

CORRESPONDENCE

THE NATIONAL HARDWOOD LUMBER ASSOCIATION.

Mr. W. A. Bennett, of Cincinnati, Ohio, president of National Hardwood Lumber Association, has sent the CANADA LUMBERMAN copy of a letter which he is sending members of the association. The letter reads as follows:

It is my earnest desire to have you feel that the success of our cause is in your hands and the future of our organization depends entirely on what you and your individual and personal efforts make of it. We are growing as any just and righteous cause must and eventually, yet I want to say this, it is not wise to depend on the officers and directors to make a success without the personal assistance of the membership.

The press has been of untold value to us and offers good offices to us on all occasions, which should be appreciated by business in their line, and I am glad to see some of you are repaying them, while others are not. I want to say more business than you can attend to about advertising. This is no excuse, in fact, this is the best time to advertise and pick your trade, allowing for old time slow paying customers to be educated by the use of your competitors and getting hold thereby of a trade who discount their bills. This is not a newspaper advertising letter, but it is one on the Golden Rule plan, "You scratch my back and I will scratch yours."

I want each member in the association to procure at least one member within the next thirty days, and send me a check for \$3.00 in for same. In that way, our members will be doubled. Don't stop on this."

HARDWOOD INSPECTION RULES.

The following letters in reference to the adoption of standard inspection rules for lumber have come to hand since our April issue was printed:

CINCINNATI, OHIO, MARCH 27TH, 1899.

DEAR SIR,—I am glad to see that you are pushing the matter of uniform inspection in the line of a circular letter. In answer to your question, which is as follows, "Do you consider that the adoption of standard inspection rules would be in the interest of the lumber trade of Ontario?" My answer is this, what applies to Ontario would apply to any lumber manufacturing section in the western hemisphere. The same kinds of lumber are found in Ontario that are found in Michigan and Wisconsin, and it is a good thing for that section of the country that orders on your territory, why should it not be a good thing for Ontario?

and "In what way, if any, has the absence of such rules been a disadvantage to the lumber trade in the west?"

That question practically answers itself. In the past, there has been no uniform system of rules, each market having its own ways and means of doing business, and unless an inspector was thoroughly acquainted with the local markets, he could not apply the rules in an intelligent way.

3rd. "Could rules be compiled which would serve all sections of the province and apply to export as well as domestic trade? If not, why not?"

They certainly could be, and it only requires united action to accomplish this purpose.

4th. "How, in your opinion, could the adoption of uniform rules be best accomplished?"

In answer to this, I would say along lines as laid down by the National Hardwood Lumber Association, which, of course, can be improved on, yet they are certainly of a character that will be entering wedge to the accomplishment of this fact, and of which you are probably not thoroughly informed. We have appointed inspectors of all kinds of hardwood lumber. They are to meet in Congress at the Association meeting to be held at Charlevoix, Mich., July 13th, and no change in any of them can be made without their sanction. If Canada desires a representation, and a competent inspector would be recommended, or more than one competent inspector, say two, they will receive the recognition and appointment in the same manner as those that have been appointed from the United States.

5th. "Would you be willing to co-operate in a movement to secure standard rules?"

In answering this question, I would say certainly any fair-minded legitimate business man would see the point in a minute. We have no trouble with this class of people nor any trouble in this line so far as that matter goes. The move in this respect seems to be unanimous.

It would seem to me that you have about covered the field in your questions, and comment further is unnecessary. I am indeed glad to see you have taken the interest manifested, and your paper deserves recognition among all intelligent lumbermen throughout the country.

W. A. BENNETT,

President National Hardwood Lumber Association.

KLOCK, ONT., APRIL 3RD, 1899.

DEAR SIR,—With respect to the adoption of national rules for the inspection of lumber I will answer as follows:

1. I do not think so. The present system is quite satisfactory.

2. I do not think the absence of such rules has been a disadvantage to the seller.

3. Possibly rules could be applied which would serve all sections of the province. At present, however, we have very little trouble with lumber we sell to exporters. 4. Never have given the matter any consideration.

5. Prefer to let the matter remain as it is at present.

It would be very difficult to get men as inspectors who understood other branches of the trade, such as managing men, shipping and sometimes office work. This scheme would work very well with a large firm who could employ an inspector steadily in the yard. As far as we are concerned, we make it a point to have inspection at the mill and allow no claims after. We think disputes more frequently arise through people being careless in describing their stock, and the small mill men are very often taken advantage of, as the majority of them are not posted themselves.

We have had practically no trouble with parties to whom we have sold for export. We have always employed an experienced culler, and we know most of the large mill owners on the Ottawa do the same, and very seldom have any trouble over the grading of their lumber.

Yours truly,

R. H. KLOCK & Co.

FROM THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MANUFACTURERS.

Following is a copy of the memorial presented to the Dominion government by Mr. P. D. Gordon on behalf of the British Columbia Lumber and Shingle Manufacturers' Association:

Sir: The subject of import duty on lumber and shingles continues to be an issue of practical importance with us, and for the purpose of discussing this, a conference was held this day between manufacturers and the District Members of the Dominion Parliament. As a result the following resolution was passed:—

"Resolved, that the Dominion Government be again asked to impose an import duty on lumber and shingles similar to the import duty imposed on these articles by the United States."

We addressed the Government on this subject a little over a year ago, a copy of which communication is attached. The history that our trade has since recorded has served to convince us even more that the tariff laws, as now existing, subject us to unfair competition from the United States. The returns from the various Collectors of Customs show that large quantities of the products of the forest have been admitted free of duty into British Columbia, the North-west Territories, Manitoba and Ontario, while our exports are restricted by unfriendly legislation.

We submit that the manufacture of lumber and shingles in our own country necessarily contributes much to the revenue, directly and indirectly, and also provides a means of support to population, while if these articles are admitted free, the revenue is lost, no population is supported, and we venture to assert that the consumer is not materially benefited.

Apparently it was felt by the Government three or four years ago that the settlers in Manitoba and the North-west needed what assistance could be given them. Among other advantages they have had is free lumber and shingles. May we remind you that the necessity for this, if it ever existed, has surely been lessened by several years of bountiful harvests and prosperity; at the same time we feel that we can fairly claim that, should an import duty be imposed, the competition we have experienced from Ontario manufacturers in the past, and which we may expect will be increased in the future, is sufficiently keen to prevent any advance in prices on our part. A very slight study of the question will convince anyone that the markets where our products find a natural outlet are always keenly contested by Canadian manufacturers. What we really most want and what we hope to gain by an import duty being imposed, is an enlargement of our market.

We have in this province, as you will be aware, plenty

of timber of well known and well tested economic value. We have cherished the idea long, in the face of continued adversity, and we still continue to cherish it, that the trade here is capable of large development. As provinces of a great and growing Dominion, we are steadily drawing closer together and getting more inter-dependent on each other for such supplies and articles of daily use that one province naturally produces and the other lacks.

We feel that the imposition of an import duty would be of general benefit, not only to the trade, but to the people, and that it would not inflict the least hardships on any one section.

May we again urge on the Government, through you, that the wishes of our trade, as voiced by the various provinces, receive your practical consideration during the coming session of Parliament.

JOHN HENDRY, Chairman.
E. H. HEARS, Secretary.

NEW METHOD OF GRANTING TIMBER LANDS.

THE government of Nova Scotia passed an Act at the last session permitting the Department of Crown Lands to lease timber lands instead of granting them absolutely in fee simple as hitherto. It is understood to be the intention of the Government to substitute leasing for absolute grants in respect of timber lands very generally in the future. The provisions of the act are as follows:

Instead of issuing grants as heretofore under the provisions of section 7, of chapter 8, of the Revised Statutes of Nova Scotia, the Governor-in-Council may issue permits to parties desirous of obtaining timber lands within the Province, which said permit shall be in the nature of a lease of said lands for the purpose of cutting and removing timber only, and may be for a period of not more than twenty years, subject, however, to renewal for a further period of twenty years at the expiration of the first period, providing all payments in respect of such lease or permit have been made at the time of the application for such renewal.

Such leases and permits may be issued at a price not less than forty cents per acre for a term of twenty years, provided, however, that if more than one application is made for a lease of any area of timber land in the province, the Attorney-General and Commissioner of Crown Lands may, after due public notice thereof, on a given day hour and place to be fully set forth in such public notice, put up the leasing of said lands to public competition, whereupon the lease shall be issued of such timber to the person offering the highest sum per acre therefor.

Persons holding a lease of timberlands shall be entitled to cut all the timber therefrom not less than 10 inches in diameter, and remove the same, and for the purpose of carrying on the cutting and hauling of such timber may erect upon said lands houses, mill, shanties or camps, provided that the erection of such buildings and occupation thereof for a period of twenty years shall not afford any preemption for an absolute grant of such land, but at the expiration of the lease such buildings may be removed from the premises by the lessee, or, if not removed within ninety days from the expiration of the lease, said buildings shall become vested in Her Majesty the Queen.

In case of leases permitting the cutting of timber of less size than 10 inches in diameter and not less than five inches in diameter, the rental shall be not less than fifty cents per acre.

The Governor-in-Council is authorized and empowered to make a lease of Crown Lands upon terms other than is provided in this Act, in cases where the land proposed to be leased are of inferior quality, and the party proposing to lease the same is prepared to spend money in the development of said land, or in the erection of mills and machinery for the manufacture of pulp or other wood products.

The Governor-in-Council may lease to any person, firm or corporation the privilege of erecting dams, sluices, etc., on any stream for the purpose of floating timber down such stream, and the amount to be paid for such right or privilege shall be fixed by the Attorney General and Commissioner of Crown Lands, subject to the approval and revision of the Governor-in-Council.

The Governor-in-Council is hereby authorized and empowered to obtain by purchase at a rate not exceeding twenty-five cents per acre any land heretofore granted for lumbering purposes. Such land may be reconveyed by regular deed from the owners thereof to Her Majesty the Queen. Such deeds shall be duly recorded in the office of the Registrar of Deeds in the county where such lands lie, and thereupon such lands shall become actually vested in Her Majesty the Queen the same as if they had never been granted, and shall be subject to be disposed of as now provided by law, including this Act.

TRADE NOTES.

The Toronto office of the J. C. McLaren Belting Company has been removed from Bay Street to 60 Colborne Street. Mr. A. D. McArthur continues as manager.

The attention of our readers is directed to the advertisement in this issue of Messrs. Boynton & Company, manufacturers of embossed and turned wood work. This company are said to be the largest manufacturers and to carry the largest stock in this line on the continent. They will be pleased to furnish one of their catalogues to any reader of the LUMBERMAN who may make request on a postal card. This company have already a considerable trade in Canada, and are desirous of increasing it.