

OTTAWA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THE Government has been waited upon during the month by several deputations directly or indirectly connected with our timber interests.

The paper makers are pressing their claims for a re-imposition of the export duty on wood exported to the United States for the manufacture of paper. A deputation consisting of Mr. John McFarlane, manager of the Canada Paper Company and President of the Paper Makers' Union of Canada; Mr. E. B. Eddy, of the Hull Paper Mills; Mr. John R. Scott, of the Napanee Paper Mills; Mr. Rowley, manager for E. B. Eddy, and Mr. J. J. Gormully, Q.C., Ottawa, had a conference a few days ago with Mr. Abbott, Mr. Foster and Mr. Mackenzie Bowell touching this matter. Spruce pulpwood and spruce logs are being heavily drained upon by United States concerns and it is on these specially that a re-imposition of the duty is asked. It was pointed out that when the United States had, under the conditions of the McKinley Bill, reduced the duty on pine lumber to \$1.00 per thousand feet, spruce was not included, and remains at \$2.00 per thousand, whilst the export duty on spruce logs was removed altogether, as in the case of pine logs. This has given the United States dealer, it is alleged, an unfair control of our spruce stocks. The United States had in the meantime imposed a duty on ground wood pulp of \$2.50 a ton, a rate which amounted to about \$1.25 a cord; and in that way, spruce being largely the substance from which ground wood pulp is made, their tariff practically prohibited the importation of that article into the United States, except at the high rate of duty, thereby getting the better of Canada.

The Government has also been approached by the British Columbia members, who consider that in the constitution of the McKinley Bill an invidious distinction has been made against Douglas fir, a rich product of the Pacific province, as with spruce in Quebec and New Brunswick. They ask for a similar duty on pitch pine and redwood imported into Canada to that exacted by the United States Government upon Douglas fir entering the United States, unless the British Columbia Douglas fir is admitted free into the United States.

Supplementing these requests of a special character from lumbermen is the notice of motion of Mr. Ives, M.P., which has a position on the order paper asking for a re-imposition of the duty on sawlogs all round; in other words, going back to conditions before the McKinley Bill was a known article of legislation.

The First minister and his colleagues have promised to give prompt consideration to the wishes of the paper men and British Columbia lumbermen, but with what effect it is difficult to say. It looks, however, as if Mr. Ives, who is a Government supporter, though he had been disposed to kick, will be kept reasonably quiet, and his motion will probably get no further than the order paper.

AFFAIRS OF THE CASSELMAN LUMBER CO.

More than ordinary interest is being taken by all classes in the affairs of the Casselman Lumber Co., now in liquidation. The statement of assets and liabilities prepared by Mr. J. M. Garland, liquidator, shows the total liabilities to be \$124,000, and nominal assets \$143,000. These consist mainly of lands covered by mortgage, and logs and lumber, which is largely hypothecated, and if placed under forced sale would exhibit a material shrinkage. Besides an action, it has been stated, has been entered by the Molson's Bank to attempt to recover possession of a large portion of the real estate, including the large site of the sawmill, which was burned a month ago. All these circumstances give a problematical character to the estate, in which many Ottawa lumbermen and others have a considerable interest as creditors. A wider interest is felt by the residents of the village of Casselman, the very existence of which is practically dependent upon the welfare of the company. If the company is to be wiped out it almost means the extinguishing of Casselman, and a serious loss of trade to storekeepers both of the village and in Ottawa.

OTTAWA, ONT., March 28, 1892.

Thirty million feet of logs are banked on the Tillabawassu River at Midland and 20,000,000 at Averill, Mich.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

MR. JOHN WILSON, manager of the Brunette Sawmill Co., has recently returned from a trip to the Australian colonies, and shrewd, observing man as he is, every opportunity was utilized to study the country and its people.

Mr. Wilson went on business, of course, and we have reason to believe that his mission in this respect was successful. Trade in Australia, as LUMBERMAN readers know, has been very flat for some time back, though the outlook is now rather more promising. Labor disturbances have crippled business in these colonies, as they have in other parts of the world. Mr. Wilson's opinion is that the strikes in Melbourne and Queensland have been the means of keeping a great deal of capital out of the country.

Australia has got great undeveloped wealth in minerals, etc., and, with the exception of the colony of Victoria, the exports exceed the imports. The feeling is general in all the colonies that a steamship line from British Columbia direct would be of great benefit, not alone to them but to Canada, and they are hopeful not only of seeing the two countries connected with a direct steamship line, but also with a commercial cable. When this becomes an accomplished fact the C.P.R. will be the highway between the Australian colonies and England. The time now occupied between Vancouver and Sydney is twenty-eight days. This could easily be reduced to twenty days by a direct line.

Mr. Wilson was rather astonished at the railways in Australia, which are all run by the colonial Governments, on the European system. He says the Australian merchants are more anxious to increase their dealings with Canada than with the United States.

Six years ago the Broker Hill Silver Mines were bought for \$7,000 and since then have paid the stockholders \$15,000,000, and are to-day worth a fabulous amount. The town of Broker Hill, when Mr. Wilson visited it, was depending upon the railway for its water supply, and water was then selling at six shillings per 100 gallons, to a population of 30,000 people. The thermometer at Broker Hill registered 103° in the shade. The federation of all the Australian colonies is looked for in the near future, and sanguine people think this will be the forerunner of Imperial Federation. Mr. Wilson enjoyed his Christmas dinner in the height of summer, and with a fan in his hand.

GREAT LUMBER DEAL.

A big deal in British Columbia timber and sawmill properties was consummated last week, when Mr. L. H. Northey, acting for himself and Senator Drumm, Mr. W. B. Allan, Mr. P. A. Paulson and Mr. B. Carmody, of Tacoma, entered into an agreement with Mr. W. P. Sayward, of Victoria, to purchase his big mill, in operation at Roc Bay, his timber limits comprising some 15,000 acres on Vancouver Island, his steamers and all the other paraphernalia of the immense business, which is one of the oldest established and most important in British Columbia. The contract figure is not yet made public, but it is understood to be in the neighborhood of \$350,000. The company purchasing are allowed until the first day of May to inspect the timber, which has not yet been thoroughly examined, and then Mr. Sayward is to have sixty days in which to wind up affairs. The acquisition of the Sayward property will give Mr. Northey and his associates 50,000 acres of timber land in this province, and their intention is, as soon as they take possession, to proceed with the erection of a thoroughly and modernly equipped mill in Victoria, capable of cutting not less than 180,000 feet per diem.

SHAVINGS.

The Brunette Sawmill Co. have substituted the Dick belt for the rope transmitters formerly in use, and have now the largest driving belt ever used on the mainland. It is eighty-six feet five inches in circumference, thirty-six inches wide, made endless, of gutta percha and canvas, and it is claimed that it can be used in the water if necessary, without stretching.

The fine weather continues and orders for building keep the mills busy.

Prospects for trade with Australia and South America are improving.

Cassaday's shingle mill at Vancouver has cut 40,000

shingles daily for some time, which is considered very good work.

Michael Fortin, of the Mission sash and shingle factory, reports business good.

A. B. Dixon has been appointed manager of the Mission sawmills.

The twelve new boilers for the Moodyville mill have been brought over from Victoria. The mill will be running again by April 1.

The Okanagan Sawmill Co. lost 9,000,000 ft. of lumber in their drying kiln last week.

H.G.R.
NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., March 25, 1892.

MICHIGAN LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THE State of Michigan holds the first position in the production of lumber of any State in the American Union. The following compilation, however, covering the years 1885 to 1891, shows that, with the exception of the first-named year, the product of 1891 has been the lowest in seven years. The table I here append gives the product in both lumber and shingles:—

	Lumber.	Shingles.
1885.....	3,578,138,732	2,574,675,900
1886.....	3,984,117,175	2,988,124,232
1887.....	4,162,317,778	2,677,858,750
1888.....	4,292,189,014	2,846,201,000
1889.....	4,207,741,224	2,602,930,250
1890.....	4,085,707,849	2,469,878,750
1891.....	3,599,531,668	1,813,874,250

A comparison of stocks on hand shows as follows:—

	Lumber.	Shingles.
1885.....	1,252,940,251	211,229,500
1886.....	1,354,101,834	283,938,000
1887.....	1,428,244,132	195,218,000
1888.....	1,463,226,000	335,952,256
1889.....	1,447,503,997	372,807,250
1890.....	1,436,878,279	376,875,750
1891.....	1,218,683,167	199,211,250

A reduced output is also shown in staves and headings for 1891, compared with 1890. The figures for the former tell of the manufacture on the mills of the Saginaw River of 28,179,492 pine staves and 1,639,417 sets of heading for salt packages, while in 1890 there were produced 31,981,191 staves and 2,922,122 sets of heading, showing a decrease of 3,801,699 staves and 1,282,705 sets of heading.

While on the line of statistics I might here append some interesting figures showing how rapidly rail shipments of lumber are growing on the shipments by water. Take the figures of the past five years to illustrate:—

Year.	Water.	Rail.
1887.....	486,185,000	261,900,000
1888.....	451,391,000	304,362,000
1889.....	432,130,000	352,500,000
1890.....	409,872,000	401,847,000
1891.....	404,577,000	405,258,000

FREE LUMBER TALK.

The lumbermen's convention at Washington has been a subject of more or less conversation among the representatives of the trade here. It can hardly be said that many of them enthrust to the boiling point after the manner of the Northwestern Lumberman. They are just a little too level-headed for that sort of thing. We have lumbermen who would like to see free lumber the policy of this country, and there are others who would welcome an increased duty on all lumber coming from your country. But the trade is by no means unanimous on any of these matters. The truth is, and the meagre interest shown by the small attendance at Washington confirms this view, the trade generally do not view with serious alarm a free lumber bill should it become law. As I have already suggested, it might pinch a little in some quarters, but these drawbacks would be offset in part, if not exceeded, by advantages in other directions.

PIECE STUFF.

The manufacture of egg cases is one of the adjuncts of the lumber business carried on extensively in Saginaw and other parts of the State.

The Mackinac division of the Michigan Central have found it necessary to increase the locomotive service owing to the heavy demands of the log traffic.

Ten thousand dollars is the handsome donation of lumberman John F. Eddy, of Bay City, toward Buchtel College, at Akron, O., to be expended for a science building.

SAGINAW, MICH., March 26, 1892.

PICA.