war and political troubles are effecting Brazil. Until these are removed the demand will not improve.

THE scarcity of cars to remove lumber that was experienced last year on the G. T. R. will be somewhat lessened this summer. There will be little increase in rolling stock, but the release of a great many cars from work on the Sarnia tunnel, the very small quantity of square timber manufactured in the North and no ice to move will lessen the demand in their respective requirements. It is to be hoped a repetition of last season's experience will not be incurred.

THE McKinley Bill clause placing a duty of 20 per cent. *ad valorem* on cedar ties and posts went into force March 1st. Its effect on this trade in Canada is problematical as yet, but before long we will be in a position to report any lowering of prices as some anticipate. Last year the Province of Quebec marketed \$78,000 and the Province of New Brunswick \$77,000 worth.

"James Blair, of Ferguson's Falls, is home from the shanty with a full pocket, a fat team and a cheerful countenance."—*Ex*: James differs from a great many logging teamsters this winter. Many of them in the Ottawa valley returned leaving their horses at the bottom of a lake or river, or food for crows on the bank of a stream during the summer.

A STURGEON BAY man writes. "As the new season advances, the vast quantity of logs and other timber from the forest continue to augment and fill the streets." This is a sample of the new figures of speech styled "back-handed adjectiveness and the vagueness of seductiveness". How did the logs get there? Were they rolled, dumped, canted, hauled or felled? Does the "vast quantity" mean last year's logs left in the streets for lack of water to drive or what does it mean? Augment is good; try again.

BRITISH COLUMBIA is steadily pushing her way into the lumber markets of the world. Sample cars of assorted sawn lumber and samples freighted by water by the enterprising firms who operate her mills are doing much to advertise the productions of our youngest colony. The latest move is worthy of special notice. The full rigged ship *Titan* was chartered at Shanghai, China, to carry from B. C., via Cape Horn, for the G. W. Bush & Sons Lumber Co., of Wilmington, Delaware, 1,000,000 feet of sawn lumber.

AFTER all Canada is rather a fine country to lumber in. The heaviest snow fall of the season took place on the 8th ult. in North Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, decreasing as it extended northward over Lake Superior and that district. Rivers in the southern parts of these States are full to the brim. In Ohio immense damage has been done to mill property and booms, while serious freshets have occurred in more than one eastern state. If the breaking up of Canadian waters takes place as gently and easily as reports state up to date no cause for grumbling can be found.

THE annual number of the *Timber Trades Journal*, of London, England, the leading British paper in its line, reached us last month. It contains 255 pages full of interesting and suggestive matter on the European as well as the foreign phases of the trade. Three supplements are also issued containing half tone portraits of the hardwood dealers of the metropolis, the representatives of the timber trade in Newcastle and Sunderland and a portrait of a Liverpool timber auction. Amongst the advertisements a fair sprinkling of United States manufacturers' names can be found, and several pages are given to the illustration and description of United States mills in the Puget Sound district.

THE general regulations for foreign exhibitors at the Chicago World's Fair has been received. It is issued in foolscap size, contains fifty four pages and the subject matter is divided into the usual departments, groups and classes. Class 99 to 118, inclusive, deals with forest productions and forestry. We have the authority of W. J. Buchanan, chief of the department of agriculture for the Fair, in stating that exhibits in this class will form one of the most complete departments. Already lumbermen in the Southern States of Georgia, Alabama, Texas and Missouri have appointed a special committee of eleven members to co-operate with the management. The Pacific coast U. S. men have also taken initiatory steps. What do Canadian lumbermen intend to do in the matter?

ANY one looking over a yearly list of fires and casualties in the lumber trade after sawing begins must be appalled at the fearful destruction of property, life and limb. Deducting from the aggregate all due to carelessness and design, the number is still vast enough to bring before millmen some of the improvements that will be forced upon them in a few years by the use of electricity. The main engine can be placed in any position in the yard with little regard to lining up. Wires can be carried in any direction; wire cables and shafting cannot. Applying motors separately to systems of shafting does away with cumbersome jacks, large pulleys, belting and economizing the space occupied by them. In the erection of new saw mills, planing mills and other factories, the separate motor to systems of shafting is worthy of serious consideration from a convenient and economic standpoint, as well as the minimising of accidents from automatic connection with the engine.