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By A. G. MORTIMER.

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The Canada Lumberman

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INTERESTS OF THE DOMINION.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

A. G. MORTIMER, PETERBOROUGH, ONT.

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PETERBOROUGH, ONT., AUGUST, 1887.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

If we are to accept the statement of the *Northwestern Lumberman* the price of lumber must have increased to a fabulous price in Canada lately, as that journal furnishes the startling intelligence that a loss of \$10,000 was incurred by the destruction by fire of 60,000 feet of lumber in Ottawa. Surely \$166 per thousand should leave the manufacturer at least a living margin of profit.

SHIPMENTS to Europe from Montreal, Quebec, St. John and Chatham, N.B., and other ports, are, according to latest reports, increasing daily. The English trade journals are chronicling almost daily arrivals from this side of the water, and although trade in that country is generally considered at low ebb, the consumption to all appearances is nevertheless large. Our news columns this month contain considerable information regarding the arrivals and sale of Canadian woods in Europe.

A NEW lumber cutter, a description of which is given on another page, has recently been tested in Toronto, and promises great results. This cutter substitutes a knife for a saw and does its work at one stroke. It cuts anything from a slab to a veneer and that without the slightest waste. Steps are already being taken for the organization of a strong company to go into the manufacture of this machine for the Canadian trade, and it is therefore quite probable that our readers will soon become familiar with the new process.

THE dispute between the Dominion and Ontario Governments *in re* the title to the timber land and minerals in north-western Ontario has been going on for some time, and although the Supreme Court has sustained Mr. Mowat in his views, the probability is that it will yet go before the Privy Council for final decision. Sir John Macdonald contends that

the title resides in the Dominion Government as acquirers of the Indian title, while Mr. Mowat on the other hand holds that the Indian title was extinguished, not acquired. Time will tell who is right.

"WE should not lose sight of the fact," said G. W. Warren, the pine land dealer, "that the greater part of the pine to be manufactured at Rat Portage and Winnipeg, for use in the British possessions, must come from this side of the line. The bulk of the stumpage is owned by Minnesota men, and so the condition of the market up there, and what is being done, is of a great deal of importance and interest. I look for a very important development up that way. More men are interested in the Northern slope development than is generally supposed."

ONE hundred in the shade is a temperature seldom experienced in this part of the world, but for the past month it has been no uncommon occurrence to see the thermometer sizzling around that number. By donning our airy, linen coat and trousseau, with a nicely starched unmentionable, we can stand ninety-nine, but when the thing gets up to a hundred and over a line has to be drawn somewhere. We drew the line and went over to see some of our American cousins, but the scheme didn't seem to work. The further we went the hotter it got, and after bunking on the floor for several nights with our head in close proximity to a refrigerator, we made up our mind that Canada was not such a mean place after all and accordingly packed our valise and took the first train for home. To get the lumbermen to talk business these days is just about out of the question. Even a newspaper man can't draw them out. Their main ambition now a-days seems to be directed to some sylvan resort where sweet breezes can lull them into a feeling of security against the heat of the office, and where by the aid of the lemon—and something else—they can keep in a somewhat natural physical and mental condition.

NEWS has recently come from Washington that the Treasury Department has decided that sawed elm boards 6½ feet in length, 1½ inches in thickness, the edges of which follow the natural shape of the tree, used in the manufacture of hoops, are dutiable at the rate of \$2 per thousand feet, board measure, under the tariff provisions for sawed elm lumber. And this decision, aimed at our Canadian mills, comes just after the resolution of our own Parliament, at the instigation of the friends of foreign industries, not to impose an export duty on elm logs. The manufacturers in the United States want our elm, but they are so greedy as to grudge Canadians the profit even of this primary stage manufacture, wishing to obtain at small cost our raw material that they may reap all the advantage of turning out the manufactured article. Well may the *Toronto World* remark that our Parliament has committed "a grave blunder" in allowing hardwood logs to be exported free of duty, and add that we are offering encouragement to carry off out of the country valuable raw material, which we ought to hold at home with a firm grip, in order that the wealth it is converted into may remain with the country to which it belongs. This decision of the Washington Treasury Board supplies another strong reason why the export duty should be exacted and our Parliament should reconsider the matter as soon as it again meets.

AN important meeting of the representative lumbermen of Ontario was held in Toronto the end of June, at which several important matters of peculiar interest to the trade in general came up for discussion. The meeting was of such a character that for the present no public statement can be made of the work done. Suffice it to say that live questions affecting legislation were freely talked over and steps taken to protect the trade in every case where an undue advantage was being taken by the government, calculated to prove injurious to the lumber industry. The question of the immediate organization of a Provincial Lumberman's Association was again debated, resulting in positive steps being taken to further the scheme. THE LUMBERMAN is pleased to accept this as an indication of unity among the trade, and the overthrow of the barriers which in the past have tended to destroy the unanimity of action which should characterize so important a body of manufacturers. In union is strength, and at no time in the history of the lumber trade of Canada is organization more required than at the present time. The vital interests of the trade are threatened by the late action of both the Ontario and Quebec governments, and the strongest influence must be brought to bear if the lumbermen are to be protected from serious loss. We hope at an early date to be in a position to give our readers tangible proof of the work now under way, and to announce as a matter of fact the successful organization of a Lumberman's Exchange for Ontario, to be followed no doubt, by similar action on the part of the trade in the other provinces of the Dominion.

A GOOD deal has been said for and against the timber on the Canadian side that grows in the Georgian Bay region, but those who have put their money in there appear to be fairly well satisfied that they will have a chance to turn it over again, notwithstanding the restrictions which the Dominion Government has seen fit to put upon the exportation of logs. A gentleman who has lately been in the Spanish river district, says that the quality of the timber there is very satisfactory. It is not cork pine, nor the soft, black knot timber, but it is a sort of medium size, red-knot variety that makes a good average. It does not run remarkably high to uppers, but it is said that it does yield a satisfactory low percentage of culls, which perhaps makes it worth quite as much. It is not apparently a class of stock that is either very choice or else good for nothing, but a sort that may nearly all be marketed at a fair price. The Detroit gentlemen who favor *The Lumberman* with some facts about that country this week, figure out a very good profit on it at present rates of cost and market value. He makes its net cost in pile at the mill \$9 for stock that will average, say, \$17 in the market. It can be freighted for about \$3, and with \$2 duty will cost \$14 in market, leaving \$3 as the net profit. There is, of course, not the bonanza in it there would be if there were no \$2 to pay the Government, but there is still a chance on this showing for those who have invested there to make a profit on what they have put in. They are likely also to profit later by the removal of the duty, which is pretty sure to come off within a few years on both sides. The fact of the matter is, the natural market for the pine standing in western Ontario is through the distributing points on the lakes, and the inevitable tendency of trade will carry it where there is a demand for it, and in time break down any barriers that stand in the way of its free movement.
—Chicago *Timberman*.