THE EXPORT DUTY REDUCED.

We glean from Ottawa that a most important proposition has been made by the Dominion Government through the medium of the Foreign Office. It is that both Governments should consider the propriety of removing the import and export duties on lumber of all kinds, or in other words, that the Canadian Government will abolish the import and export duties on lumber providing the Washington authorities reciprocate. As an earnest of good faith, the Dominion authorities have meanwhile reduced the export duty on pine logs from $3 to $2 per thousand feet, board measure, the figure at which it stood in November last, previous to the representations of the lumbermen asking for an increase. This reduction in the export duty takes place July 1. Under all the circumstances the action of the government is a most commendable one, and will doubtless be received with approbation by the lumbermen of Canada and the United States. As our export duty of $2 a thousand is nearly equal to the United States import duty on lumber, it might be to the mutual advantage of both countries if the duties were removed altogether.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MADAWASKA, N.B., June 10th, 1889.

Editor Canada Lumberman.

It is very amusing to hear the Americans' threats that if the Canadians do not reduce or abolish the export duty on logs, they will double their import duty. And what would it amount to? In the first place they have not a supply of timber of their own to meet their demand; and in the second place if they increase their import duty they would have to pay it themselves—but it is not so at present with us. Our supply is fully equal to our demand, and if we should charge 100 per cent. on foreign lumber coming into our market, such as is grown in our country it would not affect our prices—it would only have a tendency to encourage a boom to supply our own market if a scarcity appeared. But our supply is decreasing fast, and it should be viewed with alarm before the most valuable lumber in our forests is slaughtered and manufactured on the American side, for the benefit of their capital and their labor to meet their consumptive demand instead of our own. We require an export duty on our lumber equivalent to the American import duty in order to place our millm[en] upon an equal footing so they can compete wi[th] American manufacturers. Their cry of retaliation is a game of bluff. They don't hold a hand to carry it out, and if they attempt it once they would not want to try it again.

The Vanburn Mill Company are prepared to cut more than in former years, and if they paid an export duty on the lumber they cut in our parish it would amount to at least $10,500, and that alone would pay our Minister of Customs salary; furthermore, the above company never have paid any stumpage or export duty in our parish; besides they are running the milling enterprises on our streams by driving labor out of our country. Our rising generation will curse the present political course of protection and well they may.

P. O. BYRAM.

THE CANADIAN LUMBER TRADE.

At the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, held at Toronto on the 18th, of last month, Mr. E. B. Walker, the general manager, reviewed the financial history of the year, pointing out how the value of money in Canada had been reduced through the forcing on the market of millions borrowed abroad by the Dominion Government and municipal corporations. Speaking of the lumber trade Mr. Walker said: "The winter operations were conducted under favorable circumstances, the lack of snow in the early winter, permitted extensive cutting, while sufficient snow fell later in the season in Canada although not in Michigan, to enable the logs to be readily drawn to water. Some fear existed in the early spring as to the sufficiency of water in the streams, but the recent rains have dispelled all doubt, and we are assured that in all lumber districts in Ontario there will be a plentiful supply of logs, the cost of labor expended on which will not exceed that in previous seasons.

The cut of logs in the Ottawa district is nearly twenty-five per cent. less than last year, but more square timber has been manufactured than in any season since 1882-83. The sawing season began early, and the actual manufacture, apart from square timber, will probably be greater than last year. Large sales of timber and deals have been made for the English market at an advance in prices, and this branch of the trade is in a distinctly good position.

Large contracts have also been made for lumber of medium and low grades for the United States and South American markets at a slight advance in prices, but this condition is hardly likely to be maintained.

In connection with our outlet of lumber in South America, we must bear in mind that shipments of magnificent lumber are being made from Puget Sound to Buenos Ayres, and strong competition for the ultimate possession of that market will be sure to take place. The southern pine, now thoroughly introduced into the Eastern United States markets, is brought into competition with our pine, to an extent which may sooner or later prove quite serious. For outside work it is not of much use, but for cheap interior building it is being used more and more every year. There is no fear that it can displace the finer northern pine except to a limited extent; but the great power of lumber production in the Northern and Southern States, added to our own, makes the danger of overproduction greater and greater every year. It would probably be much in the interest of our lumbermen if they could be induced for a few years to limit their output, with a view to reducing the large and increasing stocks held in the various lumber markets.

It is to be hoped that the recent increase in the export duty on logs will be removed, even if we may not also hope for the entire removal of this duty.

The profits of manufacturers based on limits bought some years ago are still doubtless large, but this is not the case with limits bought at the recent high prices. It is, in fact, quite clear that the operations of some firms on limits recently acquired have been very disappointing."

MAINE CUT OF LOGS.

The cut of logs on the Penobscot River this season aggregates about 160,000,000 feet, which is some 20,000,000 less than the usual cut. The supply of logs in 1888 exceeded the demand and nearly every mill on the river carried over a large amount of logs. These with the 160,000,000 already secured will bring the average number of logs for the season's cut to about 180,000,000 feet. The St. John river, which has its source near the Penobscot, and upon which all operations are conducted by American capital and inside the Maine border, has the largest amount of logs of any river on the Atlantic slope. The cut on this river this season amounts to 250,000,000 feet. Under the Ashburton treaty these logs are sawed in the Provincial mills, and then admitted free of duty into the United States.

The Machias and Union Rivers, two small streams in Eastern Maine, will yield this season 37,000,000 feet. On the Kennebec this year the cut will fall short about one-fifth or about 25,000,000 feet short of the average, and may be reckoned at about 105,000,000 feet. The total amount of logs which came down the river in 1888 was 140,000,000 feet, the cut being 130,000,000. In the winter of 1886-7 the cut was 125,000,000 feet, and in addition there came down in the drive 40,000,000 of logs which had been hung up the previous season, bringing the total amount up to 160,000,000 feet. So far as can be ascertained there will be a deficiency in the output of manufactured lumber in the State that will reach 50,000,000 feet. The Androscoggin lumbermen cut their logs on the Umbago and Mooseluemaguntic lakes and the streams tributary to the Androscoggin in Maine and New Hampshire. The past winter cut in the woods is fully up to the average, and the total drive will amount to 75,500,000 feet of lumber. In addition to the above there will be about 17,000 cords of poplar for the pulp mills.

CASULTIES.

Robert Luffman had his right hand badly cut one day las[t] week while working at the tie saw in the cedar mill, Deseronto.

Jas. Copland, while at work running the drag saw in Heath, Tait & Turnbull's mill, at Huntsville, had the misfortune to break his leg and dislocate his ankle by coming in forcible contact with a saw log. A sum of $50 was raised for him in a few minutes by the men in the mill.

At the Windsor mills, Richmond, Que., a man named Ponton got caught in the machinery and drawn under the saw, which entered his side and cut off both arms above the elbows, causing his death shortly afterwards.

NOTICE.

Weights and Measures.

TRADERS, manufacturers, and owners of Weights, Measures and Weighing Machines generally, are specially requested to read carefully the following instructions and act accordingly:

1. The Weights and Measures Act provides for a regular biennial inspection of all Weights and Measures used for trade purposes, as well as for *irregular* inspections of the same, which may be made at any time when deemed necessary by the inspector, and it also imposes a heavy penalty on any trader or other person who wilfully obstructs or impedes an Inspector or an Assistant Inspector in the performance of his duty under said Act, or who refuses to produce the whole of his Weights and Measures when called upon to do so by an Inspecting Officer.

2. Every trader, manufacturer and owner of Weights, Measures and Weighing Machines, when paying moneys to Inspectors or Assistant Inspectors of Weights and Measures for verification fees, is entitled to, and is specially requested to demand from the officer who makes the inspection, an official certificate ("Form O 6" *with the words* "Original for the Trader," *printed at the head thereof) properly filled out and stamped*, and also at same time to carefully ascertain whether or not the stamps attached to such certificate represent *exactly* in value the amount of cash paid. Traders are requested to bear in mind that certificates of verification are of *no value whatever* unless stamps covering the full amount of fees charged are attached.

3. Owners or holders of these official certificates are specially requested to keep them carefully for two years, and in order to secure their safe keeping it would be advisable to placard them in their place of business in the manner in which ordinary License certificates are done; for it must be distinctly understood that all traders who are unable to produce their *properly stamped* certificates, when asked to do so by an Inspector or Assistant Inspector, may, in all probability, have to pay over again their verification fees.

E. MIALL,
Commissioner.

Department of Inland Revenue,
Ottawa, April 15th, 1889.

SITUATION WANTED.

As Time Keeper, Clerk or Book Keeper in Lumber camp, by young man of five years experience as clerk and book keeper. To commence after Sept 1st. Best of references. Address, stating salary, etc.
F. STEVENS, Markdale, Ont.