

THE Canada Lumberman

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ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED ON APPLICATION

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interests of the lumber trade and 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.

Special 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.

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 75 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.

AMERICAN COMPETITION.

Publicity is being given to what is claimed to be the opinion of a prominent lumberman to the effect that the ultimate result of the Ontario saw-log legislation will be the capture of the Canadian lumber trade by American lumbermen and the crowding out of Canadians. On what ground the opinion is based is not stated, but we presume that the alarm has been caused by the number of large mills that are moving from Michigan to Canada. Canadian lumbermen, however, are not at all concerned lest their business should be ruined by competition from the Americans.

The removal of the Michigan mills to Canada is just the result that was hoped for when the Ontario law was passed. The Government simply said: "If you wish our timber you must establish your manufacturing industries in this country and contribute to our welfare." It matters little whether the timber is manufactured by native-born Canadians or Americans now doing business in Canada, so long as the country derives benefit from its manufacture. The policy of the country is sufficiently cosmopolitan to welcome any person who is prepared to assist in the development of its natural resources. Where the Americans establish saw mills thriving settlements will no doubt grow up, as is the custom. The transfer to Canada of industries conducted by such well-known capitalists as Arthur Hill, Edmund Hall and the Eddys, is a source of gratification rather than of regret.

We think the unanimous sentiment of Canadian lumbermen is expressed in the statement that they do not fear disastrous competition from Michigan lumbermen who may locate in Canada. In business capacity our lumbermen are the equal of those of the United States, and in equipment our mills do not take a second

place. Perhaps the agitation for an import duty on lumber has created a wrong impression in the mind of the public. What Canadian lumbermen ask for is not protection, but equal rights, in the taxing of lumber brought into Canada to the same extent as lumber shipped to the United States.

The effect of the increased production in Ontario will not be to demoralize the Canadian trade. It should be remembered that the output of the Michigan mills located in Ontario will not be greater than when the mills were in operation in Michigan, consequently the total output of lumber will not be increased. The consumption by the Canadian market represents but a small portion of the output, and a large percentage will continue to be marketed in the Eastern States and foreign countries. No doubt the Michigan concerns will capture a certain portion of the Western Ontario trade, but at most this is not a serious matter.

The argument that Americans are crowding out the Canadian lumbermen would seem to be well answered by referring to the sales of timber limits. During the last five years the Government has held two important sales. At the one in 1899, 360 square miles were disposed of, of which only nine miles were secured by Michigan lumbermen, and this was by a concern that had been operating in Canada for several years. At the sale held last month 362 square miles were purchased by Canadians and 37 miles by Michigan parties. At both of these sales a large representation of Michigan lumbermen was present.

WOOD SPECIALTIES.

The opportunities that exist in this country for the manufacture of wood specialties have been taken advantage of only to a limited extent. It is strange that more money has not been invested in this branch of industry, as it offers prospects of excellent returns. Throughout Northern Ontario there is to be found an abundance of white birch specially adapted for the manufacture of articles such as tack barrels, spindles, egg cups, pill boxes and similar goods. There are districts where as much as 3,000,000 feet of white birch can be secured within a radius of five miles, and there is little difficulty in finding a suitable water-power by which means would be provided of operating the plant at the smallest possible cost. We mention birch in particular because it is well adapted for turning purposes and is not in as great demand as lumber. Large quantities of other hardwoods, however, may be obtained.

In the manufacture of these small articles there is practically no waste timber, and a small quantity of logs will furnish the raw material for a large output. We understand there is a large market in Canada for such articles. The users have in the past been compelled to import their supply, but if industries were established in Canada they could doubtless compete with the foreign article and would be given the preference. Taking the prices now ruling, there would be a satisfactory margin of profit.

Picture-backing is another branch that might profitably engage the attention of more of our manufacturers. There is a large demand on

both local and export account. We are informed that the Dwight Lumber Company, of Detroit, utilize 2,500 plans per week in the manufacture of picture-backing, keeping several machines constantly working on the trade.

The manufacture of excelsior has been investigated by one or two Canadian firms, who were evidently not satisfied with the prospects. The home demand is not large, and the excelsior trade of Great Britain is so tightly in the hands of the Germans that Canadians are not likely to secure much business except they can offer very low prices, and heavy carrying charges are against this.

It is desirable that the hardwoods of Canada should be manufactured within the country to the greatest possible extent, and we believe there are opportunities for investment which should be investigated by our lumbermen.

THE USE OF NATIVE TIMBER.

With the quantity and character of timber in this country, the question might well be asked, are the imports of timber not greater than they should be? There seems to be a disposition in some quarters to import timber and disregard the claims of home industries. No particular fault can be found with the person who imports a foreign article because of inability to obtain what is required at home, but there have doubtless been instances where Canadian timber would have met the requirements equally as well as that which has been imported.

Almost unconsciously perhaps, from the force of custom, some architects specify foreign timber for buildings without giving any consideration to the question of obtaining a supply in the country in which the building is to be erected and which is providing the funds for its erection. Harbor work, such as wharves and piers, is also often built of southern wood when Canadian timber would answer. Perhaps the qualities of Canadian timber are sometimes overlooked or forgotten. It might be of advantage for our lumbermen to appoint a committee to have distributed pamphlets showing the uses to which Canadian timbers may be applied and the results of tests of strength which have been made at the Universities and elsewhere. This same committee might be empowered to arrange for the carrying out of further tests.

An illustration of the neglect of native wood is furnished by the regents of the University of Michigan, in calling for the use of yellow pine flooring in a new hospital building at Ann Arbor, totally ignoring the fact that Michigan is the home of as fine white maple as grows.

At the present time tests of Pacific Coast fir and Texas yellow pine are being made at Bremerton, the naval station on Puget Sound, to determine the relative merits of the woods for use in the construction of naval vessels. These tests are made as the result of a complaint by the Pacific Coast Lumber Manufacturers' Association that Texas yellow pine was being used in naval vessels constructed on the coast when the native fir was better adapted for the purpose. In the transverse tests thus far made the native wood has been shown to be superior.