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LUMBERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS.

Failure in business does not always prove a man lacking in business ability, neither does the untimely termination of an organization conclusively establish the want of organizing power and energy in those who have been concerned in the association. Many a business man of fine abilities fails from excess of enterprise. He pushes his business beyond the limit of its endurance before he knows it; he fails because he attempts to do too much. This, we believe, was the cause of the failure of several of the lumbermen's associations to which the *Northwestern Lumberman* alludes. They were too comprehensive. To use an expressive vulgarism, "They bit off more than they could chew." Take the National Association of Lumbermen. There may have been some relations of the members to each other which it did not attempt to regulate, but we do not remember any. It was devoted mainly to the interests of the retail dealers, and had a patent, back-action, double open-and-shut device for preventing a member doing business anywhere except in his own bailiwick. This was chiefly directed at wholesale dealers, who were subject to be mulcted in a sum equal to the profits on the trade, which was to go to the dealer against whose prerogative they had sinned—the fine being collectable by a process which closely resembles boycotting, since that practice has been invented in Ireland. It amounted to a practical restraint of trade. If a wholesaler sold a bill of lumber to anyone not a dealer within the territory occupied or supposed to be occupied by a dealer, he was directly notified to walk up the captain's office and settle, or he was posted among the association as a man not entitled to their confidence. Theoretically, at least, all the members of the association agreed not to purchase lumber of him until he had shown for the prerogative of the retailer. It is not surprising that an association which proposed thus to interfere with the freedom of trade should fail. It gathered in the ducts of a large number of the retailers by its bewitching promises of promoting their interests and enabling them to corner the home market and unload at their own prices. But the promises it made to the ear were broken to the hope. It had bitten off more than it could chew. The wholesalers, after standing the boycotting a while, concluded, the National Association was a menace to their rights and interests, and they formed a counter-association. The National Association movement culminated and went to pieces because its foundation was rotten; it was organized for an illegitimate purpose, on unsound principles. The maintenance of such an organization is an impossibility, because it proposed an unnatural and unwarranted interference with the rights of trade.

As we do not think much of associations organized to determine where a man may sell his

goods or to whom he may dispose of them, so we have not a high opinion of combinations to determine what price he shall charge for them. They operate as a restraint of trade and subordinate energy and enterprise to indolent conservatism. Combinations to maintain the prices of commodities are not more justifiable than combinations to maintain or advance the price of labor. It is unquestionably of advantage to the trade that there be uniform grades of lumber, that the names of grades shall signify as nearly the same kind and quality of stock as the variable judgment of inspectors will allow, and to secure such a uniformity is legitimate work for an association. It may also be advantageous and justifiable that a uniform basis of prices be established, but the enforcement of any price list established by a combination is beyond the recognition of morality in trade. If the railroads or vessel men, or the workmen enter into combinations to enforce higher prices for transportation or labor, the irregularity of the procedure is recognized at once.

There is no association or combination of lumbermen on the Saginaw river; prices are maintained at a uniform rate without any such extraordinary contrivance. And there is no place where trade may not be safely left to the operation of the legitimate laws governing all trade.

Nevertheless, there is work for associations, and they will organize success when they will attend to those matters which lie within their proper sphere. An association may establish grades; compose price lists without attempting to enforce them; reform as many of the abuses its members suffer at the hands of railroads and other interests, as possible, without invading the rights of others; compile statistics, and disseminate among its members information regarding the condition and prospects of trade, and the best methods of manufacturing and handling the products. Such associations may safely attempt the same line as agricultural societies, but when they undertake to accomplish what trades unions and railroad pools are formed for, they may expect to be classed in the same category and break in pieces as often.—*Lumberman's Gazette.*

MESSRS. RATHBUN & SON manufacture yearly 62,740,000 ft. of lumber and ties, besides shingles, lath, doors, mouldings, sash, blinds, and other goods. They employ in all 1,500 men. They have this season brought 300,000 saw logs and 125,000 pieces of cedar, timber and floats down the Moira, Trent and Napanee rivers.

For a city the size of Winnipeg, property seems to be excessively dear. A lot having a frontage of 160 feet on Main street, with a depth of 264 and some buildings valued at about \$10,000, has been sold for \$110,000.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

SUNDERLAND.

The flourishing village, on the Toronto and Nipissing Railway, 53 miles from Toronto, is supplied with two planing mills. Mr. Moore's planing factory is a very complete establishment, not large, but *multum in parvo*. The machinery is so arranged, that all the woodwork required to finish a house from cellar to garret—with doors, sash, blinds, baynisters, chairs, tables, and bureaus, complete—is manufactured by Mr. Moore and his staff of assistants. Wooden rakes are also made by Mr. Moore in large quantities. There is also a circular saw for cutting small logs, of second growth wood, which is found to be best for rake, hoe, and fork handles. The motive power is supplied, by one of Doty's, Toronto, oscillating steam engines.

There are three saw mills in the neighborhood of Sunderland. Mr. A. McMillan's is near the railway station. It is driven by two engines, a portable 12 H.P. and a stationary 25 H.P. The portable engine is taken out after the summer sowing is over, and utilized for threshing grain. Mr. McMillan will cut this season about a million feet of lumber, including lath and shingles.

Mr. Joseph Ruddy's steam saw mill is about two miles south of Sunderland, near the railway. His stock will amount to over 250,000 feet of pine, besides some basswood.

The third saw mill is owned by Mr. James St. John, jr. It is situated about two miles west of the village. The season's cut will be about half a million feet of pine, and five hundred thousand shingles. Mr. St. John, fortunately, has come across a rare and valuable stick of curly-black ash. It is 36 feet long, 3 feet at the butt, round as a ball, and curly to the core. It will be a choice catch for some wholesale cabinet-maker or railway car builder.

WOODBIDGE

Being the headquarters of the manufacture of Mr. Abell's celebrated safety engines and threshing machines, the village of Woodbridge, sixteen miles from Toronto, via the Toronto, Grey & Bruce Railway, has attained considerable importance. Mr. Abell employs one hundred and forty men, and uses a large quantity of lumber in the manufacture of his threshing machines, as well as in covering the outside of the portable boilers to prevent radiation of heat. The factory is complete in all its branches, and possesses an hydraulic engine for boiler making, being the second in Canada of the kind. It performs the work of six men. It is Mr. Abell's intention to remove his Woodbridge establishment to Toronto. He has purchased seven acres of land adjacent to the Lunatic Asylum grounds, south of Queen street. Men are at work preparing 800,000 bricks for the building. The foundation will be of white limestone, from Owen Sound quarries. They are expected to be ready for

occupation in two years. Mr. Abell calculates to save \$7,000 per annum in freight by the removal to Toronto.

THE ADVANCE IN THE PRICE OF BUILDING MATERIAL.

The railroads have had the advantage of cheap iron for the past three years, and all our industries have had no reason to complain of the cost of material. With a rampant stock market, there has been no speculation up to this time or until very recently, in any of the leading products of the country. Cotton, corn and wheat have ruled low, and when labor was first being employed, it did not demand high figures. But it was evident to all business men that the plethora of money would find its way at length into general merchandise, and there is every evidence now of a steady enhancement in values, especially in manufactured articles, due to the increased cost of labor.

On June 11th the *Real Estate Record* gave the following advice to builders: "It would, we judge, be wise to take large contracts ahead for building material at their present rates. There is every prospect of an enhancement in values during the coming fall, for while consumption is enormous, supplies are light, and as the price of labor is rising in every department of trade, there is a fear of a large enhancement of values."

Those who heeded that warning have reason to congratulate themselves. Take the article of brick. In our market reports we have shown over and over again the dangerous condition of the brick market for buyers. The heavy rains and other causes have prevented the usual work in brick yards, and this occurring in connection with an extraordinary demand for building, has put the buyers of brick entirely at the mercy of those who sell them. This hint ought to be sufficient for all who are under obligations to complete buildings. The increase in the price of labor alone is sure to enhance the value of all the materials which go into the construction of a building. So serious is the brick question, that more than one large concern has put a stop to its work for the time being. Then, the scarcity of labor has led to most extraordinary demands for skilled working people.

As a matter of fact, there is too much building going on. We are overdoing a legitimate and necessary business. There is danger of loss to those who entered into contracts based upon the prices of labor and material which obtained six months ago. Land is rising in value, and the price of labor usually goes up when realty is in better demand. This reacts on all prices, and hence the prudent builder will make contracts for some time ahead.—*New York Real Estate Record.*

The bulk of the World's writing is done with steel pens. Esterbrook's can be procured from any stationer, and at wholesale from Brown Bros., Toronto.