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ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED ON APPLICATION

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.

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.

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 25 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.

CONSIDERATION OF OUR TIMBER POLICY.

MUCH space in this number is given to a verbatim report of the meeting of lumbermen held in Toronto on October 6th, at which the future timber policy of the country was discussed at length, and resolutions passed memorializing both the Ontario and Dominion governments to take action looking to the removal of the discrimination that now exists against Canadian lumbermen. The interest in the question is by no means confined to Ontario; the influence of the meeting will be felt from the Pacific to the Atlantic; hence we believe the complete report of the proceedings which we give will be especially appreciated by lumbermen who were not able to be present at the meeting.

The outcome of the meeting was the passing of resolutions declaring it to be in the public interest that all timber cut from crown lands be manufactured in Canada; requesting the Dominion government to give notice, by order-in-council, of an export duty on saw-logs and pulpwood; and favoring the immediate imposition of an import duty on lumber.

Regarding the former, the Ontario government had already announced that no interference would be made with existing licenses, which expire on the 30th of April, 1898, and since the meeting a reply has been received from the Premier that the question of entirely prohibiting the export of saw-logs from the province was too grave a question to be dealt with by an order-in-council, and that the timber policy would be fully gone into at the next session of the Legislature.

Dropping consideration of current licenses out of the question, we cannot see that any serious objection can be raised to deferring action until an opportunity is given of having the matter discussed in the Legislature. Just when the Legislature will meet has not yet been decided, but it will very probably be early in the new year, when the first question to be considered should be the policy of the government with respect to timber licenses. To our own lumbermen is due some measure of relief from the present unenviable position in which they are placed by the United States tariff law.

As to an export duty, it seems only reasonable that the Dominion cabinet should be asked to exercise that power which was given to it by special act of parliament. The agreement between the United States and Canada in respect to the lumber trade was broken by the former country. Why, then, should we hesitate to enforce a law that was only removed from our statutes upon the granting of terms that are now not honored. Our wisest policy would seem to be to legislate for our own country, independent of the United States, and the sooner this is done the sooner will our rights be recognized.

Whatever difference of opinion may exist as to the wisdom of applying export duties, the lumber trade is almost a unit in demanding that an import duty be imposed on lumber coming into Canada. This is a matter which affects western Ontario, Manitoba and the Northwest very seriously, and other sections of the Dominion to a less extent. An evidence of this is found in the remarks of Mr. John Piggott, of Chatham, Ont., who stated that last year he had purchased three million feet of lumber in the United States. This lumber was distributed throughout the planing mills and retail yards of western Ontario, to the displacement of so much Canadian stock. Further, much of this lumber was probably purchased in Michigan, and was no doubt manufactured at the Michigan mills from Canadian logs, exported from the Georgian Bay district free of duty and shipped as lumber back into Canada. This is only one instance. In the last year United States lumber has been sold in Toronto, London, Hamilton, Montreal, and even Quebec, in considerable quantities. In Manitoba and the Northwest this competition is keenly felt. By means of the wide market afforded American manufacturers, they are enabled to sell the low grade stock in Canada at a very low figure, and the Canadian manufacturer, being debarred from the United States market by a two-dollar duty, is obliged to close his mill and sell his logs to be manufactured in a foreign country. If we cannot have the United States market, let us at least keep our own.

THE LUMBER TRADE OF THE NORTHWEST.

THE lumber trade is to a large extent dependent upon agriculture. This is forcibly illustrated in Manitoba and the Northwest, where the abundant crops of this year, accompanied by fair prices, have created such a demand for lumber that the mills are taxed to their utmost capacity to furnish the supply. Farmers in that country are gradually becoming more prosperous, and as funds become available are making improvements in the way of new buildings and repairs. The lumber for this market is now obtained from British Columbia, the Lake of the

Woods district, and the states to the south of the border line. It has always been held that the lumber consumers of the Northwest would strongly oppose the imposition of an import duty on American lumber, as likely to raise the price and give the manufacturers of British Columbia and the Lake of the Woods, particularly the latter, a monopoly of the trade, there being few local mills of any importance.

It is the purpose of this article to point out to manufacturers in Northwestern Ontario the possibility of supplying this market, which promises to grow in importance from year to year. The distance from Duluth to Winnipeg is some 500 miles, and we can see no reason why lumber from the Georgian Bay and Algoma districts could not be placed on the Winnipeg market at the same price as that from Duluth. There is one essential, however, necessary to this end, namely, cheaper freight rates over the C. P. R. For some unaccountable reason the management of this railway have rather discouraged this trade by charging a rate out of all proportion to that charged in other sections. For instance, we are informed that the rate from Port Arthur to Winnipeg, where there is no competition, is from 18 to 20 cents, while for the same distance in eastern Ontario the charge would be only seven or eight cents. Where the railway meets competition the rate is reduced to meet that of its American competitor.

Should an import duty be placed on American lumber our Ontario lumbermen should take immediate steps to capture the market, which to them justly belongs. An outlet would thus be secured for some of the common grades which are now so difficult of sale, as the requirements of the market are chiefly confined to this stock. The people of the Northwest have little to fear from an import duty on lumber.

NORTH-WEST TIMBER RESERVES.

THE Dominion government has announced a change of policy regarding the timber regulations of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, which indicates a growing recognition of the importance of protecting our forest wealth. That portion of the Dominion is, unfortunately, very meagrely timbered, and it is the intention of the government to maintain permanent timber reserves. With that object in view the heaviest timber belts will be withdrawn from settlement, and a systematic policy of preservation adopted. The young trees will be preserved by an efficient staff of rangers, who will patrol the limits. It is the purpose to expend considerable amount of money to lay out a proper fire guard, a sum having been appropriated at the last session for this purpose.

Above the timber reserves at Moose Lake and White Turtle Mountains, where the chief limits are to be found, there are numerous lakelets. These will be connected with wide roads, which will form a complete barrier to the progress of a fire. The open space and the lakes should effectually prevent any further ravages and act as a reliable fire break.

The settlers will be allowed to cut the matured trees only, and by this means a permanent supply will be secured, which will mean a great deal to the country. The officers of the Dominion government having charge of this work are to be congratulated on the steps taken.