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VALUABLE INFORMATION.

THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURER is prepared to give to its advertising friends all particulars regarding the imports of merchandise, both dutiable and free, into the United States; and also regarding the exports of domestic merchandise from that country to all other countries of the world during the year ending June 30, 1899. This includes quantities where possible, and values of all articles entered and exported during the year, the ports in the United States into which the goods were received or from which they were exported, and the countries from or to which exported. There has been considerable demand for such information which we are now prepared to supply to our patrons.

THE ONTARIO PULP WOOD CONCESSIONS.

The most important problem with which the Government of Ontario has to deal is the opening up and settlement of New Ontario and the exploitation of those vast natural resources in which that region abounds. A most valuable element of the progress and prosperity of Northern Ontario, and indeed of the entire province, is the spruce and other pulp timber which, in consequence of the growing scarcity of pulp wood in the United States, bids fair steadily to increase in value, and to form the basis of one of the most thriving and remunerative Canadian industries. The principle adopted by the administration of Mr. Ross that legislation should be framed so as to prevent the exportation of raw material and to secure for our own citizens, as far as possible, all the advantages accruing from the manufacturing processes by which it is converted into the finished product, has met with general acceptance. It is satisfactory to note that in the carrying out of practical measures for the development of our unsettled domain, this policy has been steadily kept in view with the object of encouraging the development of manufacturing industry and giving employment in other lines than that of agriculture to the population. It is obvious that such a course is a benefit, not merely to the people of the particular neighborhood directly interested, but to the whole community, as a number of thriving, prosperous and well popu-

lated settlements afford a continuously increasing market for producers elsewhere.

Much controversy has arisen over the action of the Government in granting an extensive concession to the Spanish River Pulp Company of the right to cut spruce and other pulp wood on a reserve of fifty miles square and within a five mile limit along the banks of the Spanish, Vermillion and Onaping rivers. The agreement is binding for a term of twenty-one years, and is subject to government regulations as to dues, which are at present forty cents per cord, but may be raised at any time, should it be considered advisable to do so on account of the increase in value of pulp timber. It is also expressly stipulated that the lands covered by the concessions are not to be locked up from settlement. As soon as any lands are disposed of to settlers the company's claim in regard to them ceases, and the settler becomes the owner of the timber. It will be seen, therefore, that the rights of the public have been amply protected and the sole advantage secured by the Spanish River Company is the certainty of being able to obtain an adequate supply of raw material on paying the regular government rates therefor. In return for this guarantee they will erect a factory at a cost of half a million dollars, manufacture 20,000 tons of pulp yearly, and give employment to an average of 250 men. In place of the timber being left to decay or meet the more probable fate of destruction by fire, as settlement advances it will be used so as to furnish employment, to build up a new industry and to provide a market for the produce of the neighborhood. The town thus built up will encourage those looking for homes to settle in the vicinity, and as the timber goes with the land, the settlers will have not only the opportunity of finding employment in some of the subsidiary industries created, but a market for pulp timber otherwise unsaleable.

The wonderful expansion of industry at Sault Ste. Marie owing to the granting of a similar concession to Mr. Clergue's company, leading to the expenditure of millions of capital and a general development of manufacturing activity, encourages a reasonable expectation that similar results may be hoped for as the outcome of the Spanish River concession. Although the Opposition in the Legislature had supported the Clergue agreement and others of similar tenor, they were sufficiently ill-advised to oppose the Spanish River concession, notwithstanding the fact that it was more favorable to the public in safeguarding the rights of settlers and leaving it in the power of the Government to raise the dues. The ground taken by Mr. Whitney and his followers was that the right to cut spruce timber should be disposed of by public auction to the highest bidder in the same way as the pine is sold. The discussion in the Legislature and in the press have abundantly exposed the unwisdom of this proposal. In the case of pine timber the manufacture into lumber requires comparatively little capital, and there are consequently numerous competitors when a limit is offered. The manufacture of pulp wood and paper, on the other hand, is a costly and elaborate process which cannot be undertaken remuneratively excepting on a large scale and by the erection of expensive buildings and machinery. It requires an outlay of about half a million dollars, which no company would undertake except on the fullest assurance that they could obtain a continuous supply of their raw material. Again, while pine grows in extended tracts out of which limits can easily be set apart and the