

PROPOSED EXPORT DUTY ON PULP-WOOD.

We referred briefly in our last issue to the request made to the Dominion government by a number of pulp manufacturers to impose an export duty on pulp-wood. The deputation was headed by Mr. John Forman, of the Laurentide Pulp Company. They pointed out that while spruce logs were admitted free to the United States, a duty of ten per cent. was imposed on wood-pulp, which, it was claimed, had the effect of giving the United States manufacturers the lion's share of the profit of the pulp industry. The imposition of a duty would result in the government of the United States abolishing the duty on pulp, and as Canada was said to have eighty per cent. of the pulp-wood of North America, the Canadians would practically have a monopoly of the industry. Between five and six hundred thousand cords of pulp-wood were exported annually.

Below will be found the opinions, pro and con, of several prominent lumbermen, pulp manufacturers, and others, on the advisability of imposing the duty:

FOR THE DUTY.

Mr. Bennett, M. P. for East Simcoe, in introducing the question in the House, denounced the policy of permitting saw logs to be exported without a duty. He read the declaration of a manufacturer in Bay City that if Canada were to impose an export duty on saw logs it would throw 20,000 American mill hands out of employment, as the American mills would have to be removed to the Canadian side. He believed it was the influence of the Ottawa mill men that had previously prevented the imposition of such a duty, they being afraid of the re-imposition of the United States duty of \$1 per thousand on Canadian lumber.

Mr. W. H. Rowley, secretary-treasurer of the E. B. Eddy Co., Hull, Que., says: "Canada has an enormous forest wealth. Why should we in Canada furnish the paper and pulp mills of the United States with our raw material at the cost of the destruction of our forests, without receiving in return anything except the bare cost of cutting down the standing timber and exporting it? The Americans have placed a heavy duty on all pulp and paper going into the States, while, without our source of supply for their mills, they could not operate them, as they are almost entirely dependent upon Canadian or Northern European sources for their pulp wood. Some of our lumber people are the strongest opponents to the imposition of the export duty on pulp wood, timidly fearing that if Canadians impose a duty on pulp wood the United States would impose an import duty on lumber. Well, suppose they did. Mr. Whitney, of the St. Anthony Lumber Co., who, knowing the value of Canadian green tree tops, came over here and established a large lumbering mill in our midst, has given his opinion that an import duty on our lumber will never be imposed by the U. S., because the present party in power is not in sympathy with it, and because Michigan lumbermen are already making a big noise over it. He adds that if an import duty was imposed by the United States, it would be so small as not to be felt by Canadian lumbermen during brisk business seasons. The answer of the pulp manufacturers of Canada to the point taken by the lumbermen is that as lumber, the product of saw logs, goes into the United States free, pulp and paper, the product of pulp wood, should also go into the United States free, instead of as present being subject to an import duty of 10 per cent. It seems certain that the Canadian Government will impose a duty on pulp wood for the following reasons, among others: A tariff of \$2 per cord seems likely to be the duty first imposed, though it would appear to be better to fix it at \$3, which tax would yield a handsome revenue to the Dominion Government, but which would speedily result in the United States paper makers obtaining a change in their pulp duties or in compelling them to come to this side and manufacture the pulp on the ground. The Canadians have no desire to embarrass or hamper the operations of their American cousins, asking only that our Government take such steps as will preserve to us the legitimate trade advantages."

Wm. Mason & Sons, Ottawa: "As regards the advisability of the Dominion Government imposing an export duty on spruce logs, we may say that in our opinion there should be a good substantial export duty placed upon all unmanufactured products of the forests, such as pulp-wood, saw logs, timber, etc., where they are taken from this country for the purpose of manufacturing them in direct opposition to industries established or capable of being established in Canada."

AGAINST THE DUTY.

J. W. Howry & Sons, Fenelon Falls, Ont.: It is our opinion that the request for export duty on spruce logs is premature, owing to the agitated state of affairs in the United States, and anything of this nature coming up at the present time would but intensify the desire to place an import duty on lumber, making it very much harder for those interested to do business with the people beyond the border. We also think that it will have the effect of reducing the price on spruce stumpage and a general depressing effect on lumber, lath and shingles.

Mr. Geo. T. Marks, of Port Arthur, Ont., a large owner of spruce timber limits, says: "The Canadian government will make a serious error if they adopt the \$2 export duty. The owners of standing spruce find difficulty now in competing with the Maine and Virginia owners. They can almost supply the U. S. market. Because our firm could not sell so cheaply as the Maine owners last autumn, we had 3,000 cords of pulp wood left on our hands. It is rotting now at Port Arthur. If the government of Canada grants the request of the Canadian pulp manufacturers, the timber owners will have to sell for next to nothing."

Mr. Edwards, M.P., in reply to Mr. Bennett, made a strong argument against the imposition of a duty. Mr. Bennett had claimed that if the 300,000,000 feet of logs which were exported last year had been sawn in Canada it would have given employment to 20,000 men, with a wages bill amounting to \$5,500,000. The truth was that the sawing of that number of logs would have given employment to 2,000 men, with wages of \$600,000, and then it had to be remembered that although the logs were not sawn in Canada they were rafted here, and 50 cents a thousand had to be allowed for that. He declared that while the United States could get along for 1,000 years without buying one stick of Canadian timber, that country took two million dollars' worth more of Canada's sawn lumber than Great Britain, and that was of the lower grades which were harder to sell. Therefore he would regard as a great calamity a proposition to impose an export duty on logs.

Hon. J. K. Ward, proprietor Mono Saw Mills, Montreal: "I think it would be impolitic on our part to put an export duty on spruce logs going out of the country, whether used for pulp or otherwise. Until recently the spruce lumber that found a market in the United States was subjected to an import duty of \$2 per thousand feet and pine to \$1 per thousand feet, we allowing all logs to be exported free of duty—which arrangement, no doubt, is a great benefit to Canadian spruce producers especially. Therefore, the only reason that I can see for putting an export duty on spruce pulp wood would be, that it might induce the United States to take the duty off ground pulp. It might, nevertheless, have the contrary effect by restoring the \$2 duty on our spruce lumber, which would be a serious matter to us. The Provincial governments, who are the proprietors of the timber on crown lands, could make the conditions for cutting pulp wood so onerous as to size and price as to make it almost prohibitory. This policy, if pursued, would undoubtedly bring about retaliation, which I do not think would be to our interest. As a holder of spruce limits, I am not in favour of imposing an export duty on spruce logs or pulp wood. Many of the settlers on new land in Eastern Canada and other parts of the country find much small spruce suitable for pulp on their lands, which would be burned in clearing if they could not find a market for it, the price received often helping them to eke out an existence, and the lumberman concluding it is better to realize on his timber than to run the risk of having it burnt up or stolen by bogus settlers. Until our provincial authorities come to the conclusion to adopt a policy, such as setting apart all lands as forest reserves which are not suitable for agriculture, of which there is a vast quantity in this province, and giving the owners of limits some security in that which has in most cases cost them a good deal of money, it will be to their interest to sell their standing timber to the first comer, regardless of the future."

PERSONAL.

Mr. A. H. Campbell, of the Muskoka Mill and Lumber Co., Toronto, is at present on a pleasure trip to England.

Mr. Samuel Erb, of Seattle, has been engaged by the Victoria Lumber Co. as foreman of their mill at Chemainus, B. C.

The death is announced of Mrs. Eaton, wife of Mr. D. R. Eaton, of the well-known lumber firm of that name at Parrsboro, N. S.

Mr. John Pringle, late mill manager for the Conger Lumber Co., has received a similar appointment with the Ontario Lumber Co.

Mr. William Armstrong, lumber merchant, of Portage la Prairie, Man., is receiving the congratulations of his friends upon his recent marriage.

Mr. Wm. A. McGillis, of Charlottetown, Ont., at one time one of the most prominent lumber dealers in Eastern Ontario, is dead, aged 74 years.

The death occurred on the 12th ultimo, of Mr. D. W. Alexander, of Marysville, N. B. He was formerly a prominent mill man of St. Stephen.

Mr. D. O'Connor, lumber merchant, of Sudbury, Ont., is a probable Liberal candidate for the Nipissing district at the approaching Dominion elections.

Mr. B. F. Young, of Young Bros. & Co., lumber merchants, Parrsboro, N. S., has recently returned from an extended trip through the United States.

Mr. P. Cantin, advocate, of Quebec, was recently united in marriage with Miss Veilleux, eldest daughter of Mr. Charles Veilleux, lumber merchant, of St. David.

Mr. L. H. Shepard has severed his connection with the Shepard & Morse Lumber Co., of Boston, Mass., to embark in the wholesale lumber business for himself.

Mr. R. W. Graham, of Gagetown, N. B., an extensive lumber operator, will, it is said, retire from the business as soon as he has disposed of the present winter's cut.

The sudden death of Mr. Alexander Shives took place at St. John, N. B., a fortnight ago. Deceased was 78 years of age, and for a number of years operated a saw mill at Dunsinane.

Mr. A. L. Fox, who operates a saw mill at Arnor, Essex county, Ont., was a recent visitor at the LUMBERMAN office. Mr. Fox reports the prospects as bright for a good season's business.

Mr. Louis Dupuis, one of the best known timber limit explorers of the Ottawa valley, is dead. His death was the result of heart failure, brought on by exposure while travelling through the pine forests in the upper Ottawa.

Mr. Wm. Gidley, mill foreman for M. M. Boyd & Co., of Roberval, Ont., has been obliged to seek the aid of specialists at the Toronto hospital for knee trouble. Since his return from British Columbia he has suffered from swelling in the joint.

Information reaches us of the death at British Columbia of Mr. Sutton, of Kincardine, Ont., formerly ex-sheriff of the county of Bruce. Mr. Sutton erected the first saw mill in the township 42 years ago, and since that time has carried on business as miller in Ontario and British Columbia.

One of the oldest lumbermen in Canada was Mr. Peter Cockburn, of Gravenhurst, Ont., whose death occurred at the age of 87 years. He came to Canada in 1815, and soon after entered into the square timber business, carrying on trade generally between the lower Ottawa and Quebec. In 1876 he removed to Gravenhurst, where he remained until his death. He had not been in active business for the last fifteen years.

Messrs. J. & R. E. Butler have recently opened out in the wholesale and retail lumber business at Woodstock, Ont., and have leased the Peacock planing mill for five years. They have put in a splendid brick kiln and purpose adding four machines to the present equipment. Mr. R. E. Butler was a member of the firm of Lerschman, Maudrell & Co. for some time, and has a wide experience in the lumber business, while Mr. John Butler is well known in Woodstock as an energetic business man.

The death occurred at London, Eng., on the 26th of February, of Mr. John Burstall, lumber merchant, of Quebec. Mr. Burstall had decided to reside in England, and had recently taken up his residence at Blackheath. He was born at Hessele, near Hull, sixty-four years ago, and left England for Canada at the age of 23 years. Entering the office of his uncle, Mr. Edward Burstall, at Quebec, after four years he was admitted as a partner in the firm. In 1862 Mr. Edward Burstall retired, and his nephew acquired the business shortly after, remaining senior partner since that time.