

# The Canada Lumberman

DEVOTED TO THE LUMBER AND WOOD WORKING  
INTERESTS OF THE DOMINION.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY  
**A. G. MORTIMER, PETERBOROUGH, ONT.**

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT.

WE are indebted to the courtesy of the New York *Lumber Trade Journal* for a copy of the New York Inspection Rules for the inspection of hardwoods adopted by the Lumber Trade Association of that city on April 12th last. It is gotten up in pamphlet form, and will prove handy for reference.

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN published monthly by A. G. Mortimer, Peterborough, Ont., and the only paper devoted to the trade in the Dominion, has issued its first annual special edition in new type and on fine paper. The LUMBERMAN is full of interesting and valuable information and must be read with extreme satisfaction by Canadian dealers in the products of the forest. Moreover, it is well printed. We wish it continued prosperity.—*Kingston News*.

THE request of manufacturers of barrels and staves that an export duty should be imposed upon elm logs should receive the favorable consideration of the Finance Minister, as no doubt it will. It is but carrying out the principle of the increased duty upon saw logs last year and the duty placed upon shingle bolts in the present season. There is no reason why manufacturers in the United States should be privileged to obtain elm logs from Canada free of duty, while they have the benefit of a protective duty. Countervailing protection is due to our own manufacturers and mechanics in order to do them justice. Such is the policy we have adopted, and there is no good reason why an exception should be made in this case.

NOTWITHSTANDING the present export duty on logs entering the United States, it is computed that fully 75,000 standards will leave the Nipissing District this season to be manufactured across the border. Instead of the export decreasing under the lately imposed duty, a considerable increase is perceptible, which is being brought about principally by the depletion of the Michigan forests. THE LUMBERMAN agrees with the many Canadian lumbermen who are advocating a further increase in the duty, in order to prevent our native woods being slaughtered for the benefit of foreign manufacturers. If Americans refuse to build mills in this country and employ Canadian labor, they should be made to pay handsomely for the privilege of manufacturing our logs on the other side. It is hoped that the Dominion Government will take further action in this matter before the close of the present session.

THE newly announced tariff changes include the following: "Export duty on shingle bolts of pine or cedar and cedar logs capable of being made into shingle bolts, \$1.50 per cord of 128 cubic feet." This is not as important a provision as those of last year increasing the export duties on pine and spruce saw logs, but it is a further step in the same right direction. It is also satisfactory as showing that the attention of the administration is still directed to this matter, and steps will be taken to enforce the law. It would manifestly be an absurdity to extend this principle unless it were determined to carry out its application more thoroughly than in the past, when the small amount received from these duties showed that payment must have been evaded in some cases. The protection of our own industries, instead of letting our forests be stripped for the profit of foreign mill-owners, is certainly a salutary principle, and one that should be vigorously enforced.

Now that the Parliament of Canada is sitting, we would again urge upon the Dominion authorities the propriety of making adequate provision for the enforcement of the export duty on saw logs, which was wisely augmented last session. Our friends in the United States are evidently preparing to supply their saw mills more largely with saw logs from the forests on the waters of Lakes Huron and Superior. If they meet with any success in their operations they are certain to increase them in the future. This we cannot prevent, but we may discourage it, in favour of our own lumbermen and if they are to compete with us in our own forests they should at all events be made to contribute to our revenue. They should not be allowed to escape payment of the dues on any saw logs they may convey across the line and the necessary provision should be made to ensure this. Otherwise the Act will remain a dead letter and it might just as well not have been passed.

ATTENDED to Mr. J. T. Wyde's report on trade relations between Canada and the West Indies are some useful tables from which we take the following suggestive figures. Among the chief articles of import into Jamaica there appear under the head of wood, white pine \$95,000, pitch pine \$60,000, cypress shingles \$26,400, cedar shingles \$5,500. The United States exports for the year to the British West Indian Islands contained: Boards, deals, &c., \$239,488, shingles \$37,685, shooks \$169,682, staves and headings \$30,483, other lumber \$11,883, timber \$1,468, manufactures of wood \$115,322: To Cuba the United States sent lumber \$229,350, hoops and hop poles \$286,929, shooks \$897,307, staves and headings \$83,000, empty hogsheads and barrels \$263,265, furniture \$38,985, other manufactures of wood, \$37,000. To Porto Rico they sent: boards, deals &c., \$44,661, hoops and hop poles, \$27,727, shooks, \$157,740, staves and headings \$29,693, other lumber \$9,893, timber \$102, manufactures of wood \$12,674. Why should not Canada do a large share of this trade?

THE Chicago *Northwestern Lumberman* says:—"It looks as if the Dominion Government had taken an unfair advantage of American stumpage owners in selling them extensive limits, and afterwards putting an export duty on logs, that deprive them of realizing on their investment." We are not aware of the Dominion Government having sold any limits to "Americans," and certainly it has not sold extensive limits to them. The limits in the Georgian Bay region are the property of the Province of Ontario or of those holding from it, and any purchases must have been made from them. The Dominion Government alone has the right to demand export duties. We are glad to learn from our Chicago contemporary that the export duty has had the desired effect of checking the movement "that had begun to assume important proportions" of Canadian logs to mills in the United States. The wisdom of our policy may seem doubtful to our neighbors, who are not disinterested judges, but our own people are fully convinced of the wisdom of using our natural resources so that the profit of manufacturing them may accrue to Canadians rather than to foreigners.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND seems so far to be anything but eager to avail himself of the power given to him by Congress of retaliating against our commerce, for our maintenance of our rights in regard to our fisheries. Neither do the people of the United States seem very anxious to press upon him to take immediate action in the matter. It looks indeed very much as though the Representatives and Senators had been influenced in their course by a spirit of brag combined with political wire-pulling, and that they were more eager to make the threat than to see it carried out. Our lumbermen however should not allow themselves to be lulled into a feeling of security that may prove fallacious. Should any collision occur through our protection of our fisheries, as may well happen, public feeling in the States may be aroused and such pressure may be put upon the President as to force him to act, even though it may be with reluctance. This possibility should therefore be faced, and our lumbermen should prepare themselves to open new channels for disposing of the produce of their mills. The necessity may not arise, but it is well to be ready for it. It may appear to be unlikely; but we know that some shrewd business men in the United States have prepared for this eventuality, and we may therefore conclude that there is some risk.

ON another page will be found the report of a meeting held in Montreal during the past month, at which the question of increased timber dues and ground rents was discussed by the leading lumber operators of the country. It was resolved, that the timber trade as recently as the year 1880 assented to a large increase in dues, and for this reason the further increase was considered a gross injustice. It was also resolved by the bankers present that any considerable increase of charges on the trade would so deteriorate the security in timber licenses as to deter the banks from making the necessary

advances for the carrying on of the trade. The deputation appointed at the meeting referred to waited on Mr. Mercier and Mr. Garneau, Minister of Crown Lands, urging that the Government re-consider their action. Mr. Mercier in reply stated that it was the fixed policy of the Government to increase the timber rents, as the financial condition of the province demanded it, and for this reason he could not accede to their request. This decision on the part of the Quebec Legislature will, without doubt, be a crushing blow to the greatest industry of that province. In Quebec at present large areas are unmarketed because it costs too much already to get the timber out. It has been stated by one of the leading operators that lumbermen have not been making money for some years past; that they have not cut more than a third of their ordinary stock, and this increase will prove disastrous and likely result in bankruptcy to many engaged in large operations. Mr. Mercier's argument that the necessities of the revenue are great is doubtless correct, but if by his present action the leading industry of the province is crippled, we fear he will realize when too late how unwise his present course has been.

Of very great importance to lumbermen is a measure passed in the last session of the Ontario Legislature to be known as the Saw Logs Driving Act, 1887, which we republish at length for the information of our readers. No doubt it was framed and enacted with a desire to benefit the trade, to prevent inconvenient delays, to obviate disputes and to afford a means of adjusting them fairly and equitably should they arise. Whether it will have the intended result is far less certain. It cannot be denied that there have been many disputes arising from the unintentional or wilful obstruction of drives by others ahead of them, or from the accidental or deliberate mingling of drives belonging to different owners. It was therefore obviously to be desired that there should be means readily available to remove such evils as far as possible, and to give redress in case of damage being inflicted. But we cannot help fearing that this measure may be found to conduce to disputes, ill-will and litigation. It seems to offer inducements to the reckless, the over-zealous or the litigious to exercise little care in avoiding causes of disagreement, or to show little conciliation in the case of any difficulty. The very fact that hitherto the settlement of such questions was difficult and costly, has had a restraining influence, causing a reluctance to give occasion for dispute and a willingness to adopt any reasonable compromise. The very increase of facilities for trying such questions and for taking action if inconvenient, may have a tendency to aggravate the very evil the Act was intended to remedy. We hope however that it may not be so. At all events, now that this Act is the law of the land it should have a fair trial, so that if it is not found to work well in any respect it may be amended next year, or as any weak points may be discovered by practical experience. It would be useless now that the Act is passed to criticise any of the details, which may be left to the test of time and experience of its operation.

A NUMBER of important changes have taken place among the lumber journals in the United States during the month of May. The Chicago *Lumber Trade Journal* has been sold by Mr. S. D. Morgan, the late proprietor and founder, to a company which is now seeking incorporation. The names of those interested are: Messrs. Geo. W. Hotchkiss, Walter C. Wright, E. S. Hotchkiss, and W. W. Hogle, all of whom are already well known in lumber circles. Following this change comes the suspension of the oldest lumber journal in the United States, the *Lumberman's Gazette*, of Bay City, Mich., which closes its career after an existence of thirty-two years. The subscription list and good-will have been purchased by the proprietors of the progressive and ably conducted *Timberman*, Chicago, which undertakes to supply the news of the Saginaw Valley in a crispy and entertaining style. The *Timberman* has thrown off its baby clothes and become aged so quick that we hardly expect to know it hereafter. However, if it continues to prosper as it has during the past year, we will soon expect to see it standing on the top rail looking down upon its contemporaries, not in the same spirit as does its big city contemporary to-day, but in the happy knowledge of superior skill and enterprise. We wish it all the success possible in its extended field. The last, but not least, of the changes referred to is in the Mississippi Valley *Lumberman and Manufacturer*, the publication of which has been transferred from Mr. Platt B. Walker, to Messrs. J. Newton Nind, Platt B. Walker, Jr., Wm. R. Gregory and W. C. Edgar, who are seeking incorporation under the name of the "Lumberman Publishing Company." This journal has been established for about eleven years and has won for itself the good will of the trade and a liberal support. The new proprietors are said to be first-class journalists and thoroughly conversant with the needs of the trade. THE LUMBERMAN extends to the new management its best wishes for the future success of this already valuable publication.