

per cubic feet, he and the Province would each be rightfully receiving what they were entitled to under the contract entered into at the time his timber was sold.

From this example it will be clear that a converting factor that gives equitable adjustment as between buyer and seller may quickly be worked out for every sale that has been made since the Doyle Rule was adopted in 1879, and once determined, this converting factor is valid as long as the contract obtains.

For timber limits disposed of before 1879 it would be equitable to accept the *then relation between Doyle Rule and its cubic volume equivalent* as determined by the cubic volume and scale of the average log cut during, let us say, the five-year period following the adoption of the Doyle Rule, namely: 1880 to 1884.

In its practical application to those old timber limits, a change from the Doyle Rule scale to a cubic volume scale as suggested above will increase the amount of Crown dues paid into the Provincial Treasury. It is evident, however, that it is equitable that an owner of these old timber limits should not receive more cubic feet of wood for his unit of crown dues than he did in 1880 to 1884. A change to cubic volume measurement with an adjustment by a converting factor (obtained as outlined) *merely makes a correction for the fact that the Doyle Rule requires so much more cubic volume of wood to scale one thousand feet board measure with our present small logs than it did with the larger logs 1880-1884.* In other words, under this adjustment the limit owner would again be receiving the identical volume of wood per unit of Crown dues which he received in the early eighties. The practical effect on the amount of paid-for logs cut from areas recently sold will be slight; in some cases possibly nil. In any event, any change obtaining will be, as has been shown, equally fair to buyer and seller.

(2) Re Checking Culler's Scaling.

The Timber Commission made a timely reference to the desirability of all cullers being employees of the department, and of the necessity of properly checking their work in the woods, and particularly pointing out the importance of marking all skidways so that the check scalers would have every opportunity to make a real check of the work of the cullers in determining the amount of wood cut on which Crown dues are payable.

These recommendations are obviously entirely sound, and I am very pleased to find that the matter of establishing a checking of the scale on all operations, and the closely related and very necessary detail of marking each skidway has already been adopted by the Department of Lands and Forests, and has been in effect during the past year. I would suggest as an additional aid to the check scaler, that the number of logs reduced for defect be noted for each skidway on the culler's report.

The discounting logs for defect is undoubtedly a procedure in which there now obtains a great diversity in judgment and method, with corresponding differences in the scale returned. An occasional—perhaps an annual—cullers' conference at a convenient milling point, which would provide facilities for practical demonstrations, would be most helpful in promoting accuracy and, therefore, uniformity in scaling methods and results. The discussions and exchanging of ideas on such an occasion would also greatly contribute to the same result.

(3) Re Shanty Books.

In time it may be found that the check-scaling of the culler's work which now obtains on all limits, is a sufficient check on the accuracy of the cullers' returns on which the Provincial forest revenue is computed. Until that is demonstrated, however, the "Shanty Book" record should be retained and made more effective than it has been in

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