

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

VOLUME XV.
NUMBER 11.

TORONTO, ONT., NOVEMBER, 1894

(TERMS, \$1.00 PER YEAR
{ SING. LN COPIES, 10 CENTS

BY THE WAY.

THERE are various sides to free trade in lumber. Only some three months have passed over since the Wilson Bill actually became law, and within that period, discussion and speculation on the question has sometimes waxed warm, and certainly has been voluminous. In other ways, and elsewhere in LUMBERMAN columns, we have within these three months, discussed the more serious and larger phases of the question. Let us, by the way, look at some of the side lights that reflect their rays upon the larger subject.

x x x x

When free lumber was a subject of agitation, but had not become law, our friends to the south of us, saw nothing but ruination to the lumber business, and perhaps it is that Canadian lumbermen were lop-sided in their vision, seeing only the benefits that would come to the trade here, not some of its drawbacks. Now things are commencing to work out practically, and we find there are two sides to the shield in this case, as there are in almost every case. Mr. Meaney, of Robt. Thompson & Co., states in the Eli page that his firm at the Windsor office, are bringing supplies from Michigan, in place of, as had been their custom, having the lumber forwarded to them, from their mills in the north. There is enough difference in freight rates to make it pay this firm better to get their supplies in this manner for their western Ontario trade, than to follow the old line. Business of this character is not being done alone by the one firm. Word reaches us, that a Bay City firm has made a sale of 1,000,000 feet of lumber for shipment to Canada, the logs from which this lumber was manufactured, having been cut in Michigan. Another Windsor concern, who have been buying in this manner, for their Canadian trade, is Piggott & Sons. Mr. Piggott was interviewed about the transaction, and made the following statement: "Heretofore, I have got all my lumber from the Canadian mills on the Georgian bay, but as the duty has been taken off I thought I could do better in Michigan, and I find that I can. We now have free trade in lumber. In my opinion this will be a splendid thing for both countries, as we dealers can now buy either logs or lumber in the cheapest market and sell in the dearest." There seems to be, no doubt, that a good deal of Michigan lumber will come into western Ontario in this manner.

x x x x

Again, lumber is coming into Canada from the Duluth territories. We are told of red pine from Duluth that is already on the market in competition with white pine from our own mills. At Grand Marais, 110 miles from Duluth, lumbering operations are more active this fall than usual. 3,000,000 feet of logs are being got out there by a local firm, and these are coming over to this country to Port Arthur mills. Since lumber and logs were made free into Canada, the Duluth people say there has grown up a business of no small importance in this direction, and not less than thirty-five million feet of logs have been towed across the lake from Ashland and other points in Duluth to Port Arthur mills. Manitoba has always drawn its supplies to some extent, from northern Minnesota, in many respects, this being their natural source of supply, and with free lumber, there is no doubt, but that there will be considerable lumber brought into this province in that manner. Quoting the Mississippi Valley Lumberman: "It is a fact, that Minnesota lumbermen are selling lumber in Manitoba this fall, since the removal of tariff on lumber. This seems to be a result of free trade, directly opposite of universal expectation."

x x x x

We go further west to British Columbia, and we find a sort of see saw business going on there. British Columbia mills are, in some cases, finding it an advant-

age to import their logs from Washington territory, and instances of the kind are recorded in our news columns this month. The shoe, on the other hand, if that is not a paradox, is pinching the lumbermen of San Francisco, as British Columbia mills find free trade is going to give them a good opportunity to do business in California. Three British Columbia mills have already established agencies in San Francisco, and they will push trade in that territory. The California market, is, according to the Puget Sound Lumberman, the most important the mill men of Washington and Oregon cater to. It took from the state of Washington in 1893, 195,874,060 feet of lumber, or 14,101,622 feet more than was shipped by rail and to foreign points combined. This market takes many of the commoner grades of lumber which cannot be shipped east or to foreign points, and which would be unsaleable but for the California demand. Puget Sound people accordingly are squealing at this turn in affairs. Contrariwise, it is among the possibilities, if free lumber is to be considered a fixture, that some time in the future United States lumbermen may cross over from Washington territory and elsewhere, and establish mills in British Columbia, just as Michigan men have come into Ontario.

x x x x

There is a phase of the tariff question, as effecting British Columbia, that is not very pleasant to the people there. Our correspondent from New Westminster notes the fact that a Customs officer has decided that Canadian cedar going into the United States is subject to a duty of 25 per cent. The particular clause on which this decision rests reads: "Except boards, plank, deals and other lumber of cedar, lignum-vitae, lance wood, ebony, box, grandilla, mahogany, rosewood, satin wood, and all other cabinet woods." So good an authority as the Timberman, of Chicago, says: "It is evident, of course, that the cedar referred to in this clause is, or should be the cabinet wood cedar and not the red cedar of the Pacific coast, which is a building wood of similar quality and value to white pine, spruce, fir, and not a cabinet wood at all; but the Custom house officials do not propose to exercise any such discretion in the interpretation of the paragraph, and take it literally, and therefore are imposing the duty." The funny part of the business is, and it gives strength to the view of the Timberman, that cedar lumber was formerly under the McKinley Act, dutiable at 15 per cent., while this new tariff interpretation increases instead of diminishes the duty. Both Washington and Ottawa are being communicated with in regard to the matter and in a little time the decision will be known. In the meantime the Puget Sound lumbermen are doing all they can to see that the present decision of a local Customs man shall be made final.

x x x x

THE item embodied in our Ottawa correspondence of this month, that the dues charged by the Quebec government on spruce logs are to be levied indiscriminately, whether for home use or for export, will be welcome news to the lumber trade as removing one possible cause of interference with the new United States tariff. It is in order for the Controller of Customs to arrange his part of the house so as to make things pleasant, and legislators at Washington will be doing the correct thing to make the tariff re. British Columbia cedar read as it was intended to read, applying only to the cabinet wood cedar, without reference to the red cedar of the Pacific Coast.

PROBABLE CUT IN DULUTH.

ONE opinion given forth as to conditions in Duluth and Minnesota, the coming season, and their effect on Canada, is this: "There will be no lumbering of consequence done this coming winter in the territory

north of the height of land in this state for Canadian mills. Heretofore the quantity of timber cut and floated down the streams northward into Rainy River and across the Lake of the Woods to the mills at Rat Portage and vicinity has varied from 20,000,000 to 40,000,000 feet annually. This season the only work done in this region will be the cutting of 6,000,000 feet that is under contract made years ago, and so is forced on the market. It is stated that by reason of the low price of wheat and other products of the Canadian Northwest, the combined mills of Rat Portage and neighborhood, which cut from 60,000,000 to 80,000,000 feet a year, have marketed so far this season only about 22,000,000 feet. The timber in the district from which these Canadian mills got their supply is the best in Minnesota, and therefore it has gone only to them. The present dullness in the trade there, however, will have a direct influence in opening a permanent market for it in this state."

A PIECE OF ANTIQUE OAK.

A SMALL block of white oak on the editor's desk, says Hardwood, suggests possibilities in the direction of added beauty and variety to this princely wood. The block in question is one and one-quarter inches thick, and three inches wide by six inches long with vertical grain. It is over 200 years old, and is a piece of a war ship built by King Christian IV, of Denmark, and named Trefoldigheden, (The Trinity). In the naval battle of Kolbejerheide, July 1, 1664, the Trinity was King Christian's flagship, he commanding the fleet. The king was a pugnacious, doughty old fighter and a terror on the sea. The fight was hot and the old sea dog forced it with all his usual vigor. During the hottest part he engaged two of the enemy's ships at once with the Trinity, and while on the deck bare headed and powder stained, urging on his gunners, a shot from the enemy tore off a splinter from the mainmast which struck him in the right eye, completely destroying the sight. Stunned for but a moment, he rallied, and binding a handkerchief over his torn and bleeding eye, he went on with the fight more ferociously than ever. The ship was finally badly damaged, and, setting the example our own Perry followed nearly two centuries later, he launched his boats and transferred his flag to another ship and won the battle and sailed to Copenhagen in triumph, taking the crippled ship Trinity with him. The ship was repaired and served in many a fight thereafter, and survived for more than a hundred years, when, in 1792 worn out and battered, the game old hulk was burned to the water's edge and sunk in the harbor of Copenhagen. There the stout oak timbers and planks remained in a fitting grave for such a gallant thing until in 1881 it was discovered while repairs were being made to the docks of the city, and it was raised and taken to pieces and portions preserved. One of these venerable relics is the piece of oak here referred to. It is as sound as when cut in the northern forest more than 250 years ago, and the grain and texture are as though cut but yesterday; but the color is as black as ebony, and the weight is fully one-half more than that of newly cut white oak. It is evidently susceptible of a very light polish, and ornamented with the monogram of the grim old king, it makes a handsome paper weight.

KIND WORDS.

Knox Bros., Gladstone, Man.: "We consider the CANADA LUMBERMAN the best publication to which anyone engaged in the lumber trade can subscribe."

Jos. Bedford, Richmond, Que.: "I am pleased to tell you that the CANADA LUMBERMAN is improving every year. The subscription of \$1.00 is far too low for all the good information we get from it."