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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ONTARIO LUMBERMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

THE annual meeting of the Lun-bermen's Association of Ontario was held in the council chamber of the Board of Trade building, Toronto, on Wednesday, February 21st, at which there was a fair attendance of members. The chair was occupied by the president, Mr. John Bertram, of Toronto. The minutes of the last annual meet-



MR. JOHN WALDIE,
President Lumbermen's Association of Ontario

ing, as well as the financial report, were read by the secretary and, on motion of Mr. James Scott, confirmed.

The next order of business was the reading of correspondence. The secretary read communications from the following: From Mr. A. E. Kemp, president of the Toronto Board of Trade, suggesting the formation of a Lumber Section; from the British Columbia Lumber and Shingle Manufacturers' Association, stating that they would be represented at the meeting of the Ontario Association by Mr. F. D. Gordon; from Sir Wilfred Laurier, advising the Association that no decision had as yet been reached regarding the imposition of an import duty on lumber coming into Canada; from Mr. C. Beck, enquiring what steps had been taken regarding uniform inspection and grading of lumber, and referring to the method adopted by some manufacturers of cutting their lumber fully one-eighth inch thicker than the size for which it was intended; from Mr. W. T. Toner, of Collingwood, who was appointed by the Board of Management to prepare rules for the grading and inspection of lumber, stating that after consulting with a number of leading lumbermen, he was of the opinion that it would be impossible to establish a uniform grade of pine lumber for the Canadian market, as the several mill men have their own special grades and their customers understood their grading of lumber.

Correspondence was also read relating to the scarcity of cars last fall, and stating that after enquiries had been made as to the extent to which various lumber manufacturers had suffered, and in view of the fact that the situation had become somewhat relieved, it had been deemed advisable to take no further action.

Discussion regarding an import duty brought out the statement that the government were not prepared to take any action in the matter. The president then read the following report of the Board of Management:

REPORT OF BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

The reading of the minutes has fully informed you of what has engaged the attention of the Association since the last annual meeting, and little need be added by way of explanation. The deputation which you sent to Ottawa last spring to ask for a \$2-duty on lumber was supported by a number of members of Parliament, and was heard by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and a number of his colleagues; no action, however, followed their representations, and it is not likely that anything will be done until the tariff generally comes up for consideration.

Delegates from the association waited upon the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific railways with a view to obtaining an equalization of rates on hardwood and pine lumber, but the action taken by the railways, while tending to equalization, was not favourable to the business generally, and rates on lumber have been raised during the year. The question of the shortage of cars at particular seasons of the year also engaged the attention of the Board of Management, who obtained a good deal of information from different sections of the country and let the matter stand over for further consideration.

While these minor questions may not appear to have been solved to our satisfaction, the real work of the Lumbermen's Association of Ontario and its value to the country generally, lies more in the influence it exerted in obtaining legislation whereby Ontario logs are now reserved for Canadian saw mills. And what makes this change of policy still more important is that it has been accompanied by a marked advance in the price of all kinds of lumbe. The year 1899 will be remembered as



MR. JAMES SCOTT,
First Vice-President Lumbermen's Association of Ontario

one of the most eventful in the history of the trade. Opening with low prices and a moderate demand, it closed with higher prices for common lumber than had ever been obtained either in Canada or the United States. Midsummer of 1893 was the culmination of a period of good demand and fair prices for lumber. At that time came the financial panic which wrecked so many banks and financial institutions in the United States, and although we in Canada escaped the catastrophe in which our neighbors suffered, by reason mainly of the strength and stability of Canadian banks, yet it had the effect of curtailing business, and slowly from 1893 to 1896 prices receded; in the latter year there was a sharper decline, and 1897 and 1898 found the business entirely unremunerative. Many concerns collapsed in the United States, and mills on the Georgian Bay which had been running steadily for many years shut down rather than cut their standing timber at a loss. What probably made the lumber business still worse in Ontario was the passing of the McKinley Bill at Washington imposing a duty of \$2 per M feet on lumber entering the United States, and at the same time enacting a retaliatory clause, with the intention of providing logs for Michigan mills from Canadian forests, and at the same time preventing Canadian sawn lumber from entering into competition with the American sawn product. It was apparently a well devised plan, and its authors naturally plumed themselves on its success.

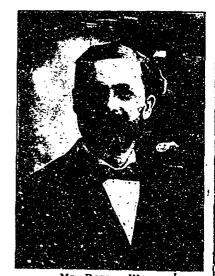
It looked for a short time as if the saw mill business in the Georgian Bay was doomed, there appeared no ray of hope; to reimpose the old export duty of \$21 re B. M. would only have increased the American of \$4, making it prohibitive.

The members of this Association and some en in Toronto to devise a remedy, and after full disc determined to ask the Ontario Government to preve export of all saw logs cut on Crown lands, and a c tion was appointed to lay their views before the G ment, and ask for legislation to that effect. In me action was not taken on the question; the G we acted with caution and deliberation. They not only the Ontario side of the question, but gave a co and attentive hearing to Michigan owners or st timber, who with some alarm hastened to place views before the Government. The idea, hower reserving Canadian logs for Canadian saw mills o the public ear, and the Government passed the nec orders in Council, backed up by legislation, and the ufacturing clause was inserted in all licenses after 30th, 1898. It was claimed by Americans and other the Act was virtually a confiscation of property, t broke an agreement entered into with the province further, that it was ultra vires as being an interfer with trade and commerce, which the B. N. A. Acta under the jurisdiction of the Dominion Government

The question was brought before the Courts a time ago, and Mr. Justice Street sustained the Act Ontario Legislature in his judgment, and vindical policy of this association, which can rightfully dehave rendered a most signal service to the whole munity, and if it had done nothing else, justifies in to continue as an organization.

The effect of this new departure has been wide a reaching; the large quantity of logs exported to Mic from year to year dwindled to the few logs cut on a Reserves and private lands, and it is a question considered whether we should petition the Doc Government to apply the same policy to the Indian over which they have jurisdiction as the Ontario Government has adopted over Crown lands.

The most noticable feature of the year is the expansion of the saw-milling business in the Garage at Bay district; a number of new mills are under corrections this winter, and every one of the old that have been silent for some years are being fitted manufacture the great crop of logs now being putic their it is the opinion of many that even with the great is of sawing capacity it will be impossible to turnillogs into lumber this year. It would be needless to the out how this policy has benefitted all cognate industry and all manufacturers of supplies so largely needs.



MR. ROBERT WATT, Second Vice-President Lumbermen's Association of Odu

it is satisfactory to think that in helping ourselves thelped others also. As to what effect the Ontario had on the price of lumber it is difficult to estimate doubt the revival of trade which commenced on the tinent in the fall of 1898, creating a demand for for commercial and manufacturing purposes, a main factor in raising prices, but there is little does in the spring of 1899, when eastern buyers on lookstock came to Michigan and found that two of hundred million feet of logs that had hitherto can Canada would not be available, it started them on determined quest for lumber that price became of