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—BY—

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OFFICE.

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J. S. ROBERTSON, . . . EDITOR.

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interests of the lumber trade and of allied industries throughout the Dominion, being the only representative in Canada of this foremost branch of the commerce of this country. It aims at giving full and timely information on all subjects touching these interests, discussing these topics editorially and inviting free discussion by others.

Special pains are taken to secure the latest and most trustworthy market quotations from various points throughout the world, so as to afford to the trade in Canada information on which it can rely in its operations.

Special correspondents in localities of importance present an accurate report not only of prices and the condition of the market, but also of other matters specially interesting to our readers. But correspondence is not only welcome, but is invited from all who have any information to communicate or subjects to discuss relating to the trade or in any way affecting it. Even when we may not be able to agree with the writers we will give them a fair opportunity for free discussion as the best means of eliciting the truth. Any items of interest are particularly requested, for even if not of great importance individually they contribute to a fund of information from which general results are obtained.

Advertisers will receive careful attention and liberal treatment. We need not point out that for many the CANADA LUMBERMAN, with its special class of readers, is not only an exceptionally good medium for securing publicity, but is indispensable for those who would bring themselves before the notice of that class. Special attention is directed to "WANTED" and "FOR SALE" advertisements, which will be inserted in a conspicuous position at the uniform price of 15 cents per line for each insertion. Announcements of this character will be subject to a discount of 25 per cent. if ordered for four successive issues or longer.

Subscribers will find the small amount they pay for the CANADA LUMBERMAN quite insignificant as compared with its value to them. There is not an individual in the trade, or specially interested in it, who should not be on our list, thus obtaining the present benefit and aiding and encouraging us to render it even more complete.

THAT BIG LUMBER COMBINE.

WELL-informed lumbermen do not attach much importance to the rumored combine of United States and Canadian lumbermen, constituting what would practically be a corner in lumber in Canada. As Mr. W. C. Edwards remarks in our Ottawa correspondence, it is much easier to secure a corner in grain than in lumber.

Two or three sales of Canadian limits, representing considerable value, are announced for this month. These have brought a number of United States lumbermen and their agents to Toronto, and from here they have in most cases proceeded north to the region of the limits to investigate conditions. Besides, there are constantly passing through Toronto to the lumber districts in the interior, agents of various Michigan firms, who are already interested in Canadian limits. This has been especially the case during the winter just closing because of the number of these owners who have been working their limits. The bright young men of the daily press anxious to make a "scoop" have got after these men, made their acquaintance at the hotels, and worked them for a news item whenever opportunity presented itself.

Lumbermen are made of pretty shrewd stuff, and they are not the kind of men to give their business away, usually. Withal, they are genial and companionable, and are, if leisurely situated, ready to talk. Sometimes they have given these young men an item or two of news, at other times they have simply talked guff, knowing it to be guff. An instance in point. A big burly lumberman, who is a hail fellow well met, not a limit owner, but a shrewd, practical woodsman, who has passed through most of the gradations of a woodsman's life, from the felling of the tree to the more important occupation of a landholder, was in the city a few weeks ago. He was here for the purpose of looking up some limits that were for sale. The newspaper young man got hold of him. Our lumberman friend talked freely. "Yes, the Americans were buying up the country, espe-

cially that part having any timber on it. He held in his pocket the option on a large tract of Ontario timber and in the interests of an important syndicate he was leaving the next day to make an examination of the limits, and the whole business would be closed up quicker than one could say Jack Robinson."

The fact is your lumberman was going north on an entirely different mission, and it served his purpose to use our friend of the daily press to throw some one else off the scent. That is all there was in at least one of the big stories of the combine that was given currency to lately. Mr. Elsmore, of Saginaw, who would likely know something of the alleged combine, was about right when, asked in regard to the matter, he said, "I guess all there is in it is what we have seen in the papers."

A month ago the newspapers of the United States started the story that a great meeting of spring wheat millers had been held in Chicago, and a "gigantic flour trust" had been formed. The news was telegraphed all over the country and papers at home and those abroad heralded it in big headlines and with various editorial comments. The despatch proved a catchy item for the newspapers for something less than the proverbial nine days. An investigation of the rumor by those most interested and more certain to know showed that the Chicago meeting was a very tame affair, and without any significance, and, as for the big trust the millers are waiting to see it materialize.

We live in a day when newspaper rivalry is keen; and we live in an age when readers look for spice and sensation. If a lumber or a flour trust can be made to fill the bill it answers for the occasion just as fitly as the latest suicide or defalcation.

WHITE PINE.

Two replies to the article on the log duty by "A" in the March LUMBERMAN will be found on another page of this month's issue. On the principle that there are two sides to every story readers will admit, we believe, that some good points are made by both Canadensis and Mr. Little. The real point of discussion hinges largely on the belief, or the opposite, that there is no other timber to take the place of northern pine. And this pine being nearly exhausted in the white pine states of the United States our neighbors must look to Canada for their supplies. Opinions will differ here, and it is difficult to produce that kind of evidence which everyone can comprehend readily. In another part of this month's LUMBERMAN we publish an interview with a lumberman, of Tonawanda, N. Y., who lays great stress on the value of southern pine as a substitute for northern pine. It is also claimed, and a paragraph touching the matter is found on another page, that in New Mexico immense tracts of good white pine exist.

Then comes another question, which is quite debatable, and hard to solve to the satisfaction of many, whether the white pine of Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota or Canada has as yet nearly reached its limit of exhaustion, as is alleged to be the case by some. How hard it may be to arrive at the correct quantity of timber on a given tract of land is illustrated in negotiations for a recent purchase of timber land in Michigan. Three estimators were put on the job. Their separate estimates per acre ran thus. 25,000, 40,000 and 50,000. The totals were, of course, just as wide apart, thus. 40,000, 64,000,000 and 80,000,000. Somebody was evidently out, and what may occur in the estimate of an individual tract of land, may find its counterpart in the larger estimate, which after all is only an aggregation of the individual estimates.

LUMBERING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

THE Timber Inspector's report, of British Columbia, which has just been published furnishes an interesting account of the progress of lumbering on the Pacific Coast. The total quantity of timber cut during 1892, and which is subject to royalty, is 64,186,820 feet, and the royalty thereon is \$32,093.41. Rent from timber leases during the year amounts to \$31,673.63, thirty-four special timber licenses at \$50, representing \$1,700 and ninety general timber licenses at \$10, or \$900. The total revenue from timber sources foots up \$66,367.04. There have been issued thirty-four timber leases, covering

112,694 acres, the rental being \$11,269.40. The acreage leased for timber cutting in 1886 was only 23,012, showing in six years a very encouraging development of lumbering operations.

An analysis of the amounts paid in royalty by the different lumber companies, shows that the British Columbia Mills, Timber and Trading Co., of Vancouver, contributed \$12,033.92, or nearly a half of the whole. The Island mills paid \$10,303.83 and the Mainland mills \$21,789.58 of the total. The percentage in regard to rentals, licenses, etc., as between Mainland and Island, is about the same. The acreage of timber lands held by the mills is 386,122, of which in round figures 85,000 acres are held by the British Columbia Mills, Timber & Trading Co.; 50,000 by the McLaren-Ross Co.; 32,000 by the Moodyville Saw Mills Co.; 32,000 by the Vancouver Saw Mills Co.; 22,000 by the Brunette Saw Mills Co., and 20,000 by the Michigan Lumber Co. The remaining acreage is divided among smaller mills on the Mainland and Island. The total daily capacity of 41 of the 54 mills in the Province is set down as 1,657,000 feet.

The Provincial Secretary has issued a notice to the effect that after the 1st instant a rebate of 25 cents per thousand feet will be allowed on all lumber shipped abroad since 31st August, 1891 provided the lumber shall have paid royalty under the Land Act, all arrears of royalty being at the same time paid by the claimants. This means that the rebate, disallowed since 31st August, 1891, will once more be granted, the disallowance being so wholly abrogated that the rebate during the period of former disallowance can now be claimed of the Provincial Government.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

SENATOR Snowball, of New Brunswick, returned from Europe a few days before the closing of the Dominion Parliament. He came direct from Paris to Ottawa, and at once waited on the Finance Minister and urged him to ratify the French treaty in the interests of the lumber shippers of the Maritime provinces, of which the Senator is one of the largest.

ENGINEER Keating's recommendation to the city council, of Toronto, that cedar block pavements to the amount of \$40,000 be constructed this year, has been referred back to this official for further consideration. The conclusion is that the sanitary evils that follow this form of pavement are a peril to the health of the people. This is safe ground to take, if the facts will support the contention, but not otherwise. If we look abroad we find that in European countries, where, because of the congestion of population, every care that is promotive of rightful sanitary conditions needs to be practiced, wooden pavements are growing steadily in public favor. This is the case in London, Bristol, Paris and other large cities. But the authorities in these cities do exercise some scientific knowledge of the work they undertake. Mr. Keating, who has shown himself a very capable man, probably knew what he was doing when he made the recommendation in question.

IN the speech from the Throne on the opening of the Ontario Legislature on the 4th inst. reference was made to the marked improvement in the state of the lumber trade, the prosperity of which is of so much importance to the revenue and other public interests of the province. To this activity is attributed the increased prices that were secured for the timber berths in the Nipissing and Georgian Bay districts sold during the past year. The reference on this point is in these words: "I am pleased to state that the prices obtained were high beyond precedent, averaging \$3,657 per mile, and this, although the dues to be paid on the timber when cut were increased by one-fourth as compared with the dues payable on berths formerly sold in the Nipissing and Algoma districts. In addition to the annual rental and timber dues which will be paid into the provincial treasury upon the timber when cut, the sum of \$2,350,000 was realized by way of bonus." Progress has been made in the establishing of a national park. The commissioners have completed the duty assigned. They have collected much useful information touching the objects of the commission, and a bill to establish a national park will be submitted to the Legislature this session.