

great advantage to the general welfare of the country and the lumber industry in particular.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE methods adopted by some municipalities in awarding contracts for lumber and other supplies are, to say the least, very unbusinesslike. The authorities appear to ignore entirely the rights of tenderers. A striking example of injustice is found in the action of the Winnipeg City Council in awarding the contract for the annual supply of lumber. Tenders were invited publicly for the supply of from 500,000 to 1,500,000 feet, that submitted by Messrs. Dick, Banning & Co. being accepted. On being notified of the acceptance of their tender, they made arrangements with the manufacturers for the supply required, and also for teams, etc., for delivering the lumber to the city, adjusting their financial affairs accordingly. Afterwards they were notified by the City Clerk that the action of the Council had been vetoed by the Mayor, on the ground that sufficient time was not allowed between the first appearance of the advertisement calling for tenders and the date limit. At a subsequent meeting of the Council new tenders were ordered to be asked for. The injustice done to Messrs. Dick, Banning & Co. was in no way recognized, notwithstanding that they had arranged for their lumber supply and that their prices had been made public for the benefit of competitors who would submit new tenders. If a mistake was made, the onus thereof should rest upon those in error, not upon an irresponsible party. The city should either have carried out its obligation with the firm, or effected a settlement before inviting new tenders.

IN the figures to be found on another page, showing the lumber consumption of the Northwest and the relative quantities supplied by Canadian and United States manufacturers, there is food for reflection. In the year 1896 there were consumed in Manitoba and the district extending as far west as Regina, approximately, 80,000,000 feet, of which 12,000,000 feet was the product of United States mills. Last year the consumption in the same territory increased to 92,000,000 feet, but of this nearly 17,000,000 feet was imported from the United States. Thus, of the increased consumption of some 12,000,000 feet during 1897, the Canadian mill men only benefitted to the extent of 7,000,000 feet, which clearly shows how serious has become the competition from our southern neighbors, who are protected in their own market and allowed free access to Canada. Four years ago the imports of lumber into the Northwest were of little account, being less than 2,000,000 feet, but, under the very favorable conditions, they have rapidly grown. While, from its geographical location perhaps more than anything else, our Northwest is not destined to be a manufacturing country, yet its lumber trade is gradually expanding, chiefly as a result of the improved condition of the farming community and the consequent increase in the volume of building operations. It is indeed encouraging to observe that one, at least, of our Georgian Bay manufacturers is endeavoring to penetrate into this market, notwithstanding obstacles in the way of high freight rates and such like. His success will no doubt be watched with interest.



A GENTLEMAN prominently connected with the erection of several large buildings in Toronto, in relating to me some of his experiences, referred to an incident which seems to point a moral. It was his duty to inspect all lumber. The specifications for flooring for a certain building called for first class material, and it was expected to pay a good price for the same. Arrangements were made with a local dealer to supply a portion of the required stock at a fixed price, but when the first carload arrived it was found so inferior as to be rejected entirely and the order cancelled. "The reason of this," said my informant, "was that the price which the mill man was being paid for the lumber was so low that he could not afford to supply the grade, and this notwithstanding that a fair price was being paid to the dealer, who could very well have paid a better price to the mill man. His desire to make a large profit cost him the contract." It is well to be content with a fair margin of profit.

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THE fertile brain of Herr Cu. Bloch, of Berlin, Germany, has invented an apparatus for the manufacture of sawdust into cakes. These cakes, he seriously declares, may be used for food for cattle, horses, etc. Some experiments were made in Berlin in 1895 by the Tramway Company, which are claimed to have proved successful, though the manufacturing expenses were rather higher than expected. The new substance consists of a mixture of two parts of fine sawdust and one part of bran and muriatic acid. After fermentation the mixture is baked and takes the shape of a brick. It is then damped by means of water, when it makes an excellent substitute for hay and straw, and is also a good fodder for cattle and horses. Oak or walnut woods do not, on account of their tanning properties, give such good results as soft woods. The news of this invention has just been received in time to relieve the Ottawa valley lumbermen of worry over the disposal of their sawdust.

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A REMARK made by Mr. Edward Still, manager of the European Exporters' Association of Toronto, shows the necessity of the formation by lumbermen of some organization to conduct the export trade. "When I was in Glasgow last," said Mr. Still, "a gentleman who is in the business said to me that he was at a loss to understand the system under which Canada and the United States shipped lumber to the British market; there did not seem to be any understanding as to the requirements, and at times there was a complete glut." Conditions such as these are likely to exist so long as there is no organization among lumbermen, and secrecy is the motto of the trade. Mr. Still informed me that he was about to leave on a business trip to Europe. He thought his association might be of considerable assistance in the formation of a

lumber exporters' association, if any action was to be taken. At my suggestion Mr. Still outlined the modus operandi of the European Exporters' Association, of which Sir W. P. Howland, K.C.M.G., is president. The association have experienced and high class representatives in the leading centres in Great Britain, Germany, France and other foreign countries. They do not act as middlemen in the manner of handling the goods, but place exporters in touch with reliable agents, who in turn effect the sale. The agency of the European Exporters' Association is one which seems to me worthy of the consideration of parties interested in opening up trading relations with Europe.

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A CORRESPONDENT of the Toronto Globe, writing of the lumber industry of British Columbia says: "The lumber trade is inclined to favor a retaliatory policy toward the United States. As in Ontario, it is claimed that the export of logs and the import of lumber, shingles, etc., under the existing American tariff will be more profitable than the domestic manufacture. This is still a lumbering country. Mill refuse is burned, and soft wood in every form is lying along the shores and wasted as freely as in older Ontario 30 years ago. Square timber is turned out of the mills so long that it requires three flat cars together to carry its length, and such timber is often two feet square and more. An ordinary order for lumber is filled with boards twelve inches wide, and almost any required dimension in timber can be supplied. There are wooden eave troughs on the houses, and especially on Vancouver Island many of the finest and most ornate residences are built of wood. This forest wealth which seems to be thrown about everywhere in prodigal carelessness, the great timbers, the immense piles of long and wide boards, the heavy planking on wharves and docks, all without knot or flaw, always attract the attention of visitors from older Canada. The exhaustion of this supply is not yet within measurable distance, and it is treated as if such a result was an impossibility. The influences which make for a tariff protection, retaliatory and otherwise, on lumber are comparatively weak. With the freedom of the American market there would be an opening for British Columbia products in Skagway and Wrangel, and there would be an opening also in the western states. But so far as the market south of the boundary is concerned it is questionable if Canadian lumber could make much headway. The Pacific slope is as well timbered in American as in Canadian territory. The "slaughter market" argument, too, is heard in advocating a tariff on American lumber. The real market of the British Columbia product, however, is in Australia, Hawaii, the west coast and Europe, and there the great sailing vessels are continually carrying it. The home market is of comparatively little importance."

So-called wood tapestries are made by gluing sheets of veneer to a woven cloth back, then cutting the veneer as desired. The glue used to unite the cloth and wood is of a character to remain pliable after drying. The cutting of the veneer must be very nicely done, so as not to injure the fabric backing. The invention is of French origin.