

ment," the general manager replied by stating that the barley men throughout the country were clamoring for cars, all anxious to get rid of their stock before the McKinley bill comes into force, practically prohibiting them from shipping across the border, and that their wants must be attended to. Before the committee retired Sir Joseph stated that he would be pleased at an early date to meet a committee representing the lumbermen and discuss with them ways and means for increased facilities for shipping during the winter months.

AFTER months of agitation and speculation regarding the final destiny of the lumber clause of the McKinley tariff bill in the United States Congress a verdict has at last been reached. The House conferees have accepted the Senate's amendment, making a reduction on sawed boards, planks, deals, and other lumber; of hemlock, white wood, sycamore, white pine and basswood, of \$1 per M feet board measure. The House proviso in regard to the export duty levied by any foreign country on logs has been restored, which means that in order to derive a benefit from the reduction in the import duty on our lumber the Dominion government will be called upon to remove the existing export duty of \$2 on Canadian logs. While THE LUMBERMAN has always spoken in favor of maintaining our export duty as an offset to the high tariff on lumber from this country, it is only justice to the trade of both countries that we should meet the present action of Congress half way by abolishing the export duty. The revenue to our government which has been derived from the export duty referred to has been too meagre to cause any perceptible decrease in the Dominion's finances, and the impetus the reduction in the import duty will give to the Canadian lumber trade will doubly make up for any deficiency in this regard. There seems to be but little doubt in the minds of those who are in a position to know the feeling of the government on this question, that immediate action will be taken towards abolishing what Americans term "the pernicious Canadian log duty." We predict that just so soon as the McKinley bill becomes law there will be a revival in the lumber trade in this country such as we have not had for years. It is indeed a consummation devoutly to be wished.

SPLINTERS.

WE learn that the duty on Mahogany lumber, as proposed by the McKinley tariff bill, has been reduced to ten per cent. *ad volorem*, instead of thirty-five, as heretofore proposed.

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AN important meeting of lumbermen, at which every mill manufacturing pine lumber between Lake Superior and Winnipeg was represented, was held at Rat Portage, Ont., on Sept. 22nd. A new price list was adopted, and prices were readjusted. The new list comes into effect at once.

* * *

DURING 1889 the total value of exports of lumber and the products of the forest from Canada to Brazil was \$13,118, to Chili \$67,137, to Peru \$31,113, to the Argentine Republic \$560,956 and to Uruguay \$73,787. Over 23,000,000 feet of lumber was exported from Canada to South America last year.

PAPER, tough as wood, is said now to be made by mixing chloride of zinc with the pulp in the course of manufacture. It has been found that the greater the degree of concentration of the zinc solution, the greater will be the toughness of the paper. It can be used for making gas pipes, boxes, combs, for roofing, and even, it is added, for making boats.

* * *

R. A. GREGORY, well known in lumber circles in the province of New Brunswick, died last month at St. John, aged 68 years. He came to this country from Ireland when 13 years old, and worked his way up until he became a large operator. For several years he has conducted a large mill on the west side of the harbor at St. John.

OFFICIAL returns for the seven months ending July 30th show a decline of from £233,501 to £188,315 in the value of square timber exported from Canada to Great Britain as compared with the corresponding period of 1889, and in the value of lumber a decline of from £1,030,978 to £1,039,533. Exports of lumber for July show an increase of £63,079 as compared with the same month of 1889.

* * *

VALUABLE timber limits belonging to Rochester, Doherty & Co., comprising 127 1/2 square miles, together with improvements, will be offered for sale at public auction, at the Russel House, Ottawa, Ont., on October 28th. The limits are situated on the Ottawa River opposite Mattawa and have a frontage of twenty-one miles. Owing to the death of the late W. H. Doherty (one of the partners) these limits will be sold to wind up the business. See advertisement on another page.

ENGLISH lumbermen are manifesting a growing liking for Oregon pine of all dimensions, and it looks as if a good future lies before the saw mill companies of that region when the Isthmus of Panama shall be cut through. It can then be laid down in England at a great reduction from present prices and its large dimensions, durability and freedom from knots and sap will be sure to make it a prime favorite.

THE estate of the late firm of F. G. Strickland & Co., New Westminster, is likely to turn out much better than was first anticipated. One hundred cents on the dollar will be paid and a respectable surplus left for the benefit of the firm. No men in their line of business as machinery agents were better known in British Columbia. F. G. Strickland has resumed business.

THE old and well-known lumber and manufacturing firm of E. & B. Holmes, of Buffalo, N. Y., recently failed for about a million dollars, after having been about fifty years in business. The assets at the time of failure were reported to be ample. They have since settled with their creditors at 50 cents on the dollar, payable in 6, 12, 18 and 24 months, without interest, secured by mortgage on real estate.

EXCHANGE ECHOES.

Northwestern Lumberman.

Although a great deal is said by Canadians concerning the undesirability of allowing American lumbermen to have access to Dominion forests without paying roundly for the privilege, there is little doubt that over the whole of Canada a reduction in the import lumber duty by the United States would be hailed with great joy, even though it did involve the removal of an export log duty by the Dominion. The Canadians are doing considerable talking, but they know on which side their bread is buttered.

Timberman.

Strange as it may seem, although the mountain ranges of Australia are clothed with dense forests, some of the trees almost overtopping the sequoias of California, that whole country does not produce a wood available for the manufacture of barrels and pails, and the thousand and one articles that are made of our soft wood. Not a clothes-pin is made in all Australia, and this insignificant little implement is a staple article of our trade with those colonies, being shipped thither almost by the ship load. Australia draws upon California for her redwood, upon Washington for pine, but her clothes-pins, pails, tubs and such like ware she obtains from New York, Boston and Philadelphia. Her street cars are principally of New York manufacture.

Northwestern Lumberman.

Notwithstanding all the free lumber talk, when the lumber clause of the McKinley tariff bill came up for consideration in the senate last week all propositions to remove the duty from lumber were voted down. The wood schedule is reported to have been passed practically as it came from the committee, except that pine clapboards were added to the items to be reduced from \$2 to \$1. The duty on white pine shingles was placed at 20 cents a thousand. The committee had changed the proviso which added the amount of the export log duty imposed by any country to the amount of import duty on lumber, so that it provided for a retention of the duty hitherto existing in the case of any country which maintained an export duty on logs. Thus Canada would not get the benefit of a reduction in the import lumber duty until action was taken by the Dominion government to do away with the existing export

log duty. Assurance has again been received that Sir John Macdonald has agreed that the duty shall be removed should congress finally adopt a lumber duty of \$1, and he will, without doubt, be called upon to fulfill the alleged promise. The fight over the reduction of duty in the senate was very sharp. The prairie state representatives wanted free lumber, and those from lumber producing states chiefly acted on the defensive. Senator Stockbridge, of Michigan, called attention to the magnitude of the lumber business in his state alone, and held that owing to the lesser cost of production in Canada \$2 was a thoroughly equitable duty. He gave Michigan's lumber product last year as 4,643,000,000 feet in round numbers, which sold for over \$60,000,000 while 23,752 men were employed, exclusive of the woods, the mills alone paying out about \$7,670,000 in wages. He said also that about \$200,000,000 was invested in the lumber mills and appliances of this country, and that over \$90,000,000 was annually paid out in wages. After extended consideration and long delay the tariff bill itself was passed last Wednesday; and having gone that far, little doubt could remain of its ultimately becoming a law, concurrence by the lower house and the president's signature only remaining necessary.

Southern Lumberman.

Lumbermen and investors who, at present values, obtain large bodies of oak timber lands will, beyond doubt, reap a rich harvest in the future; as, contrary to the general belief, it is a difficult matter to procure this class of timber lands, and prices can not but advance. Lumbermen who have prospected through the Virginias, Tennessee, and other Southern States, report that accessible, large bodies of oak timber are few and far between. At present, perhaps, the finest bodies of large oak are to be found in the Mississippi Valley and the Yazoo Delta. Since the introduction of quarter sawing the demand for oak lumber has wonderfully increased and there can be no doubt that values will continue steadily to advance.

PERSONAL.

Mr. E. H. Bronson, lumberman, has been made a member of the Ontario Cabinet.

Mr. C. A. Larkin, a well-known lumberman of Brandon, Man., visited the city last week and gave THE LUMBERMAN a call. He reports trade good in the west.

Mr. Norman McIntyre, saw mill man, of Durham, Ont., called at the LUMBERMAN's office last month on his return from Quebec. He reports the lumber trade as being very dull in the Ancient City.

Mr. John Nicholl, of Queensboro, Ont., paid us a visit last month.

FIRE RECORD.

Champion's saw mill, situated near Campbellton, N. B., was burned on Sept. 11th. Loss heavy.

The saw and planing mill owned by F. W. Galbraith, at Bethany, Ont., was recently burned. Loss \$2,000; insurance \$800.

The planing mill of the Cobban Manufacturing Company, Toronto, was damaged by fire on August 29th to the extent of about \$14,000.

F. G. McMullen's steam saw mill, at Shubencadie, N. S., was completely destroyed by fire on Sept. 13th. The loss is estimated at \$12,000.

Fire in the lumber yard belonging to Gall, Anderson & Co., Toronto, on Sept. 2nd, caused damage to the amount of about \$1,000.

The old Loggie mill on the public wharf at Chatham, N. B., and which has not been worked for many years, was recently burned, supposed to be of incendiary origin. The machinery in the building was worth from \$1,000 to \$1,200. No insurance.

L. W. Patten's drying kiln at Spallumcheen, B. C., caught fire the other day and was completely destroyed, together with about 5,000 feet of lumber. Loss, about \$300.

The Lothair & Modis planing factory and the W. H. Plummet Lumber Company's lumber yards at Sault Ste Marie, were destroyed by fire on Sept 12th. Total loss about \$14,000, insurance \$10,000. Cause of the fire unknown.

The saw and grist mills at Kagawong, Ont., belonging to Mr. J. W. Lang of Toronto, were burned on Sept. 13th. The mills, which were a total loss, were rented to Mr. J. A. Wilson, who succeeded in saving a small amount of lumber. The mills were insured for \$1,200. Mr. Wilson had no insurance.

The steam saw mill of Joseph Bedard, at Windsor, Que., was burned Aug. 7th. Mr. Bedard had 22 men at work. He has arranged to build without delay. Loss about \$4,000; insurance \$1,500.