

useless incumbrance upon the soil, and has enabled hundreds of settlers to pay for lands, that but for the timber trade would have been in a state of nature at this day. This trade is now competing with a foreign rival; if it succumbs the greater part of the capital embarked in it is likely to be invested in Michigan or other lumber districts of the United States. It does not ask protection of the government, it wants no exceptional advantages, no export duties or special taxes imposed upon other industries in its behalf; it simply asks the government to remove special imports and allow it to stand erect and have a fair field. Were the case understood in all its bearings, it is impossible that the export duty upon sawlogs, shingle bolts, and stave bolts would be continued.