



PUBLISHED ON THE FIRST OF EACH MONTH

— BY —

C. H. MORTIMER

CONFEDERATION LIFE BUILDING, TORONTO

BRANCH OFFICE:

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE BUILDING, MONTREAL

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:

One Copy One Year, in advance \$1.00
 One Copy Six Months, in advance 50
 Foreign Subscriptions, \$1.50 a Year

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED ON APPLICATION

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.

GROWTH IN THE LUMBER TRADES.

WE have asked the question of representative men in the trade, whether it is anticipated that not only will free lumber give an encouraging impetus to the shipment of sawed lumber to the United States, but will it not also mean that we will be able in Canada to manufacture larger quantities of dressed lumber and send supplies in that shape across the border? Some of our correspondents are disposed to speak cautiously on the point, preferring, evidently, to let developments tell their own tale. At the same time the impression is strong with many in the trade, that if not immediately, at least before a great while, this department of lumber will grow, present mills will be enlarged, and planing mills will be erected in conjunction with our saw mills. What does this call for? And what does this mean? One thing is quite clear that with any considerable development in the manufacturing of dressed lumber there will need to come not a few improvements in the plants of our planing mills. We have a number of planing mills equipped in a very creditable manner and capable of a large output of manufactured product. With others, however, this is not the case and we apprehend that the advantage in the removal of the duty could be easily offset by the draw-backs of manufacturing with machinery that has been supplanted by that of a more modern character. As every manufacturer knows there is not worse economy anywhere than to undertake to manufacture on a liberal scale with a plant that has long since been supplanted by machinery capable of doing the same work not only more perfectly but with greatly increased expedition. The draw-back with many of the small manufacturers to-day in every line of business is the fact that they cannot compete with the larger concerns located in centers of population and equipped with the most improved machinery. Where are our smaller manufacturers of agricultural instruments to-day? They are either struggling along doing simply a small local trade, or they are wiped out of existence, because their plants are out of date, and they have not felt able to bear the expense of a new equipment. The opinion was expressed only a few weeks ago by a well-known

flour miller in the province that the small millers were having a hard time of it, because they were finding the competition of the big millers, with their improved facilities and greater opportunities for business, too much for them. It is the early bird catches the worm, so runs the old proverb, and if the changed situation of the month points correctly to an important development and growth in the planing mill business of the country the men who are quick to see the change and to take advantage of it will put themselves in a position to secure the trade now, which later on may not be so readily gotten hold of, or at least it will bear the burden of increased competition and possibly lesser profits.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

AN effort is to be made again to raft logs on the Pacific. Two lumbermen, of San Francisco, are at the head of an enterprise to raft lumber from Oregon to San Francisco, and a cradle, 600 by 50 feet with a capacity of 7,000,000 log measure, decked with 450,000 feet of sawed lumber, has already been started. This is not the first effort to raft logs on the Pacific, but hitherto the success has been of a doubtful character. Lumbermen will be interested in watching the outcome of the present movement.

THE Ontario Government has issued the following regulations to apply in Algonquin National Park, recently set aside for forestry purposes: "All visitors are to furnish the superintendent or ranger with their names and their addresses, and the part of the park they intend to visit, with the duration of their stay; they are forbidden to cut or injure standing timber; hunting, trapping or fishing other than by line is forbidden, and a permit must be obtained from the superintendent for that. And no fish can be taken beyond the park boundaries; fires must be kindled on bare rock; nor more than one firearm may be carried by each party of visitors; no visitors are allowed in the park during the open season for moose and deer, viz., from October 20 to November 15."

MENTION was made in these columns at the time of the breaking of a boom at Tonawanda, N. Y., allowing a huge raft of square timber belonging to the H. M. Loud & Sons Lumber Co. to go over Niagara Falls. For the next two months the shores of Lake Ontario, from Oswego to Hamilton beach, were dotted with sticks of timber that had drifted ashore and some of these managed to land as far as the Humber and the Island. Several of the sticks that came ashore near the Humber were, it is alleged, picked up by Mr. Chas. Nurse, and a Hamilton legal firm have now issued a writ on behalf of the Loud Co. for \$200, against Nurse for alleged wrongful conversion of the timber. The trial will bring out the interesting question of the rights of owners to the floatsam and jetsam that comes ashore.

STRIKES and boycotts are in many cases two-edged tools. Whether or not at the time they serve the immediate purpose aimed for, it is often the case afterwards that they cut where least expected. The growth of labor disturbances is such as to make capital exceedingly wary in all its movements. There have been no serious labor difficulties in lumber circles of late, at least with workmen whose duties call them into the woods. But capitalists are commencing to say, "though we have not yet been struck, there is no telling when our turn may come." Doubtless it has been from motives like this that large lumber operators of the northwestern states, have declared it as their intention to insist upon the employees signing an iron-clad contract before entering upon their duties in the woods for the next winter's operations. This is a rebound of the Debs' agitation that would hardly have been foreseen at the time it was precipitated.

IT is a recognized law of commerce, for stern practice makes it so, that trade will always move in the direction where prices are the lowest, other conditions being equal. We find an illustration of this in the action of British Columbia mill men, who have lately found it more profitable, owing to the low prices there, to buy logs in the Puget Sound district, than to operate their own camps. Within the past two months over 5,000,000

feet of logs have been shipped from Ballard and other points to Vancouver. An increased activity in the foreign lumber market, however, has caused the Washington territory people to advance the price of fir logs \$1.00 per thousand and following the same law of trade this increase being above the mark, British Columbia lumbermen are not likely to continue buying at the amended figure.

THE supposed soundness of wheat as an asset by whomsoever possessed has long since caused to pass into a proverb the expression "Good as wheat," as indicating the financial strength of any commercial concern. But how the situation has changed; wheat is no longer worth \$1.00 to \$1.50 a bushel, but it is down to 50c. and hardly any commodity in the market is a greater drug. This condition causes a lumber cotemporary to suggest that the time has come when the old saying "Good as wheat" might be substituted by "Good as lumber." Perhaps in view of conditions as they exist at this moment there will be some to say that the change is not warranted by facts. Is it not? Every day lumber, whether in the shape of the standing tree, or cut and dressed, becomes more valuable, for whilst wheat can be raised every season, should it by chance become scarce forest products are becoming lessened in quantity every year and it takes not one season, but many seasons, to raise a good crop of trees. And even in this direction, with our knowledge of the continued lessening of the source of lumber supplies, very little effort is made to amend matters.

THE forest fire has again been playing terrible havoc with lumber interests on this continent. Fortunately up to the present time this season Canada has not suffered to any appreciable extent from this cause, but within the past month fires have swept over Wisconsin and Minnesota, greater in extent of loss and suffering than has been the case from any fires, probably, since the fall of 1891. Great loss has been experienced at Phillip, Wis., where the great lumbering plant of the John R. Davis Lumber Co. was located. Out of 700 buildings only 30 have remained standing, Mr. Davis remarking to a friend that he had what he stood in and that was about all. It is supposed that the loss to the Davis' Co. will amount to nearly \$1,500,000 and additional to this fully another \$500,000 will be needed to cover the loss to the town. Fortunately the insurance runs up into pretty good figures. The distress among the people of the town has been very great, as not only were their homes burnt with all their contents, but they have been left practically shelterless and almost without clothing and provisions. About the same time that the Phillip fire broke out the consuming element had commenced its work at Mason, Wis., Oshkosh, Wis., and Minneapolis, Minn. It is calculated that at least 100,000,000 feet of lumber have been wiped out within the month in this manner.

IN other years, we have been told, there has not been as much lumber piled on the docks at Saginaw and Bay City, Mich., at one time, as at present, the estimated amount being close to 300,000,000 feet. This is one indication only of the extent of the depression in lumber among our neighbors to the south. The hope, however, is strong, with the tariff difficulty settled, that there will be a speedy moving of these immense stocks of lumber for the wisest heads in lumber circles are holding to the opinion that this depression has only been waiting for a settlement of the tariff matter to bring it to an early end. No doubt much of this lumber that is held could have been disposed of, if the owners were prepared to have sacrificed prices. We have been told by a lumberman who has recently returned from a visit to Michigan and other American lumber points, that those who have been able to hold their lumber, pending the tariff settlement, have done so, knowing that it is too good an asset to sacrifice in any way. It is perfectly true that there has been some slacking in prices, but these breaks have been usually made by the smaller men, who have been compelled to realize on their lumber to meet immediate obligations. Another good indication of the substantial character of lumber as an asset is to be found in the comparatively small number of failures that have taken place among lumbermen during these months of trying depression.