

# THE Canada Lumberman

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THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interests of the lumber trade and 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 25 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.

## FOREST FIRES.

FIRE has again brought ruin to hundreds of miles of the forests of Canada. The most serious damage has been done in the Tamiscaming and Kippewa districts, in the northern pine sections of Ontario and Quebec. Although the actual loss is not yet known, the estimates range from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. In New Brunswick and Nova Scotia the loss has been about \$100,000.

The immediate monetary loss represents but a small portion of the damage, as millions of young pines which have no present value, but which, if allowed to grow, would in years to come be of immense value to the country, have been destroyed. The loss by the destruction of these young pines is more than the damage to the merchantable trees. They would have been commercially valuable in a few years, but it will be a long time before the new growth can replace them.

The larger trees damaged by the fire will be cut by the lumbermen as soon as possible. Perhaps it may follow that the timber output of the coming season will consequently be heavier than would otherwise have been the case, but it is hoped not to such an extent as to materially affect the lumber market.

In the opinion of Mr. Lumsden, a lumberman of many years' experience, the recent fires along the Ottawa river were caused by settlers burning brush in order to clean up the land. The Ontario Government has adopted a fire ranging system which gives the Department of Crown Lands authority to place rangers on

territory under licence to lumbermen, and lumbermen themselves employ various measures to prevent the spread of fire. With all the precautions that are taken, it seems almost impossible to prevent an occasional fire getting such a start as to result in great damage.

It is manifestly in the interest of the country generally that liberal appropriations should be made by the Dominion and Provincial Governments to prevent the spread of forest fires and to educate settlers in the direction of lighting and controlling fires in or near a forest. We know of no investment from which equally good returns are likely to be secured as the appropriation of a liberal sum for the protection of the forests.

The sixth annual report of the chief fire warden of Minnesota contains information regarding forest fire-ranging which is very suggestive. The forests of that state are estimated to be worth one hundred million dollars. During the six years the fire ranging system has been in operation, the damage from forest fires has averaged only \$35,000 a year, a comparatively trifling sum. It is even more remarkable that the entire expenditure for the system of protection was but \$5,000 a year. No one would for a moment question the expediency of a system which, at an expense of \$5,000, restricts the damage by fire in forests valued at \$100,000,000 to \$35,000 a year. The season of 1900 was the driest and most dangerous season that has occurred for six years. The number of forest fires reported was 139, which burned over 179,521 acres, and did damage to the amount of \$153,399. Of the 139 fires 23 were caused by clearing land, 9 by railway locomotives, 13 by campers and hunters, 5 by burning meadows, 2 by river drivers, and 87 by unknown causes. It seems strange that the cause of so many fires should be unknown, but it is fair to assume that most of them were the result of carelessness on the part of settlers and hunters, rather than of accident.

The lumbermen who have suffered by the recent fires deserve the sympathy of the public. The loss in some cases represents more than the profits of an entire season's operations. Fire is but one of the many obstacles with which lumbermen have to contend.

## THE COMING LOG CROP.

Most of the lumbermen of Canada are now completing their arrangements for getting out another season's crop of logs. Prosperous conditions prevail throughout Canada. The harvest in Manitoba and the Territories is most abundant, while in the other provinces a fair yield of grain is assured. The lumber business, if we except the eastern spruce trade, is likewise prosperous. There is always the danger at times such as these of an over-production of lumber, and for this reason we would urge upon the lumbermen of Canada to adopt a conservative policy in respect to the quantity of logs to be taken out during the coming winter.

While pessimistic sentiment is not to be admired, it is very necessary to look carefully into the future and to so plan your business as to provide for reverses which arise from time to time. The lumber business has enjoyed several years of good times, but as "in times of

peace prepare for war," so it should be with the lumbermen as far as production is concerned. Very little can be lost by a manufacturer in restricting his production, as the timber if left on the stump will yearly increase in value; while if he should find himself with an over-supply of lumber in a time of depression a financial loss is almost certain.

Canadian lumber manufacturers might very properly turn their attention and capital to the establishment of plants for manufacturing a greater quantity of their lumber into wood specialties, many of which are in great demand at home and in Great Britain. The production of plants for the manufacture of broomsticks, tool handles, mouldings, chair stock and like goods will always find a ready market, the difficulty to a greater expansion of trade in these lines in the past being that it has been impossible for British importers to secure the goods.

The manner in which the British manufacturer utilizes every piece of raw material should be an object lesson to Canadians. A representative of an Irish firm which manufactures carriages recently visited Canada for the purpose of obtaining a supply of timber. To the writer he stated that such pieces of timber were not suitable for carriage purposes were made up in tool handles, and those that would not make handles were cut up into chair stock, by which means every piece of timber of any size was utilized. He was looking into the question of carrying this policy of utilization still further, by putting in a machine for the manufacture of skewers.

The above suggestions are thrown out in the hope that Canadian lumbermen will not overstock the market with lumber, but will endeavor to restrict the output and obtain the best possible returns from the timber which is taken out.

## LUMBER INSURANCE.

The Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association, at a meeting held in Toronto last week, decided to adopt specific rating, and in so doing made a sharp advance in the rates of insurance on lumber. This course, it is claimed by the underwriters, has been rendered necessary by reason of the heavy losses which the companies have sustained on lumber. The increase is equal to about one per cent. Although the new rate is only intended to apply immediately to the towns and villages of Ontario, it is understood that next spring the advance will go into effect throughout the Dominion.

While admitting that lumber is a more arduous risk than other commodities, the lumbermen regard the advanced rate as excessive and unwarranted by the losses. While it is possible, by isolating the lumber from all other goods, to secure a comparatively low rate, as of the mills are so situated as to render this practicable.

Commenting upon the action of the underwriters, the Insurance and Finance Journal says:—

"It is expected that the danger spots will have to bear the brunt of any increase, and, on the other hand, risks of a superior class, will have a favored consideration in rating. The object of this system of rating is to charge for insurance in proportion to the risk."