

## **EXPORT OF SAWLOGS TO THE UNITED STATES.**

### **THE EXPORT DUTY.—THE MANUFACTURING CONDITIONS.**

This subject has only recently been projected into Ontario politics, to which it does not properly belong, with the hope that it may affect the Government candidates in a few constituencies.

A short explanation will show that the question is one with which it is advisable the Provincial Government should not interfere, and that it is one with respect to which the Dominion Government has recognized its responsibility by dealing with it frequently both by legislation and regulation. The lumber trade is of Dominion concern, and perhaps ranks second in importance in Canada. All the Provinces are more or less affected by the prices obtained and the markets available for sawn lumber, but to Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and British Columbia—all large exporters of sawn lumber—the prosperity of the trade is of vital importance. The United States is practically our only market for sawn lumber and shingles, and its value may be judged from the fact that Canada sent there last year 1,031 million feet of sawn lumber valued at \$8,900,000, and 357 million shingles valued at \$734,000, or a total value of \$9,634,000. Is it advisable under these circumstances that any individual province should undertake to interfere with a question which is purely one of trade and commerce, and by its action affect seriously and adversely this great trade with which the welfare and commercial interests of the whole Dominion are interwoven and bound up? It is reasonable that when any action affecting this gigantic industry is being taken, the interests of the whole Dominion should be considered, and for that reason the Federal Government has dealt with it. Its powers and responsibilities in this matter have been abundantly recognized by the Dominion Government both by legislation and regulation. By legislation as follows:

(1) Act of Canadian Parliament, 1866, fixing the export duty on sawlogs at \$1 per thousand feet board measure;

(2) Act of Dominion Parliament, 1886, increasing the export duty to \$2 per thousand feet board measure, and authorizing the Governor in Council to increase it to \$3 per thousand feet if deemed expedient.

(3) Act of the Dominion Parliament, 1888, authorizing the Government of Canada, whenever it was satisfied it was desirable in the public interests so to do, either to reduce or to remove the export duty on sawlogs.

By regulation it has dealt as follows:

(1) Order in Council of 13th November, 1888, increasing the export duty to \$3 per thousand feet board measure;

(2) Order in Council of 5th July, 1889, reducing the duty to \$2 per thousand feet board measure;

(3) Order in Council of 11th November, 1890, entirely removing the export duty.

It will thus be seen that in the five years (1886 to 1890) the Dominion Government has dealt with this question five different times, and that one Act specially charges that Government with the care of the public interests in this question.