

the previous deputations. The lumbermen present were: Speaker White, Messrs. McCarthy, O'Brien, Bennett, Tyrwhitt and Edwards, of the House of Commons; Messrs. J. R. Booth, Hiram Robinson, Egan, James Gillies, F. W. Powell, David MacLaren and C. H. Edwards, representing the Ottawa lumber interests; and Messrs. James Scott, Wauhaushene; D. L. White, Midland; J. L. Burton and H. H. Strathly, Barrie; A. H. Campbell, Toronto. These gentlemen strongly opposed the reimposition of the export duty upon either sawlogs or wood pulp, believing that it must inevitably result in Canadian lumber coming under the operations of the clause of the McKinley Act which imposes a practically prohibitive duty upon lumber imported from countries which impose an export duty upon logs. They also strongly opposed the proposed increase in the duty upon mess pork, contending that Canadian farmers are yet unable to supply the demand, and that the imposition of the extra $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound could only result in loss to the lumbermen.

In our Michigan letter, and also in the E.L.I. columns, some brief reference is made to tariff matters in the United States. The fact is that nothing has yet taken a formative shape in actual legislation in either country. The Washington convention fell flat, only about fifty representatives visiting the Capital. United States lumbermen are in no sense unanimous in their opposition to Mr. Bryan's bill, whilst others are perfectly indifferent, and not a few would welcome free lumber. The Chicago Timberman counsels its friends "to keep cool and speak softly; even if the tariff were removed the United States would survive the shock and lumber still be worth more than cost." And the New York Lumber Trades Journal says: "A duty does not protect the lumber dealer, but it does protect the owner of stumpage; yellow pine does not compete to any great extent with Canada pine; and the price of pine beams and heart flooring is very little affected by the price of Canada pine." It is a case where some are doing a good deal of barking. The watchful dog must sustain his record for watchfulness, but the bark is very harmless.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

DENVER, Col., is to have a lumber trust, framed with sufficient ingenuity to avoid the penalties of the law.

WE have received, too late for insertion or comment in this number of the LUMBERMAN, a letter from Mr. Wm. Little, of Montreal, Que., anent tariff matters. Some mention will be made of the subject in May.

THE Forestry division of the United States Department of Agriculture have been making a series of tests to ascertain whether the allegation that the withdrawal of resinous matter from the long leaf pine of the south has an injurious effect upon the strength of the trees subjected to these tests. This practice is known as "boxing" the timber, because the gathering of the resin is done by cutting a recess (box) into the foot of the tree, which is called "boxing" the tree, and then scarring (chipping) the trunk above the box, increasing the size of the scar from year to year. From this scar the semi-liquid resin exudates and drains into the box; this process is continued for four years, and then the trees, lessening in yield, are abandoned. The current public belief has been that the timber of these "boxed" trees, sometimes called "turpentine timber," is deteriorated by the process. Not only is its durability, in which this species excels, believed to be lessened, but also its strength, and hence its value in the market has been considerably reduced. Since annually from 500,000 to 750,000 acres of this pine are boxed, involving in this assumed deterioration, at the lowest estimate, 1,000,000,000 feet, B.M., of lumber, a considerable loss in values, counting by millions of dollars, is thereby incurred. Mr. Fernow, chief of the forestry division, made some 115 tests of "boxed" timber. He does not admit that his conclusions from the experiments made are to be deemed absolute. He thinks it may be desirable to extend the investigation. The finding, however, is this: "Although enough tests have not been made to enable general laws to be formulated, the tests are sufficient in number to indicate that, generally speaking, 'boxed' longleaf pine loses none of its strength on account of undergoing that practice."



THE shrewd business man fits in his business to suit the requirements of the locality where he is domiciled. No sane man would think of opening an ice-cream restaurant among the Esquimaux, nor expect to do a thriving coal trade in the heart of Central Africa. But such conditions might possibly be reversed with some advantage to all concerned. Lumberman John Gunyo, of Brighton, Ont., is one of the men who aims to do business where business can be done. I had a talk with him a few days ago and learned that he has purchased a new property in this thriving village, which he will fit up with modern machinery for the manufacture of cheese boxes and barrels. Brighton is the centre of a large cheese manufacturing country and Mr. Gunyo's trade in this direction may be taken as assured. Elm is grown in good quantities in the vicinity and is cut by Mr. Gunyo in his sawmill at Smithfield.

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Is not this a sensible view as expressed by the president of the Chicago Lumbermen's Association in his annual address? He said: "If our present business fails to show that measure of profit which the outlay of time and capital employed would seem to warrant, I cannot resist the conclusion that undue competition among ourselves in our home market is more at fault than the natural competition we must always expect to meet from other markets, seeking the same outlets for their lumber product." "Save me from my friends" has been the prayer of more than one man, and it is true that the obstacles that thwart trade in all lines of commerce, and we know it to be the case in lumber, and not confined to Chicago, are often from within rather than from without. I often think if those who take a particular enjoyment in fighting supposed enemies from an opposite camp would busy themselves in making the roadway clean before their own door, or, if you like, examine the condition of the mote in their own eye, that they would realize substantial business results much more quickly.

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Mr. Phipps, provincial forestry officer, with commendable persistency, never loses an opportunity to put in a word on his favorite subject—forestry. I was glad to learn of his talk to the boys of Upper Canada college a few days ago. Catch a Scotchman, it is said, when he is young, and imbue him with right notions on any subject and one has an ardent disciple for all time. Others besides Scotchmen are shaped right when caught young. It was a happy idea of Mr. Phipps to undertake to impart to these college youths correct thoughts and principles in regard to one of the richest of our natural products. Who knows but what a future Commissioner of Crown Lands was in that audience? We may be sure that future parliamentarians were there; doubtless, successors to the lumber operators of this day; certainly the coming citizen was there. The question of forestry is a citizen's question, and the boys of all our educational institutions, from the lowest to the highest, should be taught the leading principles of forestry. Let me whisper to the Minister of Education, who has always shown himself ready to fall in with any suggestion of a national character, that it would be a popular move to arrange for a talk on "Forestry" by Mr. Phipps, or other experts, to public school and high school pupils, and it would not be a mistake for the teachers themselves to have a lecture on the subject.

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I have heard an amusing story of an old-time lumber king of Aroostook county, Me., which readers of this page will enjoy, perhaps more particularly those of New Brunswick, some of whom were doubtless acquainted with Colonel John Goddard, the subject of the yarn, who was at one time a prominent figure in Ashland and other parts of Maine. He was an eccentric genius

and was made the leading character in a novel called "Now-a-Days." On one occasion, when he wanted to hire an ox teamster, Goddard went into the barroom of a tavern to test the ability to drive his oxen of a dozen woodsmen gathered there. He got down upon his hands and knees and acted the part of a contrary ox, inviting the crowd to display their skill as teamsters. Several tried and failed to suit the great lumberman, when up stepped a strapping young six-footer, who remarked that he could start any ox in Aroostook. He took the goad-stick, in the end of which was a long brad, and tried the ordinary methods for a while, but the ox shook his head and wouldn't budge. Then the new candidate for teamster suddenly jammed the business end of the goad an inch deep into Goddard's flank, and the result was startling. The lumberman emitted a yell which could be heard across the St. John, sprang to his feet and wanted to fight. But he cooled down under the calm gaze of the six-footer, joined the general laugh and hired the man on the spot.

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Ship-building calls for spars and masts to-day much larger in size than those used in the years 1865 to 1870. Then the vessels built were smaller than the crafts of to-day. Our eastern provinces, together with New Hampshire and Maine, supplied the timbers for these purposes at that time. But their forests are thinned out of suitable timbers, and British Columbia and Washington Territory are enjoying this trade to-day. Mr. J. L. Cunningham, of Boston, whose business it is to supply masts for ships to the Atlantic shipbuilders, tells in an interview something of this trade. "The northern pine," he says, "is next to the white oak in strength, and has double the strength of the eastern pine. I buy nothing over 115 feet in length, but we could get masts 150 feet long if we wanted them. It is little trouble to get a stick 150 feet long without a knot. The lumber business in the State of Washington is extremely dull, and half the mills along Puget Sound are idle. A stick that cost \$110 a year ago can now be bought for \$60. The reason? The South American and Australian markets have been overstocked, and there is no demand. The markets are glutted. Why, a year ago the freight on 1,000 feet of lumber to South American ports was \$21.50; to-day it is \$9.50, and the worst of it is there are no prospects of improvement for the present. A cargo per year of such spar timber is shipped in the rough, and the masts are shaped at New England and eastern shipyards."

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Our old friend, P. O. Byram, of Victoria Co., N.B., writes: Mr. E.L.I. by the looks of your keen eye, I think you can tell us the most destructive animals with which we have to contend, and how to keep them from destroying our commonwealth. I may be mistaken; but, as the Yankee says: I presume to calculate its the highest grade of the human species. About fifty years ago, before the grading of animals was known, our graneries held out and supported the race without fear or alarm; and owing to the toll coming indirectly out of the consumer's dish, they were not aware it cost anything to support them. But since Confederation and the grading by class took place, we have attained to a state of such high cultivation consumers begin to view their situation with alarm, and fear the bottom will fall out of their grain bin. I propose to change the programme, taking the toll to find the stock, instead of taking it indirectly out of the consumers, and they not aware how much it costs them to keep up the race; take it direct out of capital, according to number of thousand dollars in matter, instead of out of the poor consumer, having to support eight or ten children, under the head of protection and indirect taxation. In how long capitalists will stand to be taxed to hold out a premium to Brother Johnathan of thirty-five cents in shingles and \$2.00 per M. put on other lumber for them to cross the lines above Grand Falls; to slaughter our forests and carry it on the American side to manufacture it. But in Ottawa, New Brunswick interests are poorly represented or they would not stand such nonsense. What's your opinion about it?

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is a most excellent trade paper, and ably represents the interests of the Canadian lumbermen.—Chicago Lumber Trades Journal.