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THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interest of the lumber trade and of allied industries throughout the Dominion being the only representative in Canada of this foremost branch of 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.

Especially 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 upon 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 effecting 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 three 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.

TO VISITING LUMBERMEN.

LUMBERMEN visiting Toronto are invited to use the office of the *LUMBERMAN* as their own. We shall take pleasure in supplying them with every convenience for receiving and answering their correspondence, and hold ourselves at their service in any other way that they may desire.

THE DECREASE IN OUR TIMBER SUPPLY.

At the outset it is to be understood *THE LUMBERMAN* has not made the discovery, which annually or bi-annually looms up in journals published in the interests of the trade, that our timber supply is giving out, in fact, well nigh exhausted. It is intended to briefly sketch the demands, the enormous demands, made every year upon forests in America, and to show that as a consequence the necessity must soon arise for some methods of preservation akin to those in vogue in Great Britain, Germany and France, or that the example of Russia to plant new ones, must be followed. Before the current year expires, the theoretical lumberman will cover about the same acreage of paper with resolutions at forestry gatherings as the acreage of timber which will be cut by the practical lumberman, and the columns of newspapers will contain contributions giving elaborate Utopian schemes for forest reproduction and preservation, as wearisome to intellectually wade through as blazed logging roads are physically wearisome to plod over. Some forty years ago in South-western Ontario there were remnants of vast forests of walnut standing. To-day, in some sections, you can find old rail fences and decaying stumps of this expensive, and almost annihilated wood. The early settlers, with a ferocity equal to Attila, looked

upon a tree as a foe, and every known means was employed to exterminate the common enemy. The counties of Perth, Oxford, Waterloo, Wellington, Huron, Brant, the best fall wheat district of the west, were heavily timbered with maple, beech, oak and pine. The same unsparing, ruthless, tree-thirsty desire seized the settler. Axe, saw and fire were kept steadily exterminating, until many farmers were years ago compelled to buy coal for fuel. Saw logs, square timber and the saw mill completed the devastation, and in place of being able to export lumber, if the timber had been judiciously manipulated, hundreds of places have to import for local consumption.

The fringe of settled land along the north shore of Lake Ontario, sections of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Quebec, all bear testimony to this wholesale destruction. The "logger" has now to operate limits 400 miles up the Ottawa. The sources, in place of the beds of the Rouge, the Gatineau, the Du Nord, the Bonnehore, the Mississippi, the Madawaska and the Mattawa, are where the shanties are now built, and in many instances this season's cut of logs will not be sawn until the second summer.

Bush fires started by pioneer settlers, careless hunters, heedless campers and tourists; fires lit by accident and design, have destroyed as much, and probably more timber than man has cut. The logger knows this and uses it to his advantage. "Look at the income from the sale, and the stumpage I pay the government; fire pays none. Cut it!" This is his motto and when a limit is opened by a lumberman possessed with these ideas, the timber disappears rapidly, if the market price allows a margin.

Looking over the reports of the cut in the large sawn lumber sections of the United States for 1890, we notice that our nearest neighbor, Michigan, is gradually falling behind as a white pine producer. The price of lumber, or the state of trade, has had practically no influence on the output, yet Muskegon shows in 1884, 615,447,398 feet, in 1889, 417,177,824 feet, and in 1890, 301,875,227 feet. In 1882 the Tittabawassee Boom Co.'s log cut reached the enormous amount of 611,862,670 feet. A decrease annually has taken place. On the Saginaw, the output for 1889 was 333,925,130 feet, against 302,525,530 feet for 1890. Not only is there marked decrease in the output, but the average size of the logs is smaller. One example will suffice to show this. In 1864 the logs averaged 243 feet, in 1889 110 feet, 1890, 106 feet. Log supplies are now being taken from Canada to recoup the serious falling off in the supply in some districts, and in others the mills are either closing down or following the forests for logs to keep the saws going. What is taking place in Michigan timber limits is also taking place in Wisconsin and Minnesota—the white pine considered inexhaustible fifteen years ago, is quickly being exterminated. The supplies of the future cannot be cut from growing timber, they must come from old timber saved. The consumption of the pine in the States mentioned, proves that trees do not grow as fast as the logger fells them, and that, like walnut, the white pine of the North American Republic will dwindle to clumps and specimens. Its place will either be taken by white pine from northwestern Ontario, or yellow pine from the middle and southern states. This article is slowly pushing its way into the northern markets, and just as northern pine diminishes in quantity and increases in price, the yellow pine will be accepted as a substitute. Destruction began long ago in Georgia from the demand for turpentine, and it is estimated that 33 per cent. of the standing timber of that state has been killed within the last ten years. The acreage of yellow pine timber is not like the acreage of Canadian white pine, vague and indefinite; it has been measured. Allowing 4,000 feet of sawn lumber per acre, and the capacity of a mill 50,000 feet per day, in 25 years the single mill would denude 100,000 acres. Given, the acreage and the total yearly cut of the mills, the time when yellow pine will follow the fate of its northern sister can be approximately calculated.

The craze for quartered oak, antique oak, and reliefs found by panneling with plain red and white oak lumber, has forced the price of that wood away into the teens in Canada, and small mills whose yards a few

years ago contained unsaleable piles warping and rotting, are now taxed to their utmost capacity. It is not a plentiful wood in the Dominion, and its natural production differs from all other varieties of trees. It is only a question of time, a very short time, when it will be like the Buffalo, historical. The tan oak of California, once covering thousands of acres, can now almost be counted on the fingers in many counties, and steps have been taken for replacing it with an Australian variety of the eucalyptus. Oak in the United States is not so general or so inexhaustible that it can stand the inroads made upon it for the last three years. It must be nursed if it is to continue the leading wood for furniture. On the Pacific coast, in both Canada and the United States, the annual cut of standing timber without any attempt to conserve the forests must, in the course of time, denude that part of the continent. It is not in the felling of matured trees that objection can be made, for timber like the lower orders of vegetable matter and all animals arrives at maturity and dies. It is in the wholesale slaughter of unmatured trees the evil lies. Half grown specimens and acres of smaller ones cleared off with the axe simply means, if coming generations are to handle logs like their grandfather's handled them, some method apart from theorizing and visionary private ones must be applied by lumbermen themselves. Their main desire is to swell the bulk of the figures given on the enormous consumption of timber at last year's forestry meetings, and to skin their limits of everything saleable, leaving their successors to fish for timber as best they can.

THE INFLUENCE OF CANADA LUMBER IN THE UNITED STATES.

CONSIDERABLE discussion in papers and journals has been provoked by the utterances of Geo. P. Smith, a lumber dealer of Tonawanda, N. Y., in an interview reported by the *Detroit Free Press*. Much of the interview is foreign to the Canadian trade, but amongst the items the following is found:

"The effect of the reduction of the import duty on Canadian lumber from \$2 to \$1 a thousand has been to bring into the United States considerable quantities of the coarser grades of lumber, which before could not afford to pay the duty. The Canadian bill, removing wholly the export duty of \$2 a thousand on logs, was passed too late to be of any effect this winter, but the indications are that by another year large amounts of Canadian logs will be sawed in American mills." The influx of coarser grades of Canadian lumber in the eastern market, is quite likely to effect the American product in the east. An eastern Michigan manufacturer stated a day or two ago that the call there was largely for good lumber, while the coarse stocks dragged, and he attributed it to the Canadian stocks being placed by rail upon the American market. As the stocks now being manufactured in eastern Michigan, owing to closer cutting, are largely coarse grades, it looks to a man up a tree as if the Michigan coarse product would drag like the dickens before closing-down time comes next fall. This condition of things has been feared by Michigan manufacturers a long time, and largely influenced them in opposing a reduction in the import duty on lumber. "It is true," said one of them, "that there is still a duty of \$1 on Canadian lumber imported to the United States, but the difference in freight between Canada and the eastern market is fully \$1 a thousand in favor of the Canadians and I expect that coarse lumber will be sick. And it is these coarse stocks that have helped the Michigan manufacturer out. They have enabled him, by reason of placing them on the market at a fair profit, to cut his lands close, and thus even up the cost of stumpage, which has been higher in eastern Michigan than in any other part of the northwest. I am apprehensive that this coarse Canadian lumber thrown upon the eastern market will prove a serious affair to Michigan manufacturers."

The *Timberman*, of Chicago, in challenging the statement, clearly shows, by giving the prices obtained in *bona fide* sales, that at least in the cases quoted prices have not fallen, and winds up its proofs in the following language:

"It will be of interest to say by way of emphasis, that one Buffalo firm, a near neighbor of Mr. Smith's, has purchased at Menominee this year a stock of lumber from a firm from which they have bought during the past six years, (some 40,000,000 feet) at \$17.50. Hitherto the Buffalo firm has purchased this Menominee firm's stock of lumber by inspection. They will take the lump lot on a basis of \$17.50 this year, and in the six years they have bought this firm's lumber, they never paid a price approaching the above named figures, considering the inspection of matters, within \$1.50 per thousand feet as much as they pay this spring. Having said as much in refutation of the charge that prices have been constantly lessening during the past five years, we will say, that whereas some of the lower grade lumber has been reduced in price, such change is not permanent, and even with a reduction in the Canadian tariff during the past year, prices of good lumber as above indicated have advanced. Instead of saying, as Mr. Smith does, that the price of pine has been reduced