risk stand on its own merits and will collect the premiums on the basis of scientific inspection. It is proposed to eliminate commissions reduce expenses and return profits to policy holders, and the basis of fixing premiums is intended to offer every encouragement to the insuring public to protect their own property.

Some lumber manufacturers who are members of the association will probably take advantage of the facilities thus offered, although the lumber mutual insurance companies are doing a great deal in the way of providing equitable insurance on lumbering property. The success of these companies in the United States has been little less than phenomenal. The Lumber Mutual Fire Insurance Company, of Boston, are now paying 30 per cent. dividend to policy holders, and it may be that other companies have accomplished results equally as favorable.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The British Columbia Government recently seized some logs and logging equipment of persons who were operating on the Nicomekl river, on the ground that payment of the export tax imposed by the Government had been evaded. The royalties were paid under protest, and it is understood to be the intention of the interested parties to test the constitutionality of the law placing an export tax on logs. On the other hand, the statement is made that the parties were cutting timber on lands within the Dominion railway belt which are not liable to the provincial tax, and that there are a few stretches of land along the Nicomekl river the titles to which were granted by the Provincial Government before the transfer was made to the Dominion Government, the timber thus being subject to the export royalties. The logging firms consequently made the mistake of assuming that the lands upon which they were operating were under the control of the Dominion Government. The situation is interesting, as many believe that the Government was being wilfully cheated.

The proposal of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association to have an excursion to Great Britain next summer is a very commendable idea and likely to be heartily supported by the members. Notwithstanding that Great Britain has learned much of Canada in late years, there still exists but a vague idea of the extent of our manufactories. There are in Canada about 15,000 manufacturers, 1,500 of whom, including the most progressive firms, are members of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. A visit to Great Britain by such a representative body of business men would doubtless have far reaching results, not alone in the extension of our foreign trade, but in promoting a closer alliance between the people of the two countries. That the trip would be a pleasureable one is assured by the offer of the representatives of the London Chamber of Commerce to give their services to make the excursion a success from the time the members arrive until their departure. It is hoped that the excursion may be arranged for and that every manufacturer who can do so will take advantage of it.

VIEWS AND INTERVIEWS

Speaking particularly of the white pine market, a prominent manufacturer said : "Three things are in favor of a firm lumber market in the United States, namely, cheap money, good crops, and low stocks, and under these conditions the Americans do not go to sleep." Probably before this issue reaches the reader, the Presidential election across the line will be a thing of the past, and there is little doubt that the present incumbent will be returned to office. The tariff is therefore likely to remain practically unchanged for another four years, and there is a disposition to expect that the favorable conditions above mentioned will sustain the white pine market and probably cause a hardening of values at a little later date.

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During the past three or four years the labor account has been a very heavy burden upon lumbermen, while at the same time it has no doubt exerted a sustaining influence on lumber prices. The advance in the wages of woodsmen does not by any means represent the increased amount expended for labor in getting out logs, for instead of the better pay being considered by the men an incentive to do a good day's work, the reverse seems to have been the case to an almost incredible extent. "It seems very singular," remarked Mr. W. A. Charlton, M.P.P., to the writer a few days ago, "but it is a fact that two men when wages were $22 per month would do more work than three men when wages are $35 per month. When they are getting $22 per month they are anxious to keep their positions, while at $35 they are independent." Mr. Charlton has given some attention to the labor question and claims that the results have worked out as above stated. His views coincide with those expressed by many other lumbermen, who have been compelled of late years to employ much larger crews of men to get out their usual cut of logs. Another item of expense in this connection has been due to "jumpers" abandoning work after their railroad fares had been paid. In one or two instances, however, these "jumpers" have been severely punished, which may have the effect of suppressing the habit.

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There is no brighter mind in the lumber trade than Mr. R. H. Alexander, manager of the British Columbia Mills, Timber and Trading Company, of Vancouver, B.C. He is one of the most active and influential members of the Pacific Coast Lumber Manufacturers' Association, and at a recent meeting of that body expressed the following views on the cargo branch :

"You will agree with me that the close association work of two years ago in a great measure produced the satisfactory results and the good trade that followed. The time was propitious and the efforts to raise prices was of course assisted by these conditions, but the manufacturers would not have been in position to take advantage of these good times had not the association been formed and materially assisted in the work. Times were good but the lumbermen were not receiving good prices for their product. We started in with the association work and the results were most satisfactory and of great value. Then we concluded we could draw the lines a little closer and raise prices, and I am sure that that action becoming known through other trades was fruitful of good times and good prices.

"When the association disbanded prices fell away at once and to a worse condition than has ever been known for a number of years. I am convinced that these conditions will continue unless some concerted action is again taken on the part of the manufacturers to get together and improve them.

"Why should prices be less than then ?

"The volume of business shows to be better. A very small percentage of difference exists between the first six months of 1903 and 1904, a decrease of only 9,000,000 feet in a total of 883,000,000 feet. Why should this small difference result in cutting prices in half? We have heard no complaints of the prices of our products. In fact in some markets they would be better satisfied with the higher prices than with the low. Neither were the prices so high that it brought other lumber into the field or stopped the use of lumber.

"There is but one reason why the mills of the North Pacific Coast are getting the low prices for their lumber that they are, one fault and that is ourselves—lack of association and harmony to work together. If we come together again some results can be obtained. I am mystified as to the causes of the breaking up of the old cargo association, but whatever the cause it should not now be insuperable and it behooves us to get together on a broader basis. One portion of the lumber trade cannot be in a healthy condition and secure large prices while another portion remains unsatisfactory.

"In this trade as in all others the cause of higher or lower prices rests in the matter of supply and demand and that is where association work can be made effective. If we should wait until the supply only equals the demand we would wait a long time. Looking over the figures we find that the producing capacity based on a ten hours run has increased to over five billion feet per year, while the whole volume of business, rail, vessel and local, amounts to only three and one half billions. It would seem to be hopeless to wait for the ordinary course of supply and demand to bring about an improvement of prices. It is therefore only through the resource of association work that some method of limiting the production can be reached. That has got to be done.

"I recognize that we cannot better the conditions without coming together and taking some concerted action reducing the production. This means a very large sacrifice on the part of some of us. However, I cannot see why people are not willing to make a sacrifice. It would have been infinitely better to have remained in the association and continued our work in harmony than to have gone to pieces as we did. Now some of the mills have the impression that to get a profit they must do a very great amount of business. I do not believe that any mill can by doing a vast volume of business make up a profit or any profit at all. If $3 can be made by concerted action it means that if there is only $1 in it that three times as much business has to be done. This is not to be thought of. We can not have good prices and do a large amount of business at the same time. Now there are more people to do the business and more people doing business than there is a demand for."