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J. S. ROBERTSON, EDITOR.

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interests of the lumber trade and of allied industries throughout the Dominion, being the only representative in Canada of this foremost branch of the commerce of this country. It aims at giving full and timely information on all subjects touching these interests, discussing these topics editorially and inviting free discussion by others.

Special pains are taken to secure the latest and most trustworthy market quotations from various points throughout the world, so as to afford to the trade in Canada information on which it can rely in its operations.

Special correspondents in localities of importance present an accurate report not only of prices and the condition of the market, but also of other matters specially interesting to our readers. But correspondence is not only welcome, but is invited from all who have any information to communicate or subjects to discuss relating to the trade or in any way affecting it. Even when we may not be able to agree with the writers we will give them a fair opportunity for free discussion as the best means of eliciting the truth. Any items of interest are particularly requested, for even if not of great importance individually they contribute to a fund of information from which general results are obtained.

Advertisers will receive careful attention and liberal treatment. We need not point out that for many the CANADA LUMBERMAN, with its special class of readers, is not only an exceptionally good medium for securing publicity, but is indispensable for those who would bring themselves before the notice of that class. Special attention is directed to "WANTED" and "FOR SALE" advertisements, which will be inserted in a conspicuous position at the uniform price of 15 cents per line for each insertion. Announcements of this character will be subject to a discount of 25 per cent. if ordered for four successive issues or longer.

Subscribers will find the small amount they pay for the CANADA LUMBERMAN quite insignificant as compared with its value to them. There is not an individual in the trade, or specially interested in it, who should not be on our list, thus obtaining the present benefit and aiding and encouraging us to render it even more complete.

A WORD WITH SUBSCRIBERS.

THE current CANADA LUMBERMAN goes to a large number of subscribers with bill enclosed for subscriptions that fell due at the new year. The amount in most cases is not more than one dollar, and, even where arrears are owing, the indebtedness to the individual is only trifling. If at 2,000 such accounts mean anything from \$2,000 to \$3,000 to the publisher, and money is much needed by him at the present time. It costs a heavy outlay each month to produce a journal of the completeness and character of the LUMBERMAN. Subscribers, we have reason to believe, appreciate these efforts to give them a first-class trade journal. Our desire is to make further improvements during 1894. Saying this much, we rely upon subscribers responding favorably to the present request to remit promptly the amounts now due.

POSSIBLE CAUSE FOR STRIKES

IT is feared by those who have given some study to the matter, and who are rather more considerate in these affairs than others, that there will be an unusual number of strikes in the wood working trades in the United States so soon as spring trade revives. The cause of this will be in the movement, already being put into operation, to reduce wages, the likely passage of the Wilson bill being made to furnish the excuse for this step. It is stated by those who have been watching these matters from a sociological point of view, that when the duty on lumber was reduced to \$1.00 per thousand, the same cry went forth about the destruction of business and the reduction of wages, and yet lumber in the States has sold for a higher price since the reduction than it ever did before. After the depression of the past six months it would be a thousand pities, if, on the threshold of the spring season, the lumber business should meet with the set back of a succession of strikes at different points. If through change in legislation, or from other justifiable cause, it becomes needful, because of an increase in the cost of production to curtail expenses, at some important point, and wages are brought under the knife, reasonable men will not object to this course. On general principles, however, and we believe the closest observation will verify the fact, wages ought not to be reduced except as a last

resort. We would not suggest anything radically socialistic in dealing with the wage question, but the more closely employer and employee can come into touch with one another, and the feeling be allowed to grow that there is a mutual interest to be served, fewer strikes will be heard of, and the general welfare of both will be advanced. Contrawise, it is not infrequently the case that employers will make a proposed change in tariff, or other like cause, simply a scarecrow to reduce wages, when as a matter of fact the influence of the change is sometimes in an opposite direction. The Scotch bard was not without an intimate knowledge of human nature when he sung so pathetically of "Man's inhumanity to man."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE large increase in the lumber traffic of Duluth and Superior, contrasted with a steady and growing decrease on Lake Huron and Lake Michigan, furnishes another illustration of the rapid depletion of the forests of this once-great white pine state. Michigan lumbermen are seeking other fields for operation, Canada to wit, as well as Duluth, because the lumber of their own state is vanishing.

ACCORDING to a statement furnished by the United States consul general, the value of white pine lumber exported from the Ottawa district to the United States during the December quarter increased from \$139,000 to \$534,000 as compared with the corresponding quarter of 1892, the value of shipments of white pine lumber in bond from this district to the United States for export increased from \$59,000 to \$96,000. In the export of pickets, shingles, timber and wood pulp, a considerable increase is also shown.

THE Oregonian's "Handbook of the Pacific Coast" estimates the standing timber of the state of Oregon at 266,893,225,000 feet. The extent of this timber wealth can be appreciated when it is stated that the forests of Minnesota, a great lumbering state, contain only 127,497,526,000 feet of lumber, while Michigan, another great lumbering state, contains 100,000,000 feet less timber than is represented in the forests of Coos and Curry counties of Oregon alone. The forests of those two counties cover 1,050,000 acres, and it is estimated that they contain 24,200,000,000 feet of timber.

DISCUSSING the subject of evolution in grades the Timberman remarks that "Millmen are very widely divided on the question as to whether the multiplying of grades should be encouraged from their standpoint. Many argue that the fewer grades they sell the better in actual results; while others, with much plausibility, that the more grades there are the better for the manufacturer as well as the dealer, as with minute grades there is less chance for the wholesaler to profit thereby at the expense of the manufacturer. Certainly, if the manufacturer wishes to get close to the consumer, and to get all profit out of lumber that there is in it, he must adopt a close system of grading."

THE European consumption of teak for 1893 is given by Denny, Mott & Dickson, of London, Eng., as some 50,000 loads, as compared with an average consumption of some 48,000 loads for the last seven years. In face of a falling off of nearly 32 per cent. in the world's shipbuilding of the year, this maintenance of consumption is considered most striking, and points conclusively to the fact that the low prices of the year have helped to force this valuable wood into more general consumption. The growing practice of sheathing war ships with teak has increased the demand for naval purposes, H. M. Admiralty having bought 7,200 loads of teak during the year, and, further, contracted for some 9,000 loads to be supplied within about the next six months.

UNDER the most favorable conditions the rafting of logs is beset with many risks. But when something of the magnitude of the Juggins' experiment is tried, we begin to learn how great are the risks that some men are prepared to take in this department of work. A

recent illustration is given in the case of the scheme of rafting logs on the Pacific ocean during the winter months. What is known as the Coos Bay raft has gone to pieces during a gale off the California coast, and caused severe financial loss to all concerned. It is not improbable that the scheme of rafting logs to San Francisco may be profitably carried out during one or two months of the summer, when there are but few storms, but any attempt to convey logs in the raft during the balance of the year is sure to meet with failure. Unfortunately the Pacific ocean is pacific only in name when it comes to log rafting.

IN the agitation that is waged ever and anon for the re-imposition of the export duty on logs going into the United States, the forces in favor do not come alone from lumbermen. The fishermen of the North Shore have all along had a hand in the fight, contending that in the rafting of logs to the Michigan side the bark peels off, injuring the nets of the fishermen of that locality, and besides that, the accumulation of this bark is proving hurtful to fish culture in these waters. An object lesson on these lines is to be seen in Ottawa, there being on exhibition in the office of the Minister of Marine a fishing net taken from the waters of Georgian bay, completely interwoven with bark that has peeled off of logs while being towed from the Canadian side over to Michigan. It is likely that if this question should come before the Commons this net will be made to do argument for Mr. Little and those who hold with him for a re-imposition of log duties.

IN the event of the Wilson bill becoming law, and lumber is made free, Mr. R. H. Alexander, manager of the Hastings saw mill, Vancouver, B. C., does not anticipate that the British Columbia lumber industry will be greatly benefited. Lumber connections with the Puget Sound territories could not bring any gain, for it would be like shipping coals to Newcastle to send lumber there. Business with more distant points, however, he thought, might be increased owing to the superior quality of British Columbia lumber. As to helping prices, Mr. Alexander was of opinion that if the bill passed it would not have that tendency, as the American market was protected by a \$2 per 1,000 feet tariff, and which, if taken off, would have the effect through competition from this side, of lowering the present prices asked. As a whole, matters would practically be about the same as at the present time, but a little extra business might be done in disposing of odds and ends and in some lines the Province makes a specialty of.

THE past month has been one of several visits of lumbermen to the Parliament buildings here. Elsewhere reference is made to the purpose of at least two of these visiting deputations. A third deputation, and one that gave rise to some unnecessary gossip in the daily press at the time, was composed of Mr. James Connee, M. P.; Walter Ross, secretary of the Rat Portage Lumber and Milling Company; Mr. D. C. Cameron and Mr. J. W. Chadwick, president of the Rat Portage Board of Trade. The members of the government present to receive the deputation were Sir Oliver Mowat, Hon. Mr. Hardy, Hon. Mr. Dryden, and Hon. Mr. Harcourt. The conference was of a private nature, and it was this fact, we suppose, that excited the curiosity and widened the imagination of the interposing scribes of the local press. A discussion took place, we believe, in regard to certain fishing rights and privileges affecting the interests of the people in that territory. There is some lack of uniformity in the system of log measurement in the Rat Portage territories from the fact that limits sold by the Dominion Government before the territory came under the jurisdiction of the Ontario Government are under different regulations to those limits sold by the government since then. It was also suggested to the government that it would be in the interests of the local mills to bring on a sale of limits as the mills could to advantage handle more logs. One daily paper remarks that Mr. Connee and his friends came out of the conference smiling, and it is taken for granted, of course, that the government must have given some reasonable heed to their wishes. What a tell-tale is the human face!