

# THE CANADA LUMBERMAN.

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## THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

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THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interest of the lumber trade and of allied industries throughout the Dominion being the only representative in Canada of this foremost branch of the commerce of this country. It aims at giving full and timely information on all subjects touching these interests, discussing these topics editorially and inviting free discussion of them by others.

Especial pains are taken to secure the latest and most trustworthy market quotations from various points throughout the world, so as to afford to the trade in Canada information upon which it can rely in its operations.

Special correspondents in localities of importance present accurate report not only of prices and the condition of the market, but also of other matters specially interesting to our readers. But correspondence is not only welcome but is invited from all who have any information to communicate or subjects to discuss relating to the trade or in any way effecting it. Even when we may not be able to agree with the writers we will give them a fair opportunity for free discussion as the best means of eliciting the truth. Any items of interest are particularly requested, for even if not of great importance individually, they contribute to a fund of information from which general results are obtained.

Advertisers will receive careful attention and liberal treatment. We need not point out that for many the CANADA LUMBERMAN with its special class of readers is not only an exceptionally good medium for securing publicity, but is indispensable for those who would bring themselves before the notice of that class. Special attention is directed to "WANTED" and "FOR SALE" advertisements which will be inserted in a conspicuous position at the uniform price of ten cents per line for each insertion. Announcements of this character will be subject to a discount of 25 per cent. if ordered for three successive issues or longer.

Subscribers will find the small amount they pay for the CANADA LUMBERMAN quite insignificant as compared with its value to them. There is not an individual in the trade, or specially interested in it, who should not be on our list, thus obtaining the present benefit and aiding and encouraging us to render it even more complete.

THE measure introduced into the Ontario Legislature by Mr. Garson, M.P.P., a synopsis of which appeared in the last issue of THE LUMBERMAN, has, contrary to general expectation, become law. Owners of stationary boilers will not accept the new situation with very good grace, as it is calculated to entail not only additional expense but in its details no little amount of trouble. As has already been stated in these columns the principle of the measure is sound and just, but in working out its details we trust that every care will be taken to render it as little oppressive as possible in its bearing upon the important interests with which it deals.

THE resolutions at present before Congress touching upon the question of Commercial Union are so numerous that an additional one or two would evidently have no perceptible effect. The latest on record emanated from the brain of Congressman Hill, who has introduced a joint resolution which provides that when it shall be duly certified to the President that the Government of the Dominion of Canada has declared a desire to establish Commercial Union with the United States, having a uniform revenue system, the like internal taxes to be collected, and the like import duties to be imposed on articles brought into either country from other nations, and no duties upon trade between the United States and Canada, he shall appoint three commissioners to meet those who may be likewise designated to represent the Government of Canada to prepare a plan for the assimilation of the import duties and internal revenue taxes of the two countries, and an equitable division of receipts in a commercial union, and that the said commissioners shall report to the President, who shall lay the report before Congress. From the present feeling, both in Congress and the Dominion Parliament, it does not require much foresight to predict utter defeat to one and all measures of this nature. Nothing, we think, would benefit the lumber trade or Canada so much as the passage of a C. U. measure, but to look for such a thing under the existing state of affairs, will prove a forlorn hope indeed.

CONGRESS seems to be in no hurry to make any decision on the tariff of the United States. It looks indeed almost probable that no action will be taken this year. The fact is that both parties, and the various loose fish, are so busy watching each other, endeavouring to trip each other, and guarding against any advantage being gained over them in regard to the coming Presidential contest, that they are afraid to move and remain almost at a dead-lock. If, however, the matter stands over till next year, it is at least certain that some means will then be adopted for cutting down the public revenue now so large as to be embarrassing. There is every indication that one change for this purpose will be the removal of the duties on lumber.

THE weather, as usual, has a great deal to answer for so far as the success or failure of the log crop is concerned. Last year there was altogether too much snow in the winter but abundance of water in the spring to float the logs. This year the supply of snow has been moderate, with the result that an enormous cut has been made; but now comes reports from every direction of insufficient water for floating. This state of affairs is calculated to cause disaster, especially to the large operators. It is said that the lumbermen of the Ottawa district are beginning to feel very uneasy with regard to the log supply, as it is feared that there will not be sufficient water in the tributaries to float them onto the Ottawa River. There is said to be over 400,000,000 feet of logs now cut.

WE have already given particulars as to the trade of the British West Indian Islands. The French dependencies Guadeloupe and Martinique import among other goods from the United States, boards to the value of \$74,835, scantling \$3,273, shingles \$2,495, shooks \$164,519, staves and headings \$30,840, hogsheads and barrels \$2,404, furniture \$4,160, and other articles of wood \$1,081. It will be seen that there is a trade with these islands, which, if not very extensive, is worth looking after by our friends in the lower Provinces. Very possibly a portion of it is the produce of our own forests, and at least it is facilitated by the United States importing from Canada, while the export to more remunerative markets. Why should not Canadian lumbermen deal directly with these customers and obtain the consequent advantage?

ONE of the suggestions made several times in the recent debate on the forests of Ontario is worthy of further consideration, for it is calculated to obviate much friction and save much property from destruction. It is that forest and agricultural lands should be defined and set apart. By this means settlers would not be lured into establishing themselves on land which is seldom well adapted for agriculture, and at the same time the danger of forest conflagrations by the spread of their clearing fires would be removed. This is no new idea, indeed we have several times advocated in these columns its adoption as a general policy, and have shown that it has other important advantages in addition to those we have now mentioned. Now that it has been so fully discussed in the Legislature, it may receive the practical attention of the Department.

THE forests of Ontario, and indeed of all Canada, have had considerable attention attracted to them by the debate in the Ontario Legislature on Mr. Meredith's motion for a special committee. One question of which the various speakers differed very widely was the extension of the pine forests remaining in the Dominion as especially in Ontario. Some talked as if our timber were almost exhausted. No doubt the truth lies somewhere between these widely divergent points; but apart from the exaggerations of party orators, good judges interested in the question and anxious to arrive at the truth are almost as far apart in their calculations. It would obviously be useful to all parties concerned that the extent of our available forests, especially of pine, should be ascertained with approximate accuracy. The Ontario Administration, having defeated the proposal of the opposition for a roving commission over the whole range of the subject, might gracefully and usefully of its own initiative adopt some plan of what was termed "taking stock" of our forests.

THE LUMBERMAN is particularly pleased to reproduce the following article from the *Timber Trades Journal*, of London, Eng., which refers to another extension of that important and well-known Canadian firm, The Rathbun Co., of Deseronto.

The well-known business of Messrs. Holland, McConnell & Co. has been taken over by the Rathbun Company, of Canada, whose agents Messrs. Bryce, Junor & White, will in future trade on their behalf at the old premises in Wharf Road. The Rathbun Company are well known throughout Canada and the United States for the extensive and successful nature of the lumber operations they carry on. Their mills and factories are situated at Deseronto, on Lake Ontario, a town of about 3,000 inhabitants who are almost entirely engaged in or connected with the undertakings of the company. The Rathbun Company, represented on this side by Messrs. Bryce, Junor & White, purpose keeping a full stock of doors, mouldings, &c., of the same character as those which so long enjoyed the support of the English trade under the conduct of Messrs. Holland, McConnell & Co. That the supply of doors will be fully maintained there can be no question about, as Messrs. Rathbun are proprietors of one of the largest concerns in Canada, embracing, in addition to their saw mills and joinery works, cedar mill, flour mills, shipbuilding yards, &c., and have the practical control of two branch railways, one of which is in connection with the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada. In addition to these the firm own, we understand, a considerable fleet of lake steamers and sailing ships. We wish the new management of the Wharf Road business every success.

We feel sure that our readers will join us in wishing the Messrs. Rathbun as great a measure of success in England as they have enjoyed in Canada.

IN view of the existence of a movement to bring Newfoundland into the Canadian confederation, the following facts, gleaned from the "Stateman's Year Book," will be of interest:—The area of the island is 40,200 square miles; population in 1884, 193,623. The religions of the populations were in that year stated to be as follows. Roman Catholics, 75,254; Church of England, 69,000; Methodists, 18,757; Presbyterians, 1,495; other denominations, 1,470. The public schools aided by the government numbered in 1884, 402, with an attendance of 27,322 pupils. The revenue of the island in 1886 amounted to \$1,078,775, and the expenditure to \$1,736,105. Of the revenue \$948,680 were derived from customs duties. In the same year the value of the exports was \$4,833,735, and the imports, \$6,020,035. The principal exports were fish, value, \$3,763,336; cod and seal oil, value, \$524,000; sealskins, value, \$272,658; copper ore, \$246,100. The principal imports: Flour, \$1,495,976; woollens, cottons, etc., \$824,246; salt pork, \$321,692; butter, \$245,667; molasses, \$306,568; salt, \$175,010; tea, \$154,049; coal, \$188,494; leather and leather goods, \$504,087; spirits, \$112,996. Of the exports of 1886 the value of those sent to Great Britain was \$1,205,303; British West Indies, \$234,150; Canada, \$189,484; Portugal, \$1,221,872; Brazil, \$129,935; Spain, \$381,667; the United States, \$284,107. Of the imports, \$1,911,000 in value was received from Great Britain; from Canada, \$1,937,605; from the United States \$1,672,810. The Government of the island is administered by an Executive council of seven members, the Legislative council consists of fifteen members, and the Legislative assembly of thirty six members.

THE serious drawback to the lumber trade in Toronto last summer, caused by the long strike of the carpenters and others, seems likely to be repeated in Hamilton this spring. The only difference is that in Toronto the building mechanics struck work of their own accord, in the hope that the master builders would accede to their demands for more pay. In Hamilton, on the other hand, it is a fight between the Builders' Exchange and union men, the former having published an ukase discharging all of the latter class. The edict of the builders does not, it seems, apply to buildings in course of construction, which have to be completed in a given time, contractors for which will be permitted to keep union men at work until their work is completed. The trouble seems to have arisen through the bricklayers and others raising the cry against the employment of non-union men in certain quarries. The carpenters and joiners seem to have come in for a share of the blame, but claim they had nothing whatever to do with it. On the whole it looks as if the present trouble had arisen out of nothing, and some of the builders are not in favor of the line of action adopted, and think there was no necessity for so