



A LUMBER shipper from the Maritime provinces, queried as to the outlook for trade, said: "Spruce boards are worth only \$10 to \$12 in Boston, and lath \$1.75 to \$2—and there is nothing doing. Brokers—my agents there—tell me not to ship any more. They don't want it. The market is sick and disorganized. Some dealers told me that they believed the worst had yet to come, for there is a lot of paper that is simply being renewed. Money is easier in one sense, and the banks are able to discount, but nobody cares to take the paper for fear it will not be met. One man told me he made a sale at sixty days at a cut rate because he wanted the money. When the sixty days expired all the customer could do was to give him a note at four months. This is characteristic of the trade as it has been and is at present."

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Queer finds in lumber continue to multiply. One of the oddest is seen in the cutting of a shingle bolt from Novar, Muskoka, in the possession of Mr. John Hall, lumber dealer, city, showing a knot of peculiar form. The cutting is 6 x 4, pointed at one end, triangular in shape. The knot is a perfect picture of a female form, with head, arm, breasts and body, showing a red dress with brown cloak and hood or cap to match. It is a most singular piece of natural wood.

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Alderman Bailey has been spending a month's holidays at Aird's Island at the mouth of the Spanish river, Georgian bay. He says: "The lumber interest in that district is very flat. The reason given for that is the existing depression in the United States. All the mills have vast quantities of stock cut, and at some of the large mills there are miles of lumber ready for shipment. In consequence of this slow demand the mills have already shut down and the hands have gone out to the bush for the winter. The wages of the men have also been cut down, and altogether the outlook is not by any means bright."

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Thomas Hale, the well-known lumberman, of Pembroke, says that there are excellent prospects of the Quebec market becoming cleared of timber next spring for the first time in many years. As a consequence those dealing in square timber this year would no doubt find a ready sale for it. It was not likely that the market would be flooded, as operations this year would be conducted on a limited scale. He estimated that very little over one million cubic feet would be turned out this season, while in the middle of October last year that amount alone was cut. Operations were slow in commencing this fall. He doubted if his gang on the Kippewa would not be the first to start.

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W. H. Rowley, secretary-treasurer of the E. B. Eddy Manufacturing company, Hull, says that his firm were out of the lumber trade altogether. They had closed down the sash factory, which was the last remaining link, and had torn out all the machinery, which they intended to sell. The old sash factory building they were turning into a third paper mill for the manufacture of paper from pulp. They were now busy putting in \$68,000 worth of machinery, and would be running as soon as they could possibly get things in order. Both their old mills are running day and night. Last year the firm's wages amounted to \$329,000, and with the new mill they would be very much increased for the coming year.

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Wm. Little, of Montreal, who has been visiting Chicago, is reported to have said to a representative of the Timberman that his wish was that the present American government would repeal the duty on lumber, not because it would benefit the Canadian market

materially, but viewing the matter from a purely forestry standpoint. Mr. Little participated in the Forestry Congress which was in session. Referring to the present condition of the lumber trade in the Dominion, he said that as the lumbermen of his section depended largely on New York and neighboring territory, the stagnation now existing in that locality affected them most severely, business being extremely quiet. He anticipated an improvement, however, in the early future.

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The redoubtable Edward Farrar, the boss negotiator of reciprocity treaties between Canada and the United States, has turned up this time in Montreal, and has caused to be sent to the Chicago Tribune a reported report of an interview revealing the nature of his visit to Quebec, and which I notice is being printed by some lumber contemporaries. He is represented as having been sent to Montreal as the special agent of Secretary Carlisle, of the Cleveland Cabinet. Mr. Farrar states that there is an earnest desire on the part of the Democrats to conclude a treaty with Canada, which would include all natural products. Lumber would naturally be affected by any such change. A meeting of the Cabinet is to be called to consider any suggestions which Mr. Farrar may lay before them. It has to be remembered that all this is a dispatch to a United States paper. Perhaps the Cabinet will confer with Mr. Farrar—perhaps.

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William Baldwin, an old Ottawa boy, has returned from Oregon, where he has been lumbering for some years. It was fully three hundred miles back from the coast that Mr. Baldwin lived. As for lumber he says there is plenty of it not unlike our Canadian pine found in the Ottawa valley. The Oregon pine which grows to such enormous proportions is a fine wood but hard to saw on account of gum. The valleys of the Rockies, some of which afford the richest of soil for farming, have failed this year to bring forth their accustomed large yield. Wheat, the principal grain crop, has been a complete failure on account of a long drought which lasted during the hottest part of the summer. It is selling for thirty cents a bushel. A large amount of oats is being raised on some of these farms this year. This crop, it is said, is rapidly advancing. Rye and barley are not grown to any great extent. The root crops have also been somewhat of a failure this year on account of the drought. The mining industry is paralyzed so far as silver is concerned. A large number of fine silver mines have had to close down altogether and others are badly shaken. During the summer, however, a number of old gold mines have been re-opened and these are being worked continually. There was a good fruit harvest, Mr. Baldwin says, including all the berries and apples. General business is at a standstill in Oregon, every branch of industry being shaken by the uncertain condition of the American money market.

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In the E.L.M. page of the September LUMBERMAN there appeared the statement of an Ottawa gentleman purporting to give figures showing the amount of money that had been made in the purchase and sale of timber limits by various Canadian lumbermen. Mr. J. K. Ward, of Montreal, who was named as one of the lucky ones, contradicts the statement so far as he is concerned, in these words: "I am referred to as having bought a limit near Lake Expansé during the Mercier regime for three dollars a mile, which I now hold at \$1,000 per mile, etc. As this is entirely at variance with facts please allow me to correct it. About twelve years ago I bought (during the Chapleau administration) at public competition the limit referred to above, for which I paid \$300 per mile, not \$3, as stated. This can be easily verified by referring to the books in the Crown Land Department in Quebec. I may say that I never acquired a foot of Crown Lands either directly or indirectly for myself during the Liberal regime, and whatever the fallen chief may have to answer for, it will not be, as far as I am cognizant, giving away the Crown domain to lumbermen for political or other reasons. On the contrary, the trade has considered that it has been harshly dealt with by the late Government, which raised the ground rent 50 cents, and dues on logs, etc., 30 cents per 1,000 feet higher than paid for the same thing in

Ontario. The law is that all public lands for lumbering purposes are sold at public auction to the highest bidders. Some holders of limits have made money by transferring their licenses. Many, no doubt, have made money, but you can easily see that my deal has not been a bonanza

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A young man from Ottawa, who is now clerking at Atkinson's creek, among the wilds of the Gatineau, gives the following picture of shanty life in that district: "Arrived safe and sound, after a tramp of nearly forty miles. We stayed at the Kazabazua Friday night and had breakfast there Saturday morning. Walked fifteen miles on Saturday over the roughest road you or anyone else ever laid eyes on. We got to Ousiers Saturday night, all tired out. Ate a good big supper of fat pork (about three inches fat and quarter of an inch lean.) Went to bed at 8 p. m. and was up at 3.30 a.m. and on the road to the farm some eleven miles, where we arrived at 11 a.m. Sunday. Stayed there till yesterday 6 a.m. and walked to camp fifteen miles with ninety pounds on my back and worked all afternoon in camp. I have not been asked to cut any roads yet and don't intend to if I can help it. I have had three good feeds of pork and beans and they are good. I ate about twice as much as any Frenchman in the shanty. There are forty-two men in camp now with about ten more to come. Sunday was not Sunday at all; it was more like Rockliffe on Saturday. We had two fiddles going all afternoon and evening and the Frenchmen were more than dancing. The foreman is an Irishman and a very fine fellow and comes from the Pickanock. I had to go to the Hibow depot last night for some papers I wanted to use and that added six miles more to the list. Again I was there this morning before you were thinking of getting out of bed. That was before breakfast and we had breakfast at 4.30. It is very cold at nights and mornings, and there has been ice over the little puddles. Our shanty is very cold as it has not yet been filled in with moss. We are drying the moss now and will have it filled in by the last of next week. You may not get this letter for a week or two but you must consider it has to be carried nearly sixty miles by different people going in towards the first post-office. It is very lonesome here."

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How successful men made their first start in life is a matter of interest to most everyone. I have been learning something of Mr. J. R. Booth, who stands head of the list, it is generally claimed, among the several big lumbermen of the Chaudière. Thirty-eight years ago Mr. Booth came to Ottawa and with a prescience that has been borne out by subsequent transactions he saw in the great water power of the Chaudière the possibilities for lumber and manufacturing. In company with Mr. Soper he built his first shingle mill on the site of his present big mill. That was his first venture, and on that small beginning he has reared a colossal fortune, the fruit of downright pluck, indomitable energy, unwearied industry, and the close application of first-class business talents. As an illustration of Mr. Booth's great foresight and faith in the country of his birth, it is related of him that he astonished the lumbermen during the prevalence of hard times between 1874 and 1879. There was a general want of courage among limit holders. They thought that the bottom had dropped out of the lumber market, and it was going to keep that way, and as a matter of course took the earliest opportunity of disposing of their limits. When these limits were put up at auction, Mr. Booth was always there to bid, and the lumbermen were astonished. But Mr. Booth paid no attention to their astonishment. He had faith in the lumber industry, and bought limits right and left, and now they are worth five times the amount he paid for them and in the meantime he has cut all the logs off them he required for his business. In 1881 he threw himself into the building of the Canada Atlantic and in a very short time the road was constructed and at once took a first place amongst Canadian railways. Those who know the man best say the Parry Sound will be in complete running order from the Sound inside of three years. It will be news to some people to know that Mr. Booth is a Canadian, born in Sheffield, County of Waterloo, sixty-five years ago.