

THE Canada Lumberman

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ADVERTISING RATES 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 in which it can rely in its operations.

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.

BRITISH DUTY ON TIMBER.

The necessity of the British Government raising revenue to meet the expenses of the South African war is responsible for a rumor that the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposes to re-impose the duty on timber, which has been abolished for some thirty-five years. In well informed circles it is not believed that such action will be taken, but on the other hand the fact remains that it is absolutely necessary to raise the additional revenue in some manner, and a light tax upon timber is regarded as one of the feasible methods. The proposition has been freely discussed by the timber merchants, who are, we are told, feeling a little uncomfortable over the prospect of such a duty.

Just how seriously the idea has been considered by the Chancellor of the Exchequer is not known, but it is stated that the custom authorities at some of the east coast ports have been requested to send in full statistics of the wood goods imported to their districts. This is at least sufficient ground for believing that the matter is under consideration. The statement is also made that an insurance for twelve months against the imposition of the tax has already been effected by Lloyd's.

It is estimated that a tax of 25 cents per load on soft timber would bring in about \$2,250,000 per annum. This is exclusive of any duty on hardwoods.

In connection with this matter the question arises whether a duty would be imposed on timber imported from the British Colonies. The advocates of Imperial Federation would no doubt strongly oppose such a move, and if an exception was made in the case of Colonial timber, the revenue obtainable would be reduced by nearly one-quarter.

The imposition of a duty on timber imported

into Great Britain would be of little benefit so far as fostering the home trade, as the available supply in England is of little account. It would seem, therefore, that the tax would fall upon the consumer, and if no preferential duty was provided for, the quantity of timber imported from the different countries would not be lessened thereby. A proposition which meets with much greater favor in England is the taxing of manufactured timber products, as this would assist the manufacturing industries of the country.

HOME MANUFACTURE OF TIMBER.

The departure made by the Ontario Government in the year 1898 by passing legislation compelling the manufacture within the province of all timber cut on Crown lands was at the time favorably received, representing as it did preponderance of public sentiment. There were, however, opponents to the legislation. The law has now been in force over three years, in which time many converts to the measure have been made, and it is safe to say that the opposition has become an almost invisible quantity. The reason for this is clearly understood by everyone acquainted with the conditions. As a result of the legislation we can point to a great expansion of the lumber industry, an increased population, more employment for the working man, a larger demand for Canadian machinery, and other advantages of more or less importance.

The experiment, if it might be so termed, has demonstrated two things—first, that the time has come for Canada to legislate in the interests of Canadians; and secondly, that the raw material will attract the manufacturer. Within four years towns and villages along the Georgian Bay shore which had become nearly extinct while the logs were being rafted to Michigan, have grown to be thriving settlements; machine shops have been working to their full capacity on mill repairs, etc., and the country at large has prospered. As figures are perhaps more convincing than mere statements, we give below the names of Michigan firms which, to our knowledge, have established mills in Ontario subsequent to and as the direct result of the prohibitory legislation. The annual capacity for day run only is given:

| | Feet. |
|--|------------|
| W. & A. McArthur Company, Little Current | 25,000,000 |
| Holland & Graves, Byng Inlet | 40,000,000 |
| Eddy Bros., Blind River | 25,000,000 |
| Michigan Land & Lumber Co., Blind River | 20,000,000 |
| Moulthrop Lumber Co., John's Island | 15,000,000 |
| Mr. Loveland and associates at Cutler | 25,000,000 |
| J. & T. Charlton, Collingwood | 20,000,000 |
| Edmund Hall, Sarnia | 25,000,000 |
| Cleveland-Sarnia Saw Mill Co., Sarnia | 25,000,000 |
| Saginaw Lumber & Saw Co., Sandwich | 25,000,000 |
| Pitts & Charlton, Victoria Harbor | 20,000,000 |

Some of the above firms built new mills; others remodelled mills that had been idle for years. The operation of these mills means an increased capacity in Ontario of upwards of 250,000,000 feet of lumber annually. This amount represents the logs that were formerly cut in Ontario and rafted to Michigan. It will be seen that the quantity of lumber placed on the market is no greater, but that which was formerly sawn in Michigan from Canadian timber is now sawn in the Province by Canadian workmen.

In addition to the increased mill capacity

above referred to, contractions have been given by American manufacturers, who have otherwise increased their capacity.

Some of the opponents of the prohibitory legislation were owners of timber limits. Time has proven that their judgment was faulty. At the Government sales following the enactment of the law exceptional high prices were paid for limits, and the condition has continued ever since.

The Legislature of British Columbia has placed on its Statute book a law similar to that of Ontario, to take effect this spring. From a non-partisan standpoint such a step is to be commended as showing the proper spirit—the encouragement of the industries of the country. That the province will eventually benefit thereby, as was the case in Ontario, is almost a foregone conclusion. What argument can be advanced, in these days of a declining timber supply, in favor of allowing our timber to be exported as the raw material to build up manufacturing establishments in the United States? Just as sure as the mills were removed from Michigan to Ontario, so will they be removed from Washington to British Columbia.

An association of loggers has been formed in British Columbia with the object of inducing the Government to repeal the Act prohibiting the export of timber. Mr. Higgins, the president of the association, in a letter published in this number, undertakes to show that certain statements made in the CANADA LUMBERMAN were unfair. We fail to see that Mr. Higgins makes one point in favor of the repeal of the law. His first complaint is that no mention was made of the various interests that are associated with the loggers, such as the employees, financial institutions, owners of timber lands, etc. With the manufacturers also are associated their employees, financial institutions, and timber limit owners, and in addition the Canadian manufacturers of mill machinery and supplies. What is to become of our industries if the raw material is exported to and manufactured in a foreign country? His second contention is that it was unfair to state that the Government considered the interests of the manufacturer in preference to those of the logger. It is not unfair to point out the wisdom of the Government in taking such action as will prevent the removal of the manufacturing industries of the province to the United States. Mr. Higgins points out that the law includes all timber and not cedar alone. To this correction we submit, but what is the significance? Next he contends that the business of the logger will temporarily be injured, and that the Washington mills will cut timber further up the tree than the Canadian mills. If such is the case, when more mills are established on the Canadian side, as they doubtless will be, the consequent competition should provide a remedy, but if not, it is the power of the Government to bring about the desired change. The question of exportation answers itself. If the timber is manufactured into lumber and shingles within the province, the amount of money expended