



PUBLISHED ON THE FIRST OF EACH MONTH

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OFFICE.

75 CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE BUILDING
TORONTO, ONTARIO

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

J. S. ROBERTSON, EDITOR.

CHAT WITH SUBSCRIBERS.

PURSUING the policy that regulates every well-conducted business, we enclose in this month's CANADA LUMBERMAN accounts against the individual subscribers who, in the festivities of a holiday season or the excitement of a municipal election contest, have overlooked the fact that they have not yet remitted the year's subscription to their own trade journal, for the CANADA LUMBERMAN is essentially the lumberman's journal. Our subscription books should show a clean sheet on first of February, and all that is needed to make this a fact is for each individual concerned to attend to this little affair now. The successful business man attends to-day to the affairs of to-day.

FIRST MONTH THOUGHTS.

ACORDIAL and hearty New Year's greeting is extended by the CANADA LUMBERMAN to its many subscribers in all parts of the world.

There's a new foot on the floor, my friend,
And a new face at the door, my friend,
A new face at the door.

writes Tennyson, and in the company of this new friend may all our friends spend many pleasant and prosperous days.

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This number of the CANADA LUMBERMAN marks the commencement of the fourteenth year of publication, a record that reflects not uncreditably on the industries for which the LUMBERMAN essays to speak, and we may be permitted to add, nor on the journal itself. Horace Greeley once declared: "The success of a newspaper depends largely, very largely, upon the friendliness and co-operation of its constituency." And the LUMBERMAN has reason to believe that its success during these thirteen years, and more particularly, the enlarged success that has come to it, within more recent years, has been due to the cordial and friendly relations that have always existed between the paper and its readers. We shall continue, during the new year, to make the LUMBERMAN of increased value to the lumber trade in the broad field it now occupies, and thus continue to merit, by actual doing, the many kind words that are constantly spoken of it.

The February LUMBERMAN will be the annual statistical number, giving a review of the lumber trade of the past year, and we will appreciate any information that readers can send us concerning this matter from their individual localities.

DANGERS OF LUMBERING.

ONE of the sad aspects of lumbering is the number and distressing nature of the accidents constantly happening to the workmen employed in the manufacture of forest products. Considering the matter from this point of view we have sometimes experienced a feeling of relief when the period had arrived for the closing down of the sawmills of the country. But it is a question whether the mishaps occurring to those engaged at work in the woods are not as many, and just as terrible, as those that happen within the walls of the sawmills. In the winter woodmen are exposed to risks of work and weather that are only met, often, at the cost of bruised bodies, frozen limbs, and too often death itself. One of

the saddest experiences of this winter's work in Canadian woods, comes from the shanties in the eastern lumber regions, and is embodied in a recent newspaper despatch from Ottawa. John Burns was engaged in one of Mr. J. R. Booth's lumber camps on the Black River, some 110 miles from Mackey's station on the C.P.R., and left the camp on December 23rd with the intention of coming home to Ottawa to spend his Christmas holidays. He was met on the road coming down by John Dasser, jogging along. Four days afterwards the unfortunate man was found standing up with his arm around a tree some six miles away from the camp he had left on the 23rd. Mr. Dasser was returning when he espied the unfortunate man, and thinking he was dead, exclaimed, "Why, that's John Burns, and he is dead." "Not dead," replied the unfortunate man, "but nearly dead." He was carefully taken into the conveyance and brought to Mackey's station. On examination it was found that his legs and arms were frozen solid. He had been four days and four nights exposed to the intense frost without any nourishment. He was treated in the Pembroke hospital for a few days, and on Saturday was brought to Ottawa. It is feared the unfortunate man cannot recover.

TWO PICTURES OF THE SAW MILL.

"THE saw mill," it has been remarked, "is a potent agent in civilization. To most localities it has brought everything—people, post office, schools, churches, water, electric light and all the luxuries." This may seem, to the average man, a fanciful picture of anything so material and thoroughly wooden as a saw mill, and yet one needs only to study with some care the early history of most newly-settled countries to learn how nearly the picture approaches the reality.

Little progress is made in any locality until the forest is cleared, in part, at least, of its native product. The agriculturist, who certainly has a right to rank as a pioneer in the opening up of new settlements, is handicapped in his work until the woodman has felled the trees, that the virgin soil may be made to bring forth of its fruits.

This work of clearing the forest is with difficulty performed without the aid of the saw mill, and the saw mill man gravitates to these newer territories as naturally as water courses down a hill. His saw mill may be crude in its construction and methods compared with the more modern mill that will succeed it, but the saw mill is there, bringing with it the good and desirable, and sometimes not a few of the worse and undesirable, things that follow in the train of every agent of civilization.

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This is one picture. The saw mill, however, effective as it has proven as an agent of progress, would seem to be, in the present day, often too rapacious in its demands and unnecessarily energetic in its methods. The pendulum has swung to the other side, and we are feeling some of the hurtful effects that follow when extremes are reached.

What is meant by this remark has been pointed out in these columns on more than one occasion. In a brief sentence it was expressed in an article in the November LUMBERMAN, when, in speaking of the pine resources of this province, we said that the lumbermen had pierced so nearly through our pine forests with their operations that daylight, so to speak, can be plainly seen through from the other side. A few years ago this statement would have been followed in the minds of lumbermen with a big interrogation mark, but to-day it causes no surprise. Not only is it known that these are the conditions, in a large measure, in our own country, but similar conditions exist in Michigan, and will, apparently, prove the history of other provinces at no far distant date, as they have of other countries in past days.

What is the remedy? Students of forestry have given us more than one panacea for these various ills, and, impracticable as they may be considered sometimes in their conclusions and propositions, lumbermen, nevertheless, owe these men a considerable debt for the thoughtful study they have given the question.

Germany has made forestry almost a science in the exactness of the methods employed in their schools of forestry and in their breadth and comprehensiveness of

treatment. A history of the work in France, India and Great Britain is replete with interest, and in this newer land, where the development has been of slower growth, the labors of Prof. B. E. Fernow, chief of the forestry department of the United States Department of Agriculture, and our own forestry clerk, Mr. R. W. Phipps, of the Ontario Government, are worthy of favorable mention.

The importance of a study of forestry by lumbermen and agriculturists has lately been emphasized by the publication in a leading German agricultural journal of an article showing most conclusively that the famine that has caused so much distress in Russia recently is due to the indiscriminate cutting down of the forests of that country during the past thirty years, drying up the waters in rivers and lakes and impoverishing the land so that it has become unfit for cultivation. The intelligent lumberman will always experience an intelligent interest in the study of forestry.

There are remedies outside of forestry preservation that may be employed to secure to the country the full benefit of its forest wealth. Knowing pretty accurately the remnant of forest that remains, government and lumbermen need to go slowly in the disposition of this wealth in the future. Even in the utilization of the waste products of forest and mill, to which some reference is made in another column, greater frugality has become essential. In the marketing of lumber there is no longer occasion to value the products too cheaply. It is one of the fundamentals of political economy that as supplies run short demand increases and prices advance. This is the lumber situation in Canada just now.

Mr. Little and those who view the situation from his standpoint would not remain satisfied with only an intelligent application of forestry methods, nor with placing a favorable consideration on the timber of the country. They argue with much force that whatever gain is to come from this valuable resource should come entirely to our own people. The timber we cut should be manufactured into lumber in Canadian mills and by Canadian workmen.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

UNITED STATES capitalists continue to acquire important lumber interests in Canada. An American syndicate, has, within the month, completed a deal with Richard Nagle, of Ottawa, Ont., by purchasing 144 miles of timber limits in the Nipissing district for \$150,000.

THE opinion is entertained by some that the entrance of Hon. Mr. Ives, of Quebec, into the Dominion Cabinet means an early reimposition of the log duty. What is altogether more likely is that the relief to Canadian lumber interests, which is sought for in some circles, will come through lumber being placed on the free list by a Cleveland administration. The McKinley bill must go, and so far as lumber is concerned the trend of public opinion in the States is strongly in the direction of free lumber. Leading lumbermen from the Georgian Bay district, who have recently been across the border, are reported to have expressed the opinion that this is the view of those who are believed to know something of coming Democratic legislation.

WHEN in the office of Messrs. Donogh & Oliver a few days ago the LUMBERMAN was shown samples of British Columbia kiln-dried cedar shingles for roofing, the product of two Vancouver mills. The trade in Ontario who have had an opportunity of inspecting these shingles are, we are informed by Mr. Donogh, favorably impressed with their appearance. They are a clear, bright looking shingle, and it is claimed by the makers that they can be laid with $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches exposure instead of $4\frac{1}{2}$. This, if correct, is undoubted economy and materially offsets the extra cost, which is say \$2.80 as against \$2.50 for Ontario shingles. They are wider and thinner than this province's products, and for this reason less likely to warp or split. Red cedar shingles are making their way into Ontario. A week ago a shipment of lumber was received by a local dealer in London, containing 60,000 red cedar shingles, and samples of Douglas Fir dressed into flooring.