



MONTHLY AND WEEKLY EDITIONS

PUBLISHED BY

The C. H. Mortimer Publishing Company
of Toronto, Limited

CONFEDERATION LIFE BUILDING, TORONTO

BRANCH OFFICE:

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE BUILDING, MONTREAL

The LUMBERMAN Weekly Edition is published every Wednesday, and the Monthly Edition on the 1st day of every month.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:

One Copy, Weekly and Monthly, One Year, in advance..... \$1.00

One Copy, Weekly and Monthly, Six Months, in advance..... .50

Foreign Subscriptions, \$2.00 a Year.

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED ON APPLICATION

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interests of the lumber trade and 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.

SUSPENSION OF THE COASTING LAWS.

CANADIAN lumbermen, many of whom are vessel owners, are strongly opposed to the recent action of the Dominion government in suspending for the balance of the season the coasting laws of Canada, thus permitting American vessels to trade between Canadian ports upon equal terms with British vessels. By this action the Canadian vessel trade is placed in the same position as the lumber industry, that is, the United States citizens retain their own trade exclusively, and are given equal privileges and opportunities with Canadians in the Canadian trade.

The result of the suspension of the coasting laws will surely be detrimental to the interests of this country. Coming at a time when contracts have been made for new tonnage to the capacity of 300,000 bushels of grain, and when other contracts for additional vessels are under negotiation, it has created a great lack of confidence in the policy of the government, which should be designed to protect Canadian interests.

It is pointed out that a Canadian railway company has been employing American bottoms for carrying grain from upper lake ports to a port on the Georgian Bay, and that one object in the suspension of the law is to permit this company to employ these vessels for carrying grain between the Canadian ports of Fort William and Parry Sound. On this point we cannot speak definitely, but certainly some influence must have guided the government in its action.

The carrying of lumber is not likely to be affected to any extent this year by this enactment. The trade is at present of small volume, but upon the completion of a 14-foot waterway on the St. Lawrence route, now almost accomplished, vessels will carry lumber from Georgian Bay ports to Montreal and Quebec for export to foreign markets. Then the admission of American bottoms to the Canadian trade would mean more than it does to-day.

This should be a non-political question. The principle should be recognized that the coasting laws should be designed to protect the national commerce, and should not be subject to radical changes.

CANADIAN EXPORTS.

FROM a study of the tables of Canadian exports some comparisons are deduced which may not be uninteresting to the lumber trade. We have exported since Confederation, or from June 30, 1868, to June 30, 1898, home products to the value of \$2,464,277,239. In 1868 our exports were valued at \$45,531,177, while last year they reached \$139,920,932. During the thirty-one years under review the exports of our manufactures amounted to \$1,020,212,537, made up as follows: Manufactures of wood, \$556,613,330; cheese, \$218,241,262; flour, \$613,340,182; butter, \$58,471,604; ships, \$17,172,269; other manufactures, \$108,373,890. Great Britain is our best customer, taking in 1898 over \$93,000,000 worth. In 1882 the exports to the United States reached \$41,700,000, but since that time they have steadily decreased, and last year were only \$34,400,000.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found tables showing the value of the exports of manufactures of wood since Confederation. These tables are compiled by Mr. Geo. Johnson, Dominion Statistician, and are perhaps as nearly correct as it is possible to make them. Their value, however, is lessened by the absence of information as to what material was classified as manufactures of wood. It would appear from a perusal of the tables that nothing outside of lumber and partially manufactured lumber was taken into consideration. In 1868 the exports of manufactures of wood were valued at \$13,344,076, while last year they were \$22,874,817. The exports of the intervening years have varied between these figures, excepting in the case of 1897, when they reached \$26,871,391.

It must be admitted that our exports of lumber have not increased in the thirty-one years under review to the extent which they should have done. From this we conclude that the foreign demand in ordinary lumber has been well supplied, and that home industries have consumed a much larger quantity of lumber. It is in the direction of manufactures of wood that we should seek to extend our foreign trade. The tables show that Great Britain purchased from us manufactures of wood to the value of \$257,758,085. In that market we naturally meet competition from almost every wood-exporting country in the world, hence the great necessity of manufacturing our lumber as far as possible at home, thus bringing down freight charges to the minimum in proportion to the value of the goods.

Butter and cheese are responsible for a large increase in our exports. In 1868 the combined

exports of these goods were valued at \$2,318,585, while last year the exports are represented by \$19,619,449. These figures have an especial interest for the lumber trade, inasmuch as they show the large and increasing demand for boxes in which to export butter and cheese.

LOGGING REGULATIONS.

THE Department of Woods and Forests of Quebec has submitted to the lumber trade of that province some proposed amendments to the regulations governing logging operations. The main object intended to be accomplished by the new orders is the securing of more accurate returns of the quantity of timber cut on Crown lands. These regulations have not been favorably received by the lumbermen. While admitting the importance both to the government and to themselves of having accurate returns of the quantity of timber cut, they point out that the proposed changes are entirely impracticable, and that they would increase the cost of taking out logs to such an extent as in some instances would compel lumbermen to cease business.

For the first paragraph of article 13 of the regulations as they now stand, the following, according to the new laws, is to be substituted:

"Every such culler employed by a licentiate to measure timber must number each piece of timber measured by him, and inscribe the number in his book of measurements, and state opposite each number the variety and dimensions of said piece of timber. He must make a separate count for each shanty, following without interruption the order of numbers from one upwards. The book in which the log counter has entered the timber measured by him must at all times be subject to the inspection and usage of the bush ranger or other officer authorized by the commissioner to examine same, and must be transmitted at the end of logging season to the local crown timber agent, after having been sworn to by the culler."

This clause, it is contended, is unworkable. It would be a most difficult matter to number each saw log with the number of the shanty, number of the log, and size of log. Suppose the number of the camp was 3, number of log 10,199, size 14 inches; if properly marked it would appear thus: $10,199 \frac{14}{14}$. Under favorable conditions it would be possible to mark the log as ordered; but in the early autumn when the gum is oozing out of the log, later on when the logs have to be drawn through bush to the rollways, and still later on when the soft snow freezes to the end of the log, it would be exceedingly difficult and expensive to comply with the regulations, and a much larger gang of men would be required to take out a given number of logs.

Another clause of the proposed amendments reads as follows:

"Licentiatees are strictly forbidden to place logs in the water in the fall, or to pile them on the ice in winter. All logs or other timber, without exception, must be put in rollways, above high water mark, and sufficient space must be left between each pile to allow the cullers and bush rangers to measure both ends of each piece of timber."

Nearly everyone familiar with the lumber business will, we think, admit that the above law, if made effective, would cause unnecessary hardship to the lumbermen and in the end react against the interests of the government. Logs are, of course, watered in all sorts of ways; but the popular method employed in the Ottawa valley and northern Quebec is to place them on the ice as soon as it is strong enough to carry the