

much ill-feeling being stirred up, to say nothing of the serious results which might follow from a protracted conflict between the employers and the men. Next to those actively engaged in building operations, none feel the effects of a disturbance such as this more than the lumber trade. The lumber dealers of Hamilton depend almost entirely on the local demand, and should building operations cease they will be seriously affected thereby.

[Since the above was in type we learn that the prospects are favorable for a speedy termination of the lock-out referred to, and that in all probability work will proceed as usual.]

To successfully conduct a trade journal such as THE LUMBERMAN, one of the most urgent needs is the hearty co-operation of its readers. We have received so many flattering letters of appreciation from our subscribers of late that we would appear, indeed, ungrateful if we did not make proper acknowledgement of the same. In this regard a publisher is placed in much the same position as a public servant, feeling grateful at all times for any word of encouragement which he may receive from those to whom he looks for support. The steady strides of advancement made by this journal during the past year will be continued indefinitely, and we hope that not only will we receive an equal consideration from the trade as in the past, but that each individual reader will lend a hand in furnishing information on all important subjects affecting the lumber interests. There is no reason why this paper should not be placed in the hands of every man interested in Canada's greatest natural product, and in order to accomplish this we have a request to make to all our present readers. It is that every man receiving this paper send to this office the names of friends and acquaintances in their section who are in any way interested in lumber, in order that we may address them sample copies, with a view to secure them as regular subscribers. When this is being done we would also ask that a few words at least be added regarding the season's operations. Those who are unacquainted with the paper are always invited to send for specimen copies, free, and in other respects we are ready to extend to every one the opportunity of becoming acquainted with the paper before investing in it. We hope that before our next issue our friends will demonstrate, as above, their appreciation and interest in the CANADA LUMBERMAN.

RECENT LEGISLATION.

The session of 1888 of the Ontario Legislature has been drawn to a close, and among the Bills which passed the House, of interest to the lumber trade, not previously referred to in these columns we find the following:

"An Act to authorize the appointment of Fire Guardians, and for the better prevention of bush fires."

The provisions of the Act empower the council of a township municipality at its first meeting in each and every year, to appoint by by-law a sufficient number of resident householders to carry out the provisions of the Act, the person so appointed to be known as "fire guardians," their term of office being for one year. It is stipulated that no person shall hereafter set out or set fire to any brush heap or combustible material in any field, clearance or place where the same would be likely to spread, between the first of June and the first of October, without having obtained leave in writing from the fire guardian appointed by the council resident to the place where the brush heap or other combustible material is situated. It shall be the duty of the fire guardian on being requested to grant leave to set out fire, to examine the place at which it is intended to set out the fire, and the adjoining lands, timber and other property thereon, and to consider the state of the wind and weather at the time of such request, with power to refuse any such request if the time and location are not favorable.

The council of any township municipality may and by the by-law make provision (1) for the payment to the fire guardians for his service; (2) for supplying the appliances necessary for extinguishing a fire; (3) as to the duties of the fire guardians appointed and all other residents in case a bush fire calculated to cause damage or loss of property has been started in or is approaching the municipality; (4) as to the rules and regulations (not contrary to law) which shall guide the guardians and residents, the distance from which parties may be required to attend any fire, the means, appliances and material to be used in extinguishing or preventing the spread of a fire, and as to all the matters within the scope of their authority which the council may think advisable, and their experience and the position of the municipality may suggest, as being conducive to the carrying out of the intention of the Act and the by-laws passed thereunder; (5) the penalty to be imposed upon fire guardians and others refusing to perform or neglecting their duties under this Act or the by-law or contravening any provision thereof.

Any person setting out fire without leave and permission shall be subject to a penalty of not exceeding \$100 for each

offence, which penalty may be sued for and recovered on information of any resident ratepayer in the municipality before a police magistrate or two justices of the peace sitting together, or by action in the Division Court held in the division in which the fire was set out.

The plaintiff or complainant shall be entitled to one moiety of the penalty, and the other moiety shall be paid over to the treasurer of the municipality, except costs, all of which shall go to the plaintiff, if ordered to be paid by the judge; and in case the defendant be ordered to pay the plaintiff's cost, and the same cannot on execution be recovered by the plaintiff, the treasurer of the municipality shall pay the plaintiff's costs, unless the judge who tries the case otherwise orders.

LONDON BOARD OF TRADE.

The February Board of Trade returns are still better reading than those of January, for though the imports have not increased so much, the exports show particularly well. January's imports were 3½ millions better than in the same month of 1887, and February's were £1,018,782 in advance of those twelve months ago. The only decreases are in duty-free articles of food and drink, and in oils. The decrease in January in "raw material for sundry industries" was turned in February into a gain of £345,000, and for the two months the growth in the two categories into which raw materials are divided is £1,393,132. Metals show an increase in the two months of 1¼ millions, and the total increase in all departments for the first two months is the gratifying one of £4,774,348. The exports for February have increased, as compared with last year, £1,737,290, as against an improvement in January of £774,936, the two months thus showing £2,512,226 better than the identical period of 1887. The only falling off is in chemicals—not an acceptable sign in view of Baron Liebig's dictum, quoted by Lord Beaconsfield, that the chemical industry is the best barometer of the state of trade. Still, over the two months there is a gain of £72,000. In January there was a falling off in the exports of textiles; but that was more than made good last month, and the two months together show a growth under the head of £115,636. The re-exports of foreign and colonial produce show a shrinkage in February as in January. The returns on the whole are most welcome and satisfactory.

Turning to our particular line of business, the statistics show that the importation of hewn timber was larger during February, 1888, by 12,071 loads than in the corresponding month last year, or an additional official computed value of about £31,000. This increase must be mainly credited to Sweden, Norway and Germany. The increase for the two months amounts to 21,330 loads. Sawn wood also shows an increase for the month of February of about 5,000 loads, the figures being 40,281 loads as compared with 35,248 loads for last year, or an increase in value of about £9,000. The increase also in this item is in goods from Sweden and Norway, which have supplied about 8,000 loads more than last year at a similar date. Taking the total for the two months, however, there is a decrease of about 2,000 loads against the present year. The most prominent feature in the returns is the large increase in both hewn and sawn goods from Sweden and Norway, the supplies from which have been largely in excess of those of each of the previous years, as will be seen by the figures which we print in another column.

Staves and mahogany are not included in the figures given above, but are separately treated in the returns. The importation of the former for the past month almost doubles that of 1887 for the same period; and the official value is reckoned at £34,339. For the two months the income for the present year is 2,336 loads. In mahogany the quantities are for the year 1,651 tons, as compared with 4,239 tons for February, 1887, a decrease of 2,588 tons. This stands in the return of estimated value at £14,018, as contrasted with £33,233. For the two months the quantities are 4,826 tons, as compared with 9,149 tons for 1887 for the same period, a decrease of 4,323 tons.—*Timber.*

THE LUMBERMAN'S PERILS.

The most exciting and dangerous period of the lumberman's always perilous life in the woods is now approaching—that is, the "breaking in" of log piles heaped or ranked at the summits and on the faces of the long runways that border the streams in the lumber woods. These rollways extend from the tops of high and abrupt banks to the water's edge. There are two ways of piling the logs at the rollways—one by laying them in regular ranks or tiers, and the other by throwing or dropping them in jumbled heaps on the ground. In the regular piles, tier on tier, the logs are started in a body down the rollway, and they usually go down in one great heap clear into the water. In the other way the logs are dumped from the trails and lie in a ragged, promiscuous jumble from top to bottom of the rollway. The key log or logs may be at the

bottom of the pile, in the water, or half way up the hill. There are always such configurations of the pile that there are many openings like great pitfalls here and there. At some of these piles the rollways are selected at places in the creek where the banks are high on either side. Then high dams are thrown across below with flood-gates. By these dams the water can be thrown back, manipulation of the gates raised and lowered among the tightly massed logs so that it lifts them and generally releases the jam.

But even where these dams are in use there are frequently piles so obstinate that nothing but the skillful work of the lumberman on the key logs will break them down. It seems utterly incredible that men could be found so daring as to make their way out along these icy, jagged and twisted piles, with 2,000 waiting logs above them, held, probably by the obstinate keying of a single log, and ready to thunder down upon them the instant that that log is moved a half-inch from its position. But the occasion is only needed to produce such men by the score, no matter how great the danger may be.

The woodsman makes his way nimbly but with caution over the protruding logs and across the treacherous pitfalls, frequently disappearing entirely beneath some lifted group of immense timbers, as he tries to locate the log or logs that prevents the great pile from breaking or completing its lightning-like plunge into the stream below. The log that makes all the trouble may be near the bottom, which, of course, increases the peril. The woodsman's quick eye is not long in demonstrating how the key may be most advantageously removed, and he at once proceeds to accomplish his task. One or two blows of his axe may be sufficient to remove an obstruction that has defied the many tons of pressure from above. It may require an hour's chopping and prying, and it may take a day's hard work to break the jam.

When the key is broken, however, is the time that the driver must use all of his nimbleness, nerve and skill to escape from the rush of pitching, tossing and thundering logs that he has started. He leaps here and there, and jumps from log to log in his flight, with the avalanche of timber pressing close behind him. In releasing one jam, last season, five men were caught in the break and killed. The fatality that accompanies the "breaking in" of log piles in different regions would startle the public if made a special item in reports of vital statistics. The rush of a pile of logs down a steep rollway, unobstructed, is as exciting a scene, in itself, as any one could wish to see. A hundred logs, rolling, tumbling and roaring into a stream will dash the water 50 feet in the air, and leave the bottom of the stream as bare as the shore until the water falls back again in foam and spray.

PERSONAL.

We regret to hear that Mr. Robt. Hurdman, of the lumbering firm of Hurdman & Co., Ottawa, while driving to his office about a fortnight ago, was run into by a runaway horse and badly injured. His many friends will regret to learn of his misfortune and wish him a speedy recovery.

Mr. Thes. Ouellette, of Gordon, Ont., a large manufacturer in hardwood lumber, was among the callers at THE LUMBERMAN office during the past month. He reports business good and an unusual large output of logs in his vicinity.

Mr. James McLaren, of the Canada Lumber Company, of Carleton Place, has left for Oregon to close a two million dollar timber deal in which he and other lumbermen are interested.

It is rumored that Mr. W. G. Perley, M. P., of Ottawa, may be called to the Senate. Mr. Perley is well known as, not only a very successful and shrewd business man and one of the largest lumberers in the country, but has of late shown himself to be a very valuable addition to the parliament of the country. Should the administration see fit to bestow upon him the honor above referred to, his many friends and admirers—THE LUMBERMAN included—will not be sparing in their congratulations.

Mr. H. H. Cook, M. P., president of the Ontario Lumber Co., who was recently unseated as member for East Simcoe on the grounds of bribery by one individual purporting to be his agent, has again taken his seat in the House. He will appeal the decision in the supreme Court which will open after the present session of parliament. This is another instance where one man suffers for another man's wrong doing. There is a screw loose in the act respecting bribery and corruption in parliament which should receive more serious consideration.

Mr. Nathaniel Shaw, an old and highly respected citizen of Peterborough passed to his last account during the past month. Deceased was seventy years of age, and was one of the oldest millwrights and saw millers in the country. It is said that as a millwright he had no superior in this section of the province and among the buildings, the elevators at Midland and Port Hope, as well as nearly all the large saw mills in this vicinity, bear testimony to his skill. He has a son and a daughter living. *Requiescat in pace.*