



MONTHLY AND WEEKLY EDITIONS

C. H. MORTIMER
PUBLISHER

CONFEDERATION LIFE BUILDING, TORONTO

BRANCH OFFICE:

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE BUILDING, MONTREAL.

The LUMBERMAN Weekly Edition is published every Wednesday, and the Monthly Edition on the 1st day of every month.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:

One Copy, Weekly and Monthly, One Year, in advance..... \$1.00
One Copy, Weekly and Monthly, Six Months, in advance..... .50
Foreign Subscriptions, \$2.00 a Year.

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED ON APPLICATION

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interests 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 by others.

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

Special correspondents in localities of importance present an 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 affecting 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 25 cents per line for each insertion. Announcements of this character will be subject to a discount of 25 per cent. if ordered for four 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.

TO VISITING LUMBERMEN.

Lumbermen visiting Toronto are invited to use the office of the CANADA LUMBERMAN as their own. We shall take pleasure in supplying them with every convenience for receiving and answering their correspondence, and hold ourselves at their service in any other way they may desire.

PROPOSED LABOR ORGANIZATION.

WITHIN the past two months a movement has been commenced among the workmen employed in the different branches of the lumber industry to organize an association, or, more properly speaking, a labor union, having for its object the securing of a higher remuneration for the services of the men thus engaged, the shortening of the hours of daily labor, and the general betterment of their condition. The idea, so far as we can learn, appears to have originated in the mind of Mr. William Hood, who has conducted a general store at Baysville, Ont., for some years, and who, at a meeting held at that place on the 26th of April last, was appointed general president. It is stated to be his intention to put a large number of organizers at work throughout Ontario to form local associations, and eventually to spread the movement to every province of the Dominion. The promoters of the organization claim to have been prompted to take such action by the long hours which men were compelled to work for a small remuneration.

While admitting that any movement which will improve the condition of the masses of the people is to be commended, and without desiring to condemn the proposed organization before giving

the subject due consideration, we cannot but question the expediency of taking such a step at the present time, which, for reasons which will be briefly mentioned, we consider to be the most inopportune in the history of the lumber trade.

Indications now point to the fact that Canadian lumber entering the United States will be subject to a duty, probably \$2 per thousand feet, a duty which all will admit will shut out from the American market a portion at least of our lumber, while thus far the Canadian government have made no declaration of their intention to impose an export duty on saw logs. Thus it would appear that should the above circumstances come to pass, the result would be that the manufacture of much of our lumber would be diverted to the American side, notwithstanding that the raw material is to be obtained at our doors. This is the outlook at the present time, and anything which will increase the price of manufacturing in Canada will certainly assist this movement.

It is also well known that lumber manufacturers have of late years made very little money, owing to the high figures paid for timber limits and lower prices obtained for lumber. True it is that supplies may be purchased at a less cost to-day than ten years ago, but this and other like advantages are more than offset by the facts mentioned above. Glancing over the province of Ontario, we can scarcely point to one lumber concern which may be said to be making more than a fair interest on the money invested, and we have it on the authority of several leading manufacturers that the lumbermen are not making money to-day in manufacturing lumber. There are some wealthy lumbermen to be found, but in most cases their riches have been obtained by speculation in timber limits and in contracting for getting out logs, rather than in the conversion of the logs into lumber. Manufacturers of white pine lumber have in recent years been confronted with strong competition from southern pine, which is produced by negro labor at the lowest possible cost, and which also has the advantage of cheap transportation. In many of the yards in the Eastern States which were once stocked with millions of feet of white pine, there is now very little of this article to be found, but a much greater quantity of the southern product. This has not only reduced the selling price of white pine, but has made the lower grades very difficult of disposal, hence the absolute necessity of cheapening the cost of production in order to meet the competition from southern pine.

Lastly, the question of remuneration for services is governed almost entirely by the law of supply and demand. During the past winter the number of men seeking employment in the woods was much larger than the requirement, and consequently the average wages paid was correspondingly less. We doubt whether by means of organization the standard of wages could have been raised, inasmuch as the history of similar labor unions is that only a portion of the persons engaged in any particular calling can be induced to become members.

Notwithstanding our views as above expressed, we are free to admit that in some instances workmen have been compelled to give their services for a remuneration altogether too small, yet

most manufacturers realize that only by paying a fair wage, as governed by the prices obtained for their product, can the best results be obtained.

THE DINGLEY BILL AND THE CANADIAN LUMBER TRADE.

ANOTHER step has been taken by the United States government towards the adoption of the Dingley bill. On May 4th the Finance Committee reported the bill to the Senate, having made such changes as were deemed expedient. In the lumber schedule some modifications were made of importance to Canadian lumbermen. The rate of \$2 per thousand feet on sawn lumber is allowed to remain, but the extra duty of \$1 for planing on one side and tonguing and grooving is reduced to seventy cents, and that for planing on two sides and tonguing and grooving from \$1.50 to \$1.05. This reduction has met with a strong protest from American lumbermen, who claim that the United States government is simply offering a premium for the establishment of planing mills in Canada. They argue that the difference in weight of lumber after being dressed will enable Canadian manufacturers of white pine to ship their dressed lumber into the American markets as cheaply as they could the rough stock.

Another alteration made by the Finance Committee has reference to the retaliatory clause. The 25 per cent. ad valorem addition to be imposed on lumber in case any country should place an export duty on saw logs or pulp wood is changed to add the amount of such export duty instead of any fixed sum, and the words "pulp wood" are eliminated from the clause. If we clearly understand the revised tariff, the Canadian government may impose an export duty on pulp wood without increasing the duty on lumber, but should an export tax be placed upon saw logs, then the amount of such tax would be added to the duty on rough sawn lumber. On the other hand, another clause of the bill provides that the amount of the export duty placed on pulp wood by any foreign country shall be added to the duty on manufactured pulp entering the United States. By the new arrangement the lumber and pulp industries are in no way dependent upon each other, but are considered as entirely separate. This, to the mind of the writer, is the only fair manner of dealing with the question, as we fail to realize the justice of imposing an additional tax on lumber because a duty is imposed on pulp wood. Let each industry stand upon its own footing.

Reverting to the changes made by the Finance Committee, the duty on shingles is reduced from 30 to 25 cents per thousand, and clapboards are taxed at \$1.50. The rebate clause, under which a refund of a portion of the duty was made on such lumber as was manufactured into boxes and shipped to foreign countries, is abolished. These constitute the most important changes.

While it is by no means probable that the bill will become law in its present form, there is nevertheless a possibility that Canadian lumber entering the United States will be subjected to a duty, whether great or small. It therefore behooves our lumbermen to take early steps to place themselves in a position independent of the United States market, as should the Dominion government see fit to impose an export duty on