

Archbishop Croke, as we anticipated, has evidently been called to account by his superiors at Rome, for counselling non-payment of taxes. He now says that he never gave such advice, and adds that he must be a fool who looks to other than constitutional means to right what he regards as the wrongs of Ireland.

Sir John Macdonald has replied to a deputation which went to urge the enlargement of the St. Lawrence canals, that the work will be undertaken whenever the state of the finances will admit of it. This has been the standing condition ever since the birth of confederation: the reply in no way alters the case.

THE LUMBER TRADE.

Dealers in and producers of lumber take a generally hopeful view of that department of trade in so far as the present summer season's business is concerned, disturbed only by the apprehension of strikes in the building trades, which are talked of. Beyond that, the prospect for next year may be somewhat interfered with by the excess of snow in the woods in all parts of Canada, and its effect on production.

There will not be any more lumber made in Ontario and Quebec this year than last, we are told. No new mills of important size have gone up, and the few new ones are too small to much increase the output. From Ottawa we learn that there is by no means the "boom" in lumber at that point which existed at this time last year, when the duties were reported about to be removed. Deals, in considerable parcels, have, however, been sold for English account. Stocks of logs, we hear, are showing signs of running short; and dry lumber will certainly be scarce. In New Brunswick, it appears, though more teams than usual were put into the woods, no more logs were cut.

American journals devoted to that industry take a bright view. The *Saginaw Lumberman's Gazette* of last week declares that every indication points to the belief that unless some unexpected event happens the lumber business will open encouragingly with the opening of navigation. A correspondent of that journal, writing from Chicago at the beginning of March states that the labor situation has improved decidedly and there is less danger of strikes than is usual at this time of year. Lumber stocks in the west are being depleted, and the demand for all species of lumber in the Chicago market is increasing steadily since the middle of February. Heavy shipments to points far east are already a feature of Chicago trade, probably because of a cut of 5 cents in railway freight rates. In the issue of the 9th inst. the tone is even more buoyant.

A meeting of the Wholesale Lumber Dealers' Association, held a fortnight ago in Chicago, agreed to an advance in price of common and No. 2 boards, common flooring, fencing, and four-inch flooring of three higher grades. According to *Lumber*, of March 2nd, every description of stock is

being firmly held in all markets, with a slight prospect of advance in hemlock and yellow pine. The building outlook in the States is bright, and sash, door and blind factories in the States are busy. It is stated by the *North-Western Lumberman*, March 5th, that the trade of the past winter (in the North-West, we presume) has been, in point of distribution, probably greater than that of any since 1881-2. "While there has been no notable movement from mill points on lakes Huron and Michigan, or buying of lumber in advance, there has, however, lately been an increase in this branch of business. Sales are beginning to take place frequently in Saginaw valley and at ports on the east shore of Lake Michigan. Inquiries are still more numerous than sales, but the indications are that all the cross-piled lumber at Muskegon, Manistee, Ludington, White Lake, Menominee, and other Lake Michigan points will be wanted, and at firm prices, before green stock begins to be thrown on the market."

Not quite so sanguine as their United States friends are their cousins in the United Kingdom. Notwithstanding the evident revival in the iron and steel trade, in shipbuilding, in textiles at many points in England and Scotland, the demand for wood to be used in the building trades is slack. At Hartlepool, a great centre for timber imports, matters at the end of February were very quiet. At Newcastle the dulness of the month was only enlivened by a little stir at the close. The building trade in London was still inactive; but little timber moving in Liverpool; "trade still quiet" was the report from Bristol; "demand quiet" the word at Glasgow and Greenock. About the only port to show an active request was Hull, and this is to be accounted for mainly by briskness in the Bradford trade, four wool mills being in course of erection. As the *Timber Trades Journal* puts it: "Immense quantities of foreign timber, in one shape or another, are constantly moving off from those great centres of industry; nevertheless the supply may be larger than the demand, and consequently the profits of the business very small in proportion to the money turned, and even those liable to be swept away by bad debts. This is the foundation of the complaints of trade. If we are even doing much, and getting nothing by it, that is bad trade to us. But we do it rather than be left out in the cold, and overlooked altogether as 'not in the swim.' We just keep our connection in hand for the chance of doing better with it by and by."

After discussing the state of the market at various ports in the British Islands the journal quoted concludes that, after all, British trade is really better than it has been. All through Yorkshire, most of the mills are in full operation; so in Scotland, the revival is felt at Dundee and Aberdeen, and in Ireland at Belfast, where the power-looms are now well employed. "Only the timber trade seems to be still in doubt, but its time is coming. Politics are quiet and money easy, two great helps on the road to prosperity."

THE NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERY DISPUTE.

The fishery dispute between France and Newfoundland is of old standing. The Bait Bill, its latest expression, covers no part of the ground of the original difficulty, but is used ostensibly as a protective weapon. A dispute over the respective rights of the two parties, on the most prominent part of the east coast, has been going on for more than a century. A century of wrangling may be traced to the treaty of Versailles, and, strange to say, had its origin in a sincere desire on the part of Great Britain to prevent disputes. But the measures taken, instead of attaining the end proposed, proved an incessant source of wrangling. The relative conditions of the two fisheries at present bear a close resemblance to what it was in 1818; though the case of the Newfoundlanders is not nearly so desperate as then, the price of fish having, at that time, fallen to one half what it had previously been.

Complaints of the encroachments by the French fishermen are frequently made by Newfoundlanders; the accused retorting that they are interfered with in the enjoyment of their treaty rights, by the very persons who bring accusations against them. The respective rights of the two parties depend upon the treaty of Versailles, made in the year, 1783. To this treaty are added declarations by representatives of the king of France and of the king of Great Britain, which help to remove any obscurity which the text might contain. By this treaty the sovereign of Great Britain is expressly "maintained in his right to the island of Newfoundland," which had been insisted on as an absolute condition in the negotiations for peace of Utrecht, nearly three-quarters of a century before. This point was one from which Great Britain persistently refused to recede. The fact that Great Britain was maintained in her right to the island in 1783, disposes of any claim to a proprietary right which France might make to any portion of the coast.

The fishery rights of France secured by the treaty of Utrecht extended from Cape Bonavista to Cape St. John, on the eastern coast of the island. By the treaty of Versailles these limits were restricted in extent on the north, and increased on the south; the French right of fishing beginning as before at Cape St. John, extended as far as Cape Ray, 47° 50' instead of 50° as before, a contraction on the north of more than two degrees, and an extension on the south of about one degree.

The mode of carrying on the fishery underwent no change; the French fishermen continued to enjoy their right of fishery in the same manner as under the treaty of Utrecht; that is, they were to erect nothing but scaffolds on the coast, to confine themselves to drying their fish and repairing their vessels, but they were not at liberty to winter there. The English, on their part, were not to molest the French in the enjoyment of these privileges.

Among the declarations attached to the treaty, and which must be read with it, is one by the British negotiator, the Duke of Manchester, in which he engages that the