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TO FARMERS

VOL. 18.

CHATHAM, NEW BRUNSWICK, MARCH 17, 1892.

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FREDERICTON, MARCH 2ND, 1892.

__ To The Hen. James Mitchell. Provincial Secretary SIR:-By direction of the New Brunswick Crown Land Commission ers I have the honor to transmit herewith their report, for the con sideration of His Honor, the Lieutenant-Governor. I have the honor to be

your obedient servant, D. G. SMITH. Secretary to the Commission

REPORT OF

THE NEW BRUNSWICK CROWN LAND COMMISSIONERS

To the Honorable Sir Samuel Leonard Tilley, C. B., K. C. M. G. Lieutenant Governor of the Province of New Brunswick MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOR:-

The undersigned, appointed by Commission under the Great Seal of the Province, bearing date the second day of July, 1890, to investigate and report upon the best method of administrating the Crown Timber Lands of the Province" and in so doing "to consider and report upon "the relative merits of long and short leases; as to the rate of Stump-age proper to be charged, having regard to the state and condition of aber market and the competition to which the New Brunswick product is subject in European markets; also as to the relative advantages and disadvantages to which the trade is subject in the northern section of the Province as compared with the southern section : also as to what aid, if any, can properly be given and upon what rivers and streams towards facilitating driving operations; also as to what hanges could with advantage be proposed and adopted in respect to the scaling of logs and lumber; also as to the permanent employment of scalers or rangers by the year and the mode of compensation to those officials; also as to the protection and conservation of the forest wealth of the Province, beg leave herewith to submit their report:—

The Commissioners held their first meeting at the City of Fredericton, on Tuesday, 29th July, 1890, and have since that date continued their sessions from time to time at Fredericton, the City of St. John and St. Stephen, holding two meetings at Fredericton, twelve at St. John and four at St. Stephen.

They proceeded, first, to obtain information by correspondence, securing statistics from official sources bearing upon the lumber business in competing provinces. They also addressed a circular letter to persons engaged in and having knowledge of the lumber industry of the Provkhown we make the above liberal ofter for a limited time only. It is sold on a guarantee, that if not satisfactory, money will be cheerfully refunded. thus enabling the Commissioners more intelligently to elicit informa-The above Coupon must be presented in order to tion by means of oral testimony from witnesses to be subsequently examined. The questions thus submitted were as follows:—

1.--In what way are you now connected with the lumber industry? 2. - In what places have you had experience in the lumber industry?

3. -Over what period does your experience extend? (naming the years.) 4. In what capacity (or capacities) or in what branches of the industry have you had actual experience !

5.—Do you favor the present system of leasing the Crown Lumber Lands of the Province for a term of ten years? of the term would you recommend that | it be for a longer or shorter period than at present? 7.--Taking into consideration the interests of the lumber industry on the one hand, and the desirability of husbanding the forest resources of the Province on the other, are short or long leases the more desirable? Give

Special attention given to the preserve regulating of the natural testh.

Also Crown and Bridge work.

Give in Chatham, Benson Eleck.

reasons for your opinion on the subject.

8.—Lessees of Crown Lumber Lands in the Province of Quebec (as well as Ontario) are entitled to renewals from year to year as long as they pay their stumpage dues and otherwise comply with the regulations of the government in respect thereof. Would such a system, in your opinion, be any improvement on that in force in this Province?

hould the charges for stumpage on Crown Lands in this Province be greater or less—for the same classes of lumber, bark, etc.—than those of other prov-vinces which depend on the same markets for the sale of their lumber 10.—Should there be any difference or discrimination in the Stumpage charges on lumber cut for shipment from North Shore ports (which are closed to navigation for six months of the year) and that cut for southern ports of the Province!—State your views on the subject of the comparative advantages and disadvantages of those prosecuting the industry in these respective sections of the Province.

11.—Would it be desirable for the Government to aid in making roads to enable operators to reach lumber tracts that have not, as yet, been operated upon if so, in what manner, to what extent, and under what conditions? 12.—Should the Government undertake, in whole or in part, the work of clearing out streams having considerable Crown Land Lumber tracts upon them, which cannot now be driven without such clearing? If so in what manner, to what extent and under what conditions.

13.—Is the lumber scale as now fixed by law in New Brunswick a just and satisfactory one? This question refers to hemlock scale also. 14.—If the log scale used in competing provinces is a more liberal one than that of this Province, should the fact be taken into consideration in determining any change that might be made in stumpage charges?

15.—Do you favor the present method of engaging scalers during the lumbering season at a fixed rate per M. for the operations scaled by them, or would it be more advantageous to the public interest as well as fair to the operators to have scalers permanently employed by the Department and required to act in other useful capacities in connection with the public domain? These questions were placed in the hands of a large number of persons in every section of the Province, and replies were received from thirty-seven leading individuals or firms, showing the interest taken in

the important subject under consideration. Having before them the information derived from the sources stated, the Commissioners next secured the attendance at their meetings of Express for Quebec and Montreal, gentlemen practically engaged in and acquainted with the different branches of the lumber business in various parts of the Province, who were closely and thoroughly questioned as to their knowledge, experience and opinions on the different matters forming the subject of

The number of witnesses thus orally examined was eleven, and in nearly every case the information given was imparted with a sincerity, candor and fairness which entitled it to the most attentive consider
BLUE,

Bartlett's Shoe Dressing,

The instructions of the Commissioners being to report to your Honor the results of their enquiry and investigation, with their conclusions thereupon, we do not embody in our Report the testimony and other evidences, but submit the following observations, recommendations and pinions based thereon for such action as it may please Your Honor to take, holding all the records and minutes of evidence subject to your further direction.

Respecting the relative merits of short and long leases, we have had little or no difficulty in arriving at the conclusion that with the matter of stumpage-rates and other charges left absolutely under the control of the Governor-in-Council, it would be in the interest of both the Crown and lessees that the tenure should be as permanent as possible. We find that the owners of large tracts of lumber lands in Maine, as well as in New Brunswick do not encourage the introduction of speculative elements in the administration of those properties, but recognise that their interests and those of the lumbermen, mill-owners and others, whose industrial efforts and capital are devoted to the carrying on of the lumber business of the country, are mutual Their policy is, therefore, to practically guarantee permanency of ten NEWCASTLE:-Mondays and Thursdays.

CHATHAM: - Taesdays and Fridays.

DOUGLASTOWN:- Wednesdays and Douglastown in other respects conform to the terms on which their areas are held; always, nevertheless, reserving to themselves the right to cancel leases at pleasure—a right which, however, is very seldom ex ercised. This system would, we believe, be an improvement upon that which now prevails in this Province, because it would lead to more prudent and economical methods of operating, by which our lumber resources would be husbanded, and invite and make more safe the investment of capital, which would be less subject than at present to the designs of those who might bid upon lands for vexatious or speculative purposes: while, with the power to fix stumpage and other charges, as well as to otherwise regulate the whole system remaining in the hands of the Governor-in-Council, there would be ample guarantee that the revenue to be derived from the public domain would always be such as the development of the wood trade and relative industries of the country might warrant and the public interests fairly demand.

We, therefore, recommend that at the expiration of the term for C. M. BOSTWICK & CO. which existing leases are held, the lumber lands of the Province be eased at public auction, to be held by the lessees thereof by yearly censes renewable from year to year, during the pleasure of the Government, under conditions of compliance with all regulations made, or to be made by the Governor-in-Council.

In considering "the rate of stumpage proper to be charged, having regard to the state and condition of the lumber market and the competition to which the New Brunswick product is subject in European markets," we find that, for several years, such prices have prevailed in the kets," we find that, for several years, such prices have prevailed in the [Continued on 2nd Page.]

CATARRH

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J. McD. BARKE

Chatham, N. B., Dec. 22nd 1891.

