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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.

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.

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.

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.

THE LUMBER SITUATION.

NOTWITHSTANDING the excitement of a general election for Ontario, and the continued sittings of the House of Commons, the question of lumber has been quite to the front in discussions of the month. As our Ottawa correspondent has remarked the very fact that an election is on has given zest to lumber affairs. A letter written by Mr. John Charlton, M. P., to the Senate committee at Washington, suggesting a certain measure of retaliation on Canada regarding United States duties on lumber and manufactures thereof, provoked a stirring discussion in the Commons a week ago. The Wilson tariff bill, as it came finally before the United States Senate, made lumber practically free, with the one condition that a retaliatory duty shall have been levied upon those articles only upon which a Canadian export duty might have been imposed. The Wilson tariff, as will be noted from what we say further on, embraced a large list of free lumber items, and it appears that Mr. Charlton in his communications with Washington suggested: "Provided, that if any export duty is laid by any foreign country upon any of the articles mentioned in paragraphs 672 to 683 inclusive, that all said articles imported from said country shall be subjected to the duties existing, prior to the passing of this act." Had the bill gone through without this amendment it would have been possible for Canada to have imposed an export duty on logs and at the same time obtain free admission to the United States for a large number of forest products. It is for opening up this matter, which was perhaps an oversight on part of the United States Senators, that Mr. Charlton is to-day being so severely criticised both in and out of the House. With a people as sagacious, and shrewd, as our neighbors to the south, it might have been as well to have allowed them to figure out the tariff matter, according to their own notions, without help from Canada.

Lumber is cutting quite a figure in the Ontario campaign, the government timber policy being severely criticised by the opposition. What enters into the dis-

ussion, however, is largely politics, and not business; and outside the political leanings of lumbermen, the subject has little, if any, interest to our readers. A point that has frequently been raised before is coming to the front in this discussion, namely, that the provincial government should provide that all logs cut in the province shall be manufactured into lumber here. The government's reply to this question was made in these columns at the time the question was discussed in the House. Their contention is that any such step would lead to a serious shrinkage in the values of timber in Ontario. Mr. Bennett, member in the Commons for Simcoe, has suggested that the Ontario government might increase its stumpage dues from \$1.25 per 1,000 feet to \$5.25 per 1,000 feet, with a rebate of \$4.00 thereon on all logs sawed in Canadian mills, and meet what is asked for in this manner.

With free lumber, as now reported by the United States Senate, and likely to become law, many contentions of politicians, both in the Dominion House and the Provincial Legislature, will be removed. It has been generally accepted by lumbermen, holding different opinions on the question of an export duty, that entire free trade in lumber would meet the case of Canada quite completely. The new tariff places upon the free list the following articles of lumber or lumber manufacture: Firewood, handle bolts, heading bolts, stave bolts and shingle bolts, hop poles, fence posts, railroad ties, ship timber and shingle bolts, not specially provided for in this act; timber, hewn and sawed, and timber used for spars and in building walls, timber, squared or sided, sawed boards, plank deals, and other lumber; pine clap-boards, spruce clap-boards, hubs for wheels, posts, last blocks, heading, and all like blocks or sticks, rough hewn or sawed only; laths, pickets and palings, shingles, staves of wood of all kinds, wood manufactured. The one rider to this proposition is that contained in the paragraph we have quoted above, relative to an export duty, suggested by Mr. Charlton. What will be the effect of this tariff change on Canadian lumber interests? This is the vital question. Under a reduction in duty on lumber to \$1.00 a thousand a large increase took place in the export of Canadian lumber to the United States. With lumber entirely free it is reasonable to expect a further increase in our exports to that country. Logs are already going in free, so there is not any incentive to further enlargement in that respect, and this is perhaps not desirable. An important question is this: Will the removal of the \$1.00 duty on manufactured lumber prove an influence in causing United States lumbermen to establish mills on this side of the line and manufacture their logs into lumber here. It looks somewhat as if this would be the outcome of the present change. Geo. W. Stevens, of the Cranberry Lumber Co., Duluth, Minn., who was in Washington during the passing of the free lumber bill, and who, by the way, does not believe in free lumber, is of the opinion that the effect of striking down the tariff of \$1.00 a thousand on lumber will be to cause Americans who own Canadian timber to establish mills in Canada. He is reported to have said: "I know one Michigan firm which owns 500,000,000 feet in Canada, who are planning to erect mills and saw over there instead of rafting and sawing their logs here." One of the leading operators in Bay City says: "The removal of the duty on dressed lumber will render it impossible to bring Canadian logs over here and manufacture them at a profit. It means that every box establishment will either have to go to Canada or set up shop, and this will throw hundreds of men in this valley out of work. The blow is a serious one and it will be disastrous." Another firm operating a large planing mill and box factory at the same place is said to have resolved at once to remove their box factory to Canada as soon as the bill becomes law. A little time will, of course, show just what will be the outcome, but it seems quite certain that free lumber will not be a bad thing for Canada; and the fact that after so much discussion, and when other articles were given a go-by, it may be assumed that free lumber, in the opinion at least of the American Congress and Senate, will be a good thing for our neighbors across the line.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

It is not alone in certain parts of our own country that a depreciation in property is being felt because of the exhaustion of timber near to the place where mills had operated. Figures are given by the Michigan correspondent of a lumber contemporary, showing that in that country a serious shrinkage in values is taking place on this account, certain property on the rolls footing up only \$485,000, or about one fourth of the assessment of four years ago.

An answer frequently made, when criticism is levelled at the large export of Canadian logs to the American side, is that much money is expended in labor before the logs are in shape to be rafted and that Americans who are cutting in our woods are paying a higher average wage to shantymen than had hitherto been paid. This is a statement of the case that does not square with the views expressed by Mr. B. H. Turner, of Little Current on the Eli page, who says that American companies now bring in Poles and Hungarians to work for \$12 to \$18 a month, where the local standard of wages had formerly stood at \$26 a month.

The present financial troubles of the Nicaragua Canal Company must be a source of regret not alone to the lumbermen of British Columbia, but also to the lumber interests of the United Kingdom. The Timber Trade Journal, of London, Eng., commenting on this matter says, that the only drawback to the use of larger quantities of coast timbers is the long voyage over several months and the consequent heavy freights. Once the canal in question be constructed and all these obstacles would disappear, and the splendid timber of those regions would reach our market in a few years, at a lower freight cost than is now paid from the pitch pine ports.

Those who have had occasion to study commercial conditions in Russia have been made aware of the large figure that the country of the Czar plays in fixing the prices of wheat. More and more development is being made along those lines. But, if information that comes to us through a Mr. Nicholas Nesteroff, who is at present in America at the instance of the Russian Government, to investigate forestry, is correct, his country will, before long, become quite a factor in the world of lumber and saw milling. He is largely interested in the study of band mills, and it is not unlikely that the modern method of milling will be introduced into Russia. It is claimed that Russia has almost no limit to its lumber supplies; the figures given by Mr. Nesteroff are 600,000,000 acres. The government will be the great capitalist in this case and may erect as many as 200 saw mills. No high price is placed on timber in Russia fir trees selling at what in currency would be equivalent to 12c. and 18c. each.

KIND words, evidently well deserved, are being given to the W. C. T. U., by our lumber contemporaries in the Western States, for the excellent work that this organization has been permitted to do in the lumber camps of Wisconsin, Minnesota and other points. The life of shantymen during the winter now closed has been made much more agreeable, and doubtless profitable, through the amount of attractive and entertaining literature that has been steadily supplied them. The suggestion is made by the Mississippi Valley Lumberman that a great work would be done if some steps could be taken "towards removing the temptation from the boys when they come down from the woods in the spring of the year." All interested in lumber know how much there is in this remark, for it is just at this time that the most serious breaks are made by the "boys." On another occasion we have referred to the excellent work on similar lines, that is done for the Ottawa and Georgian Bay lumbermen by the Canadian W. C. T. U. workers. As a leading official of that order in a letter to the writer some time since remarked, perhaps the only drawback to a further extension of work is the want of sufficient funds.

The mill of the British Columbia Mills Timber & Trading Co., New Westminster, B. C., was partially destroyed by fire recently. Loss, \$30,000. Rebuilding has been commenced.