

# THE CANADA LUMBERMAN.

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## THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

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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 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 of them 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 upon which it can rely in its operations.

Special correspondents in localities of importance present 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 or 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 ten 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.

MANUFACTURERS of lumber in the south are beginning to acknowledge that the cost of manufacturing to them will steadily advance. One cause is that the producing territory is constantly receding from them. Another is that all choice timber limits are in the hands of Northern speculators.

AN article has been patented, which it claimed possesses all the qualities as to hardness and durability of lignum vitæ and can be made of any soft wood. The process of manufacture consists of first saturating the wood thoroughly with an oily chemical compound of great penetrating power, and then subjecting it to a powerful compression, which so increases its density as to make it rival even iron in hardness.

FOR years Saginaw lumbermen have been in the habit of flooding the Chippewa river by means of dams in order to enable them to run their logs during July and August, thereby shutting the water off from a mill pond at Mt. Pleasant, Mich., leaving the pond dry for days at a time. This it is claimed has been the cause of much sickness, and the boards of health of the township will commence proceedings immediately to prevent the flooding. Other townships are expected to enter the contest, which promises to be an interesting fight, as many wealthy Michigan lumbermen are interested parties.

THE question of admitting Canadian lumber into the United States free of duty has lately been greatly exercising the House of Representatives. The probable fate of the bill is to be sheaved in congress, and the Republicans hope when the question again comes up, the president elect will be one who will veto it, despite the favor of both houses. Canadians need not be overly anxious in the matter. While we have a great reserve of forests yet, the time is rapidly approaching when the value of our timber will be vastly greater than now, and it would not be true economy to have it rushed off too rapidly.

THE shingle makers over in Michigan, says an exchange, are reported to be engaged in cutting up every scrap of timber they can get hold of, not even the stumps escape them. A machine has recently come into use which is moved into the woods and which slices shingle-length bolts off every decent stump within a radius of 100 feet. In this way, in the language of a Michigan man, the shingle mills are becoming the scavengers of the lumber region.

LEADING Ottawa saw-millers are considering the advisability of changing their motive power from water to steam, and it is said that other lumbermen about the Chaudiere are debating the same question. Their idea is that the waste and sawdust that is now discharged into the river would supply the necessary fuel, and therefore the expense would be inconsiderable, while the change would settle the sawdust nuisance, and the water power could be advantageously used for factories of different descriptions which do not afford their own fuel.

AMERICAN oak has achieved an important conquest in England, meeting with favor in all quarters, and the number of purposes for which it is called into requisition being extensive and varied. Large quantities are being used and prices are sufficiently firm to afford great satisfaction to those handling it, who are sparing no pains to educate the English public to a thorough appreciation of the value of the wood. The trade in mahogany from Cuba has also received an impetus, and there seems to be a constantly increasing demand therefor, as indicated by latest reports from the various centres of the timber trade.

ACCORDING to some American enthusiasts, Alaska will some day furnish timber for the rest of the United States, but a correspondent of the *Mississippi Valley Lumberman*, who has seen the country for himself, says such talk is all foolishness. One cannot deny, he says, that there is plenty of timber in Alaska—for there is. But such timber! Small, scrubby spruce, growing to a diameter of 16 inches at the butt, and raising a question in one's mind where the roots and the branches begin. That's the kind of timber Alaska produces. The hills and the mountains are covered with it, as far as the eye can reach, but for building purposes it is practically useless. A curious feature of that timber is that when it reaches a certain size, viz.: 16 to 18 inches at the butt, without any apparent cause it dies; and the forests are dotted with these trees.

ALTHOUGH recent British Board of Trade returns indicate a solid revival of business generally it is not pleasing to notice that the trade between Canada and the Old Country has shown a very decided decrease. British exports to the Dominion during July were 11½ per cent. below the returns for the same month of 1887, and for the seven months ending with July the decrease was 15½ per cent. Canadian exports for the same month show a decrease in July of no less than 20½ per cent., and for the seven months, 18½ per cent. Such a state of affairs would be a serious matter at any time, but occurring as it does at a period when British Colonial trade is expanding in a remarkable manner, it certainly becomes much more so. The best deduction that can be drawn is that our commercial community of interest with Great Britain is diminishing at an alarming rate, a result which should be, if possible, averted. Whatever may be the cause of the above noted diminution of trade, if allowed to continue, the result can not but be detrimental to our commercial interests.

THE growth of the Canadian lumber export trade may be exemplified by a few quotations from the official returns of the London, England, Board of Trade. Of sawn, split, planed or dressed lumber imported from the Dominion, for the half year ended June 30th, the quantity is set down at 177,286, and the value £408,150. During the corresponding part of 1887, the figures were; quantity, 108,438, and value, £251,864; while in 1886 they were 93,135 and £224,890, respectively. In hewn lumber, however, there was a big drop both in quantity and value last year, but this year's returns show an

upward tendency. The total value of Canadian lumber, exclusive of hewn, exceeded that from the United States by £54,835. The only country that leads Canada in supplying the London lumber market is Russia, whose lumber entered at London up to June 30th, aggregated in value £927,956.

A MOST gigantic lumber "Trust" has been formed in the west, which controls the principal lumber interests of Minnesota and Wisconsin. Fred. Meyerhauser, the richest lumberman in the world is at the head of the combine. The company is said to control about \$60,000,000 invested in lumber and pine lands, and is backed by heavy capitalists of Berlin. The agents of the syndicate are scouring the country to get all the stumpage land there is in sight. The scheme is to float logs from the Upper Mississippi down over the falls at Minneapolis and erect big mills on the lower river. It is understood that some of the Chicago railroads and some southwestern lines are encouraging the deal. It should be borne in mind in this connection that while "trusts" and "combines" are usually understood to mean associations for the purpose of keeping up or raising the prices of commodities, in the lumber business they are entered into for the purpose of lessening the cost of production.

OWING to the comparatively small cut of logs in the Ottawa valley winter before last, the output of the various Chaudiere mills was rather small, and this spring saw the piling grounds completely denuded, every stick of timber being sold and shipped and yet the contracts were not all filled. Until the drive logs of last winter's cut came down this spring most of the firms had hardly enough logs to keep the mills running on day watch only. As a consequence of this shortage unusually large gangs of men were sent to the bush last fall and more logs were cut on the Ottawa than in any previous year. Most of the firms prepared for the emergency by increasing the capacity of their mills. Last year 300,000,000 feet were sawn. This year the output is estimated to be 405,000,000. Among the firms which are the heaviest purchasers for the American market for this district are: Shepherd & Morse of Burlington, Bronson, Weston & Dunham of Burlington, Rathbun Company, of Deseronto, the Canada Export Lumber Co. and a host of concerns on the other side of the line. The Bronson, Weston & Co., J. R. Booth and Pierce & Co. ship large quantities of first grade deals to England.

THE *Manitoba Free Press* had an article recently describing the timber resources of Lake Winnipeg, which contains much valuable information. Not only are the islands in the lake, many of which are of considerable extent, covered with valuable timber, but its shores also, and especially in the neighborhood of the numerous rivers that empty into it. The various kinds of timber in the Lake Winnipeg region are spruce, tamarac, cedar, jack pine and white poplar. The tamarac supply, described as almost limitless in extent, must some day be of immense service in furnishing the railways of the Canadian Northwest and the Northwestern States with ties that are 20 per cent. more valuable than spruce ties. There are 4,207 miles of railway in Dakota, 4,789 in Wisconsin, 4,828 in Minnesota, 5,539 in Michigan, and equal or greater mileage in many other states and territories. The railway mileage of the American Northwest is something stupendous, and to renew the ties every seven years will require almost unlimited supplies of tamarac. If navigation up Red River from Selkirk to Winnipeg were improved Manitoba should soon become a large exporter of tamarac ties. For the spruce, jack-pine and cedar of the Lake there should also be large demand. The jack-pine makes excellent shingles, and seven or eight million shingles made from it were exported from the Lake last year. The spruce and cedar are most valuable, and even the white poplar can be employed both for fuel purposes and, if necessary, for the manufacture of paper pulp. The extent to which the lumber industry on Lake Winnipeg has been developed already is by no means insignificant. The Selkirk Lumber Company at Fisher River cut 2,500,000 feet in 1887, and will cut 3,000,000 feet this year. Brown, Rutherford & Nilsson at Fisker Bay cut 1,100,000 feet in 1887, and their estimated cut for this year is 1,250,000 feet. Capt. Robinson