

WHY NOT CANADIAN PINE?

The British Timber Trade Journal says:—

"An illustration of the successful competition of American woods in the old-world markets, in place of European products, is afforded by the repeat order for a million feet of decking from a Hamburg shipbuilding firm, received by the Puget Sound mills, to be loaded in November and December next. Three mills—viz. the Tacoma, Port Blakely and Port Gamble Mills—have undertaken to fill the order, no one mill caring to undertake it, not from want of sawing capacity, but because the manufacturer of a million feet of decking of first grade may require the cutting of ten million feet of logs from which to make selections. Hamburg is situated at the threshold of the Baltic, and close to the wood-producing countries of Europe, and it is very significant that it should be considered expedient to send an order for deck planking to the other side of the world, necessitating a sailing voyage of nearly six months from the mills to the discharging port. We have heard that our shipbuilders at home do not look favorably on Oregon pine for decking purposes, but from the fact that the Hamburg shipbuilders' order has been repeated, it would appear to be more appreciated in Germany."

HIGHER EDUCATION IN SAXONY.

Consul Monaghan sends from Chemnitz, a report upon the "further developing" schools of Saxony. With a population of 3,783,014, the Kingdom has 1,953 of the schools, with 75,358 boys and 1,699 girls in attendance. Besides these, there are thirty-nine higher industrial schools, with 10,660 scholars; 112 industrial technical schools, with 10,119 scholars; forty-four commercial schools, with 4,781 scholars; eleven agricultural schools, with 691 scholars; seven schools of all kinds of work for girls, with 1,569 scholars; and eighteen technical schools for girls, with 2,445 scholars. Saxony's wonderful wealth, continues Mr. Monaghan, her industrial greatness, and the fact that she sends out to other parts of the world millions of dollars worth of all kinds of wares, toys, textiles, tools, and machines, attest the importance of these schools. To explain just what is meant by the term "further developing," the consul adds that the system of common-school education under which boys and girls were given an ordinary training up to their fourteenth year was found inadequate. Compulsory education was established for graduates of the common schools. The hours of attendance are early in the morning or a certain number of afternoon each week. Manufacturers, merchants, etc., are made responsible for the attendance of the boys in their employ, and the latter make a special study of the trade in which they are occupied.

FENCE WIRE WANTED IN ARGENTINA.

The Argentine Republic, according to a French consular report, offers an important market for iron and steel fence wire. The necessity of fences around the great tracts of land has led the Argentine land holders to seek the class of fencing which can be most quickly and cheaply put up. Practically all ranches which are enclosed are surrounded by either plain or barbed wire fences, more frequently plain. These fences, on well equipped places, are made of five or six strands of wire strung upon posts of "quebracho colorado" wood buried in the earth to a depth of about three feet. As this wood does not rot easily, fences constructed on this plan with a good quality of wire will last almost indefinitely.

Almost all the fence wire introduced into Argentina is from either Germany or Belgium. In 1896, out of an importation of 40,318,571 kilos, the part sent by Germany was 17,612,434 kilos, and by Belgium 12,073,587 kilos. After these countries came England and the United States, while France sent only 14,065 kilos. The United States Treasury figures give the amount of wire exported from this country to Argentina during 1896 as 2,977,000 pounds or 1,353,000 kilos. This figure, while including iron and steel wire of all kinds, was probably made up almost entirely of fence wire.

IMPORTANT REVISION OF CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

With the view of simplifying the forms of Canadian customs entry and of facilitating the ascertainment of true values, new oaths and declarations in relation to invoices and entries have been prescribed by order in Council. The old forms of oaths are repealed from January 1, 1899. The new forms may be used between now and that date, but it is imperative that they be used on and after that date. Under the present form of oath required to be made by importers on making entry of goods they have to swear that the invoice presented at the customs exhibits the fair market value of the goods when sold for home consumption in the country whence exported, which is the standard of value for duty purposes in Canada, while in very many cases the invoices are based upon special export prices, and do not represent fair market value. To meet such cases and to make the oath fairer to the importer it has been deemed advisable to make a change in the form.

Under the new form of oath the importer is required to declare that the invoice presented at customs truly represents the transaction, and that the value shown on the entry (not on the invoice), exhibits the fair market value of the goods when sold for home consumption in the country of export. Importers being required to enter their goods at the value as sold in the country of export, it is of course necessary for them to declare that such value is the value which they have placed on the entry form. Amongst other things declaration must be made that "the value for duty of the goods as stated in the bill of entry exhibits the fair market value of the goods at the time and place of their direct exportation to Canada and as when sold at the same time and place in the same quantity and condition, for home consumption, in the principal markets of the country whence exported directly to Canada, without any discount or deduction for cash, or on account of any drawbacks or bounty, or on account of any royalty actually payable thereon, or payable thereon when sold for home consumption but not payable when exported, or on account of the exportation thereof, or for any special consideration whatever." The importer is required to confirm the bill of entry in all particulars, such as the entry of goods, entry of goods at preferential tariff rates, or the entry of goods for special purposes, and therefore entitled to be admitted free or at a lower rate of duty than would otherwise be chargeable.

In addition to calling for this new oath, the department has prescribed a new form of certificate to be made by exporters on their invoices. At present all the exporter has to do is to write the words, "certified correct," on the invoice. Under the new regulation he will be required to certify that:—"This invoice is true and correct, and where there is a difference between any of the prices shown therein and the ordinary credit prices at which the same articles are now sold bona fide by the exporter in like quantity and condition at this place for consumption in this country the latter prices are shown on the margin or elsewhere on such invoice," and the certificate must be signed by the exporter, or a partner, official or employee of the exporter having a knowledge of the facts certified to and to be written, printed or stamped on the face or back of the invoice. The certificate of value required to be made by exporters, on their invoices does not apply to goods sold for entry under the preferential tariff until otherwise ordered, nor does it apply to goods not being merchandise, free goods or goods subject to a specific duty. It is intended that this arrangement shall come into operation on January 1, 1899. It would be well for business men to take cognizance of this and draw the matter to the attention of the foreign merchants from whom they purchase, so as to insure compliance with the regulations.

Under the present arrangement two declarations are necessary when an entry is made by any person other than the importer. When it is made by the agent of the importer the agent is required to make a declaration that the invoice represents the real value of the goods. In addition to that the