

MARCH, 1900

important, and so commenced that remarkable increase that has doubled the price of mill culls within a year, and largely increased the price of every grade. The price is now high as to be a temptation to everyone to cut, and one of the benefits to be derived from this kind of an interchange of views is an association of future policy—how far we ought to go in cutting to keep the price of lumber at a moderate figure. It is at the same time going slow in converting standing timber into lumber.

Inflation and depression are the worst foes of the lumber business, and your attention is invited to the question of limiting production, so as to preserve the market at such a level that it can be cut in a limited time; everyone places his power in a greater or less degree to act as a curb on the price of lumber. Husband our resources, prolong the life of our saw mills, and enjoy a long lease of moderate prosperity rather than a short term of extreme inflation.

On motion of Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Robert Watt, of Wiarton, the report of the Board of Management was adopted.

Mr. N. Dymont, of Barrie, enquired why the question of car shortage was not further investigated and some action taken. He said that perhaps several thousand dollars would not recompense him for the loss thus sustained, and in his opinion the circumstances afforded an opportunity for the Association to prove its usefulness to the members.

The president replied that the Board of Management held a meeting and decided to send out circulars to lumber manufacturers with a view to ascertaining the extent of the car shortage. During the time intervening between the meeting and the return of these circulars the situation had become greatly relieved, and some of the manufacturers reported a sufficient supply of cars. At that time freight rates were readjusted, following which the railway companies sent out a large number of cars. For these reasons no further action was considered advisable.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The president announced that the next business was the election of officers. He thanked the members for the support he had received as president during the past two years, and stated that he would not again be a candidate for re-election.

Mr. Scott regretted that Mr. Bertram was about to retire, as much that had been accomplished by the Association was due to the active interest taken and valuable services rendered by Mr. Bertram. He nominated Mr. John Waldie, of the Victoria Harbor Lumber Company, for president, stating that Mr. Waldie had always taken a deep interest in Association affairs and had a thorough grasp of all questions likely to come before the Association. This was seconded by Mr. Watt and carried.

Mr. James Scott was re-elected vice-president by a unanimous vote, Mr. Robert Watt second vice-president, and Mr. W. B. Tindall, Toronto, secretary-treasurer. The Board of Management was also re-elected as follows: John Waldie, Toronto; N. Dymont, Barrie; W. A. Charlton, Toronto; T. Conlon, Thorold; J. B. Miller, Toronto; R. Cook, South River; C. Beck, Metamora; and J. G. Scott, Vice-President. The Board of Management, together with the president and vice-presidents.

A general discussion on the lumber business followed next in order. Mr. Gordon, representing British Columbia interests, was called upon. He stated that at a meeting held in January the British Columbia Association decided to send a

circular letter to all members of the Dominion Parliament pointing out the necessity of an import duty on lumber and shingles. This circular he read, as follows:

#### MEMORIAL AS TO IMPORT DUTY.

To the Right Honorable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, G. C. M. G., Premier, and Members of the Dominion Government:

Sirs,—In January, 1898, and March, 1899, we addressed you, asking that a duty be imposed on lumber and shingles imported into Canada similar to the duty imposed by the United States. When the deputation representing us called on your honorable body, the reason given for refusing our request was the fear of jeopardizing the success of the joint commission then pending between the United States and Canada; but as this objection does not now exist, we again address you on the subject, and strongly urge the government to give effect to the urgent necessity of placing the lumber and shingle industry of Canada on the same footing as all other Canadian industries.

The returns from the various collectors of customs show that large quantities of the product of the forests have been admitted free of duty into British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, Manitoba and Ontario, while our exports are restricted by unfriendly legislation.

We submit that the manufacture of lumber and shingles in our own country necessarily contributes much to the revenue, directly and indirectly, and also provides a means of support to population, and while if these articles are imported duty free, these benefits are entirely lost and the trade goes to build up a foreign nation.

We have in this country, as you will be aware, great areas of timber of well known and tested economic value. We have long cherished the idea of making this a large manufacturing centre, but have been unable to do so owing to unfair competition from the south. Summarized briefly, our conditions are:—The very same products that we manufacture are manufactured in those states lying to the south of us; their manufacturers have every facility for reaching our main Canadian markets that we have; they buy nothing from us; they are able to purchase machinery and all mill supplies from 20 per cent. to 33 1/3 per cent. cheaper than we can; their general cost of living is about 25 per cent. cheaper than with us; consequently they are enabled to manufacture cheaper than we can, and while they do not cater to any regular and legitimate Canadian trade, they regularly disturb our conditions and prices by using our markets as a dumping ground in which to unload their overstock at prices lower than we can possibly produce a like article on account of the reasons set forth above. At the same time the benefit of cheaper goods is going largely, if not altogether, to the few dealers and not to the many consumers.

We would particularly draw your attention to the fact that, as the tariff now is, it would pay us to remove our plants to the State of Washington, as if we operated there we would not only enjoy the advantages as above outlined, but we would have within our reach the United States market in addition to the Canadian market. Already one of our firms has established itself in Washington, and others are considering the advisability of taking a similar step, if the tariff remains as it is. At the same time we are Canadians and wish to remain such.

We feel that the imposition of an import duty would be of general benefit, not only to the trade, but to the people, and that it would not inflict the least hardship on any one section.

May we again urge on the government through you, that the wishes of our trade, as voiced by the various provinces, receive your practical consideration during the coming session of parliament.

We have the honor to be, Sirs, your obedient servants,  
JOHN HENDRY, President.  
J. G. SCOTT, Vice-President.  
WILLIAM T. STEIN, Secretary.

Mr. Gordon said it was the wish of the British Columbia Association to send another deputation to Ottawa, and asked the co-operation of the Ontario Association in this direction. Mr. D. C. Cameron, of Rat Portage, had offered to accompany the deputation.

Mr. Scott said that while the Ontario lumbermen did not now suffer as they did when the last

representations were made to the government, the principle was the same, and the time would certainly come when they would suffer again. He thought something should be done to prevent the question being lost sight of by the government.

Mr. Conlon was in favor of including in the memorial a request that all wood shall be manufactured in Canada. He had always been in favor of this policy.

Referring to the suggestion made in the report of the Board of Management regarding the restriction of the export of logs cut on Indian lands, Mr. Dymont was not in favor of any action being taken. The day would come, he said, when there would be an over-supply of lumber in Canada and we would be glad to have the American market. This was also the view taken by Mr. Laidlaw.

The following resolution was then submitted by Mr. Bertram, and on motion of Mr. Dymont, seconded by Mr. R. Cook, of South River, unanimously adopted:

"That the Lumbermen's association of Ontario express their satisfaction with the Provincial Government in putting the manufacturing clause in all licenses, and further, that this association reiterate the opinion expressed on former occasions, that in the absence of reciprocity in lumber between Canada and the United States, the Government of Canada be requested to impose an import duty on lumber corresponding with that imposed by the Government of the United States, and thereby remove any injustice which at present exists to Canadian lumbermen."

The questions referred to in Mr. Beck's letter were then taken up. The opinion of the meeting was that it would not be in the interest of the trade at the present time to adopt standard inspection rules. The suggestions as to the thickness which lumber should be cut resulted in considerable discussion. Mr. Beck stated that in earlier days it had been the custom to cut almost one and one-quarter inch for one inch, but as the price of timber advanced this policy was abandoned in some degree. Yet there were mills cutting one and one-eighth for a one inch board. He favored cutting the thickness scant, stating that dealers now preferred this owing to the saving in freight rates.

Mr. Dymont said that he had been cutting his lumber one and one-sixteenth scant, and he found that this was what his customers preferred; they objected to having an inch board cut to one and one-eighth inch. Mr. Conlon said that this had also been his experience.

Mr. J. P. Newman, of Wiarton, pointed out that it was absolutely necessary to cut hardwood lumber considerably thicker than an inch in order that it should hold an inch when dry. It was explained that the previous speakers referred to pine lumber. The consensus of opinion seemed to be in favor of allowing about one thirty-second of an inch in cutting inch lumber.

After some further discussion regarding lumber prices for the coming season, the meeting adjourned:

Scholey Bros., Limited, of Toronto, have been incorporated, with capital of \$30,000, to manufacture lumber and building materials.

The extension of the Victoria branch of the G. T. R. from Haliburton to Whitney, on the Parry Sound railway, will pass through about 30 miles of hardwood forests, containing maple, birch, beech, elm and ash, as well as some hemlock, cedar and spruce. It is probable that the completion of this road will be followed by the introduction of numerous portable saw mills in the district.