CANADA LUMBERMAN
WOOD WORKERS' MANUFACTURERS' AND MILLERS' GAZETTE

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THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interests of the lumber trade and of allied industries throughout the Dominion, being the only representative in Canada of this foremost branch of the commerce of this country. It aims at giving full and timely information on all subjects touching these interests, discussing these topics editorially and inviting free discussion by others.

Especial pains are taken to secure the latest and most trustworthy market quotations from various points throughout the world, so as to afford to the trade in Canada information on which it can rely in its operations.

Special correspondents in localities of importance present an accurate report not only of prices and the condition of the market, but also of other matters specially interesting to our readers. But correspondence is not only welcome, but is invited from all who have any information to communicate or subjects to discuss relating to the trade or in any way affecting it. Even when we may not be able to agree with the writers we will give them a fair opportunity for free discussion as the best means of eliciting the truth. Any items of interest are particularly requested, for even if not of great importance individually they contribute to a fund of information from which general results are obtained.

Advertisers will receive careful attention and liberal treatment. We need not point out that for many the CANADA LUMBERMAN, with its special class of readers, is not only an exceptionally good medium for securing publicity, but is indispensable for those who would bring themselves before the notice of that class. Special attention is directed to "WANTED" and "FOR SALE" advertisements, which will be inserted in a conspicuous position at the uniform price of 15 cents per line for each insertion. Announcements of this character will be subject to a discount of 25 per cent. if ordered for four successive issues or longer.

Subscribers will find the small amount they pay for the CANADA LUMBERMAN quite insignificant as compared with its value to them. There is not an individual in the trade, or specially interested in it, who should not be on our list, thus obtaining the present benefit and aiding and encouraging us to render it even more complete.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

SUBSCRIBERS, advertisers, and others concerned are particularly requested to note that the offices of THE CANADA LUMBERMAN have been removed from the Canada Life Building to the CONFEDERATION LIFE BUILDING, Richmond and Yonge Streets. All communications should in future be addressed to C. H. MORTIMER, publisher CANADA LUMBERMAN, Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

TWO METHODS OF TIMBER SALES.

A MOTION of Mr. John Charlton, M. P., in the House of Commons a few days ago, asking for a statement, showing particulars of all timber licenses granted since January 1, 1888, raised the question as to the best method of disposing of timber limits. It has been the custom in the provinces, notably in Ontario, to put up timber limits to public auction. The Dominion Government has followed the practice of simply asking for tenders.

Mr. Charlton strongly favored the Ontario system and spoke of the importance of notice of sale extending from four to six months, and in this contention he was supported by Mr. Edwards, member for Russell, and one of the largest lumbermen of Ottawa. Mr. Bryson, also a large Ottawa lumberman, and a member of the House, favored the system of private tenders, which was defended by the Minister of the Interior, who said that this system had been the vogue since February 17, 1885.

The question is not a political one, at least, it ought not to be. It is one of business: which is the fairest business method? Which is likely to produce the best financial results to the country? It needs no evidence to demonstrate that the more open competition is made at any time, in any line of tendering, the less liklihood there is of intrigue or questionable methods being adopted by one tenderer to secure advantage over another. Public auction at any time, gives an openness to business that can hardly be expected in private tenders, where the consideration of results is left in the hands of those who may have friends to favor, and to whom a wink, that may mean much, can sometimes be given. Unfortunately in political life, without regard to party, the temptation to hold in hand the power that comes of awarding public contracts, whatever shape they may take, is strong, and few there be who can resist the temptation. Any system, therefore, that helps to remove this temptation, would seem to have much to recommend it to public favor. It is to be feared that the record of the timber sales of the Dominion by private tender will show that some of the evils, here suggested as possible, have had an actual existence in fact.

Then there is the financial side of the system. Which plan will bring the best results? In a debate in the House about the same time that Mr. Charlton's resolution was on, the subject of Indian reserve timber being under discussion, Sir John Thompson said that it had been proved in auction sales of Dominion timber limits buyers could and did easily combine to keep down the price. For this reason he believed the invitation of private tenders was the better method. It is doubtless true that combinations of men may keep down that degree of competition that is expected at sale by auction, but, we opine, that these cases are more likely to be the exception than the rule. The experience at late sales in Ontario, both in the case of those conducted by the government, and in several extensive sales of private limits, is manifestly in an opposite direction. If we take the prices secured at these sales, and compare them with prices obtained by other methods of sale, only one conclusion can be reached as to the financial results accruing from the sale of timber limits by auction. How by private tender could such a concourse of buyers become interested in the sale of any limits as was shown to be the case at the last sale of the Ontario government, when the Legislative Chamber of the old parliament buildings was crowded with the shrewdest buyers from all parts of Canada and the United States? Relatively equal success, and similar conditions prevailed, at the extensive sale of the Mossom Boyd limits, in this city, more than a year ago, and the recent sale in Ottawa, two months ago, of the Perley and Pattee estate.

The timber resources of this country are to-day precious enough to make it obligatory on any government to employ only the very best methods in disposing of these valuable assets. Lumbermen, we know, will always welcome such a system.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE Northern Advance, Barrie, in contending for a re-imposition of an export duty on logs, says: "So valuable were the logs on the other side of the lake that a number of the mill owners here who had timber limits purchased from the Ontario Government for a mere song, sold them at a big price to American buyers instead of cutting them at their own mills." Lumbermen and others, who advocate a re-imposition of the log duty, are not without many and good arguments to support their case, but when our newspaper friend of Barrie gives as one reason for this step that Ontario limits, alleged to have been bought for a mere song, are being sold to American buyers at fancy prices, it is time to ask for facts. Prices paid for Ontario timber, of late years at goverment sales, have not run at trifling figures, and on the other hand, with the depression in the United States lumber markets, buyers from across the border are not paying extravagant prices even for so good an article as Canadian white pine.

A CIRCULAR has recently been sent to all Michigan and Canadian pine owners by the Commissioner of Crown Lands here saying that the department are desirous of obtaining as close an estimate as it is possible to get at this season of the year of the quantity of saw logs and dimension of timber which will be exported from Ontario this summer to be sawed into lumber in the United States. The circular asks those to whom it is sent to furnish the Commissioner with the estimated quantity in feet, board measure, which he expects to export, the berth from which it will be taken, the name or names of men from whom logs may be purchased in Canada, and the points from which they expect to clear their tows. Some of our Michigan lumbermen are interpreting the request for information to mean a raising of crown dues on timber limits. In this connection it is also said that Michigan capitalists have been offered a large quantity of Canadian timber during the past winter, and in some cases crews have looked over limits, but the condition of the money market and trade causes them to hesitate in buying.

RECENT tariff changes at Ottawa, placing lumber, shingles and other wood goods on the free list, is likely to cause considerable loss and unhealthy competition to Canadian lumbermen in certain sections of the Dominion. The Lake of the Woods mills estimate that the stocks held by them will be depreciated 15 per cent. by the change, which in the aggregate will be a severe loss. The Puget Sound shingle men have cut the price of shingles 10 cents a thousand, and with 20 per cent. duty taken off, they expect to be able to bring in their shingles to the North-West territories and out-bid the British Columbia shingle manufacturers. It may be that this competition will not stop with shingles, and with shingle manufacturing in Washington territory as demoralized as it has been for a year past, the temptation may be to bring shingles from this point further east than Manitoba. This is an instance where Mr. Foster's protective tariff does not protect. The Vancouver Board of Trade apprehending trouble ahead have passed a resolution requesting the Dominion Government to retain the duty on shingles until the Wilson bill comes into force. Then there would be free trade in lumber.

AT a time when the provincial government is moving in the direction of establishing a forestry park for the better protection of our lumber interests, it is important to note the results of experiments by our neighbors across the border. The statement comes to us that New York State is already beginning to realize a profit from the purchase of Adirondack forest lands. It has recently sold the timber from 60,000 acres and the sum realized for it was $250,000 or a little more than $4. per acre. No tree under twelve inches in diameter shall be cut down. This provision is to apply to all sales, and it insures a perpetual succession of valuable timber, which can be thinned out every few years. No trees are to be cut within 400 feet of any lake or water front. This is in accordance with the European rule to preserve these water course from drying up. How necessary an effort of this kind is needed can be realised when we refer to the statement made at the foresty congress at Albany a few weeks ago by Secretary of Agriculture Morton, that 25,000 acres of timber land were stripped every twenty-four hours to supply the demands of the people of the United States for wood, for building, fuel and other purposes.

SOMEBODY is going to make a lot of money out of pine lands in northern Minnesota, says the Minneapolis Lumberman, especially on the lands up in the Duluth district before many years have gone by. There is an abundance of good timber up in the vicinity of Rainy lake, and when that region is developed with railroads and water transportation available, it will undoubtedly be a great lumbering district. Michigan men are already awakening to the fact that there is money in Duluth timber. Years ago they bought Michigan timber at the cheap prices it was then selling at, and since then they have become millionaires. They didn't make their money out of lumber so much as out of timber lands, and they are of the opinion that the same condition of affairs will result in northern Minnesota before long, and they are backing their judgment with money. Saginaw men are sacrificing their present interests and are putting all the money they can get hold of into Minnesota pine. Stumpage at $2 a thousand near Duluth as compared with from $5 to $8 a thousand in Michigan is quite a difference, especially when lake rates from Duluth to Tonawanda are only $1.75. Such an advantage is hard to overcome.

D. E. Sprague, of the Winnipeg saw mills, states that this season's cut of logs has amounted to 3,500,000 feet. His camp is on the Rosseau river, near the Lake of the Woods, and there has been in his employ, during the past winter, upwards of one hundred men. The logs will be floated down the river to the mill.