

OTTAWA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THE announcement made in the Budget speech, that the Minister of Finance would consider, during the year, the question of re-imposing the duty on logs at next session of Parliament, is causing some unrest among lumbermen of the Ottawa Valley. With many statements made by political leaders, the problem is to understand their real import. This is shown in the position taken by the Ministry on the main question of tariff reform. Government supporters, supposed to be within the inner circle, expected that there would be this session, to employ the language of the Premier, a generous "lopping off of the mouldering branches" of the N. P. But the speech of Mr. Foster revealed the fact that the policy now was "wait a little yet." The statement of the Finance Minister that a change in the lumber policy of the government is under consideration may be made simply to placate Messrs. Ives, Sproule, Masson and others who are seemingly pledged to reform in this direction, or contrawise something more definite may be the programme. It is a politician's statement and herein is its weakness and uncertainty. The lumber trade shows every sign of a healthy revival after not a few years of depression, and the Finance Minister assumes no inconsiderable responsibility in throwing into its midst the bomb of uncertainty.

Whether the tariff, so far as lumber is concerned, would be improved by any amendment of present conditions, I am not discussing at this time. I simply want to emphasize, and lumbermen, both opposed and favorable to the re-imposition of the log duty, will, I believe, agree with me, that this policy of hinting, that some day in the misty future some change may take place, is most damaging to every part of the lumber interests. If a change is proposed, Mr. Foster ought to know the true condition of affairs to-day, as well as he is likely to know twelve months hence, and be able to act accordingly.

WHAT LUMBERMEN SAY OF THE OUTLOOK.

The trade here are quite confident that business the coming spring will exceed that of a year ago. A large portion of the lumber will be sent to the Eastern States, although some firms have already looked large orders for the European markets. Bronson & Weston say: "There seems to be a feeling among dealers that the trade will be somewhat better than last year. There is a scarcity in dry lumber which may command a natural increase in the price of that class of lumber, but all other will in all probability sell in the region of last year's prices. It is not yet known what effect the South American market will have upon trade. We expect to cut about fifteen million feet of lumber this season, about the same quantity as we cut last year." Mr. J. R. Booth: "The spring lumber trade ought to be better than it was last year and prices will not be materially changed from what they are at present. There is now very little lumber in the city to meet the early spring demands for shipping. Scarcely any dry lumber can be found as it was all sold early." Mr. P. Whelan, manager of the Shepherd & Morse lumber company, said there was nothing to prevent the trade being better except there should be a dearth in the United States money market in consequence of the large shipments of gold and silver out of that country to Europe. Another outbreak of cholera in New York might also seriously injure trade.

INDIFFERENT LENGTHS.

Gilmour & Hughson's new saw mill at Hull Point is rapidly drawing to completion. A large number of men are at present engaged erecting logways for the purpose of hauling the logs from the river into the mill. If the work is not impeded everything will be placed in proper order to begin work at the opening of the spring season. The mill when completed will employ over two hundred hands.

It is reported that the Whitney Lumber Co., of Minneapolis, who bought Perley & Pattee's limits last year, are having Fraser's Opeongo limits travelled with a view of making a purchase. They talk of making extensive sawmills at Long Lake.

OTTAWA, Can., Feb. 24th, 1893.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THE newest thing in lumber in the province is the proposed formation of a shingle trust. There has been considerable over production in shingles on the Coast lately, and as a result prices are being cut. Shingles must necessarily prove an important factor in lumbering here, and, as is often the case, under similar conditions, everyone has supposed there was money for them in the business. Recently a number of men, possessed of only a limited capital, have gone into the business, and not being in a position to hold stocks over a dull market, they have sacrificed prices. Shingles have been sold as low as \$1.15 per M., and a sale of 2,000,000 is reported at \$1.25. The actual cost of production is not less than \$1.40

per M. and the usual selling price has been \$1.75 to \$2.00. To overcome like difficulties in Oregon and Washington, a shingle trust was formed there, and it has been, so it is claimed, productive of good results. It is anticipated that the same remedy will effect a cure here, and that such a combination of leading shingle men will also result in an extension of the trade.

SHIPPING NEWS.

The German ship Katharine 1630 tons, Capt. Spille, sailed for Iquiqui, with a cargo from the Moodyville Mill, consisting of 827,811 feet of rough, 480,209 feet T and G flooring, and 10,753 feet clear lumber, making a total of 1,318,873 feet, and valued at \$14,100. A new charter reported is the American ship Ivy, 1,181, which has been fixed to load at the Hastings Mill for Wilmington, Delaware. This is the sixth vessel to load at this mill for this port, showing that British Columbia can hold her own against the United States in timber. The Ivy is now on her way up here from Portland, Oregon. The terms of her charter are private.

COAST CHIPS.

W. L. Tait, shingle mill, Vancouver, is putting in a sawmill plant.

The Hastings mill which was shut down a month for repairs has started cutting again.

The owners of the Buchanan mill at Kelso have let contracts for \$20,000 worth of logs for next season.

Jas. Reid & W. A. Johnston, sawmill owners, Quesnelle Mouth, Cariboo, have dissolved, Jas. Reid continuing.

The British barque Highlands, 1,356 tons, Capt. Owens, has finished loading a cargo of lumber at the Hastings Mill, for Montreal. She has on board 396,663 feet of rough lumber.

R. Ward & Co., Ltd., have contracted to send to Australia within the next year something like twenty large shiploads of timber from the Province. It will be for use principally in the mining sections of the Antipodes.

The first industry for Okanagan Falls will be the new sawmill which is being put in by Mr. W. J. Snodgrass, of Le Grand, Oregon. The machinery is being brought in by way of Seattle, and has passed the customs.

It may astonish many to hear that a Puget Sound lumberman has to come to British Columbia to buy cedar. It will be interesting to know if the contractor will ship the lumber as Puget Sound or British Columbia cedar.

A local lumberman has been experimenting on the relative strength of the Douglas fir of this province and oak. The result of his experiments show that the oak was only very slightly stronger than the Douglas fir. This announcement is highly satisfactory to lumbermen generally, as it is expected that there will be a greater demand for Douglas fir.

The Pacific Coast Lumber Company are sending to Toronto three fine bundles of shingles as a sample of the class of cedar shingles which British Columbia can supply. As our cedar shingles last three times as long as eastern white pine shingles, no doubt a good trade can be worked up in the east in this line. They can be laid $5\frac{1}{2}$ to the weather, which makes them equal in price to pine shingles. They are much more lasting and do not warp. They can be laid down in Toronto, Montreal, etc. at \$2.90 to \$3 per M.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., FEB. 22, 1893.

MANITOBA LETTER.

[Special correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THE annual meeting of the Western Retail Lumber Dealers' Association was held in Winnipeg on 13th inst. The Association, though less than a year organized, is a pretty healthy child. The membership embraces all dealers located on the line of the Canadian Pacific, as far west as Indian Head, and those on the N. P. and other local and branch lines in the province. There was a large representation of members present. The meeting was presided over by P. Aitkins, of Morden, in the absence of the president.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

G. B. Housser, secretary, submitted the following report:

At our annual meeting nearly a year ago we had a membership of 145, of which 130 were active and 15 honorary members. During the year I have received and accepted 60 applications, making a total of 205 members since our organization. Out of this number 30 have been dropped on account of retiring from business or otherwise, thus leaving the membership to-day 154 active and 21 honorary members. When mailing notices of this meeting I enclosed a circular asking for some information. About half of these have been returned. Therefore I am not able tonight to give the total amount of lumber used in this province in 1892. However, if the circulars received are a sample of the other half, they show which way the wind blows, as nearly all the replies have no suggestions to offer nor any grievances to air. I have received nearly 150 letters since April 1, 1892, and have written as many, if not more. Several of these letters asked if I couldn't do something to reduce the wholesale price list of lumber and have the terms extended from two to three months. I leave this to the honorary members to adjust, believing that they will get all they can but do what is right with us. Several letters complain that there is not enough business where there are two or more yards. My advice has been to buy, or sell to their competitor. We do not ask the members to stay in the business if it does not pay them. A great many members wish to have their price lists readjusted. This can easily be done by the mem-

bers themselves. Each district can change its price list as often as wished, so long as it is unanimous, and a copy of the new list adopted is signed by all the members on the same list and forwarded to the secretary. Blank lists will be sent by the secretary to all members on application when any changes are desired.

We have had several complaints during the year against members for selling below the price list. We have endeavored to settle all these complaints satisfactorily to the parties interested. We have three which have been acknowledged and are promised to be settled soon. I have delayed further action believing such would be the case. Two are still in abeyance and one is now being investigated.

We have been asked to join the United Association of Lumbermen, the object of which is as explained in its constitution and by-laws. The membership fee is \$25 for an association of 100 members and \$10 for every additional 100. We would have to pay \$35. The next meeting will be in Cleveland next October and we would be permitted to send two delegates. I have promised to bring this question up for your consideration. I have had considerable correspondence with the British Columbia manufacturers about becoming honorary members of our association. The Brunette Saw Mill Company, the British Columbia Mills Lumber and Trading Company and Geo. Cassidy Company are now members and most of the others write very favorably. We expect to have them all in very soon.

I have asked the attorney general to amend the lien act this session. He has promised to give the question his attention. The directors have met three times at special meetings during the year.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The following financial showing was made in the treasurer's report submitted by Mr. Housser:

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand April 1, 1892.....	\$433 30
Membership fees.....	610 00
Annual dues 1892.....	1,250 00
Annual dues 1893.....	10 00
Fines paid in.....	106 50
Total.....	\$2,409 80

DISBURSEMENTS.

Postage, telegraph, express, etc.....	\$ 58 45
Stationery and printing.....	39 50
Printing annual 1892.....	100 00
Ernest Fisher and Nelson lien act costs ..	70 00
Wholesale fines paid out.....	31 50
Travelling expense secretary.....	172 05
Directors' meeting's.....	378 70
Salary of secretary.....	600 00
Rent of hall.....	5 00

Total expenditure\$1,455 20

Balance on hand.....\$ 954 60

NEW OFFICERS.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Alex. Brown, Winnipeg; vice-president, J. L. Campbell. Directors:—G. B. Housser, Portage la Prairie; R. H. O'Hara, Brandon; John Boyd, Deloraine; J. M. Hall, Winnipeg; P. Aitkins, Morden. The secretary-treasurer is elected by the board of directors, and a choice will be made shortly. Mr. Housser, who has held the office since the organization of the association, finds it necessary owing to pressure of other work to withdraw, but will perform the duties until his successor is appointed. He has been a model secretary.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

The association will apply for membership in the United Association of Lumbermen.

The following committee was appointed to go before the legislature and ask for amendments to the lien law: J. L. Campbell, T. A. Cuddy, John Dick, A. Brown, J. D. Kennedy, G. B. Housser, L. J. Ashley. The meeting throughout was of a most satisfactory character and indicates a large amount of vitality among the lumbermen of this province.

WINNIPEG, MAN., Feb. 20, 1893.

MICHIGAN LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

STATISTICS of the pine product of the Saginaw River for 1892 show a decline in the output as compared with the previous year, amounting to 50,748,521 feet; at the same time there was a decrease of the amount on hand of 105,064,467 feet. Shingle statistics show the output for 1892 to be 182,315,250, as against 222,607,250 for 1891, a decrease for the past year of 40,292,000. Stocks on hand at the close of 1892 were 16,911,000, against 30,486,250, a decrease of 13,575,250. Although the cut of Michigan in 1892 was less than that of some former years, still Michigan remains the Premier lumber State, the product representing nearly one-half the production of the entire Northwest.

BITS OF LUMBER.

A Bay City estimate says that over 200,000,000 feet of Canada logs will come from Lake Superior.

H. S. Mathewson is cutting 500,000 feet of choice maple logs in Roscommon county for shoe last timber.

George R. Nicholson, of Alpena, Mich., is in Canada on business connected with his extensive Canadian timber limits.

Col. A. T. Bliss, the well known lumberman of Saginaw, has donated \$50,000 to Albion college for the erection of a library and memorial hall.

Skilled woodsmen are a scarce commodity in eastern Michigan and there is an active demand for help in every section. Lumber firms are being forced to advertise extensively for men for the woods.