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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.

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 trade in Canada information upon which it can rely in its operations.

Special correspondents in localities of importance present accurate reports 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 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.

THAT phase of the complex *embroglio* relating to his charges against the late Quebec Administration of acting corruptly and unfairly against the settlers in favor of Messrs. Gilmour, has resulted in the removal of the reverend father to the United States by his ecclesiastical superiors. The Provincial journals are making an ecclesiastical and political squabble of the matter, some upholding the changes and some maintaining that the Ross Administration was falsely accused; some defending the priest and others supporting the authority of his superiors. The action of the ecclesiastical authorities in removing Father Paradis is a strong indication of the opinion formed by independent judges.

THE provisions of the new tariff bill as presented to Congress, by which it is proposed to place timber on the free list, are gladly welcomed by Canadian lumber operators, but we fear it will never pass its third reading. Should this bill pass the House Canada will be benefitted by the free admission of the following products:—Timber, hewn and sawed and timber used for spars and in building wharves; timber, squared or sided; wood, unmanufactured, not specially enumerated or provided for; sawed boards, planks, deals and all other articles of sawed lumber; hubs, for wheels, posts, last blocks, wagon blocks, oar blocks, heading blocks and all like blocks or sticks rough hewn or sawed only; staves of wood, pickets and palings, laths, shingles, clapboards, pine or spruce logs, provided that if any export duty is laid upon the above mentioned articles, or either of them, by any country whence imported, all said articles imported from this country shall be subject to duty as now provided by law.

THE Ontario Government may thank the lumbermen for the good showing that Mr. Ross, their Provincial Treasurer, was able to make in his budget speech. The great success of the sale of timber limits which Mr. Pardee, the Commissioner of Crown lands, offered for competition in December, must have been highly satisfactory to him and his colleagues, especially in view of the fact that there were circumstances, to which we

need not now recur, that might have been expected to operate prejudicially to a certain extent. The receipts from the lumbermen were so large as to meet not only the liabilities for the year for aid to railways but also a large portion of the contemplated expenditure on the proposed new Parliamentary building. Not only is the capital account thus kept down through the large purchases by the lumbermen of provincial property, but their extended operations will continue to add largely for rental and stumpage dues to the current revenue for some years to come. It will therefore be seen that Ontario is largely indebted to the lumbermen for her prosperity.

AT Washington there is still much talk of reducing the excessive revenue receipts by a modification, if not a total abrogation, of the customs duties on raw materials. Lumber is one of the articles that has been generally mentioned as coming within this category. Indeed several projects looking in this direction have been submitted to Congress, but their fate is altogether uncertain. Just now the two great political parties in the United States are looking to the approaching Presidential election, and every movement is considered chiefly with reference to its probable effect upon that event. The fact that they are thus watching each other tends to neutralize all their efforts and to make any action less likely through the fear of its affording a chance of its being used prejudicially to those making the movement. However, though Presidential elections occur very often they do not happen every year, and next year a mutual arrangement may be more feasible. It is useless to talk business while men are thinking more of elections than of the ordinary affairs of the country.

FROM the fact that the Fishery Commissioners at Washington declined to enter upon any arrangements for reciprocal trade between Canada and the United States, the prospect of any remission through that means of the duty on lumber can be considered at an end. There is evidently to be no reciprocity by treaty at least, whatever other means there may be of attaining the same end. Those who looked to diplomacy to secure the desired result will therefore be disappointed, but few have supposed of late that the Commissioners would seriously entertain the project. It was generally understood that the representative of Canada would not consent to a more extensive exchange of free goods, and that the representatives of the United States were not willing to renew the Reciprocity Treaty, which, rightly or wrongly, they deemed not to have been advantageous to their country. The difference of opinion was too great to be easily adjusted, and they did not deal with this branch of the matters in discussion between the two countries. The publication of the text has put an end to all conjectures on this subject, showing that it provides for no reciprocity, except conditionally as regards fish. Any such free exchange or reduction of duties is left at present to the sphere of legislative action in the two countries.

THE Montreal *Journal of Commerce* attributes the decadence of Quebec, as a lumber port, to the arbitrary interference of the Ship Laborer's Union, since its exorbitant demands forced the shipping trade to ports where these obstacles were not met. On the other hand, Montreal has been built up, it is asserted, by a freedom in stevedorage, in spite of the superior national advantages of Quebec, where the policy pursued has had the effect of turning business over to Montreal. A comparative statement is made in the lumber shipments by sailing vessels from Quebec, from 1877 to 1887, inclusive, showing a decrease of from 796 vessels, with a total of 670,627 tons in 1877, to 721, and 206,172 tons in 1887. The year 1880, with 634 vessels and 555,451 tons, was the second largest, with a continued drop since then, excepting a spurt in 1883, when 487 vessels cleared, with 416,169 tons. One reason for the decrease has been that many mills which formerly sent deals to Quebec now deliver them direct to the ships and steamers. This most marked falling off is seen in the amounts exported from Quebec in 1886 and 1887,—2,271,069 feet, and 1,365,510 feet respectively. Montreal's lumber shipments were 3,500,000 in 1877, and 98,250,000 feet in 1880, with a probable increase for 1887. The competition of Baltic timber in the English markets has affected the export trade, and the

outlook is not altogether bright, though a limited production of lumber has left light stocks. Mill concerns are said to be turning their attention more to the United States trade and less to the Quebec buyers. The late half prices realized on timber limits suggests a general advance in Canadian stumpage, induced by the decrease in accessible supplies, and the most difficulty is said to be experienced in getting first class white pine. The supply of red pine is ample. Oak is of stronger feeling, the supply having been moderate and the export demand fairly large. Other hardwoods show fairly. This winter's log production promises to be small, and prices are now good.

A GENTLEMAN writing from St. John, N. B., to THE LUMBERMAN, calls attention to the following special features of the New Brunswick lumber trade. He says:

"The trade here is totally different from that of Upper Canada for many reasons. (1) Our stock is nine-tenths spruce, cut full length of tree, and manufactured as far as possible into three and four inch lumber; (2) Such a thing as stock boards is unknown, because we have very little pine and it would not pay to cut it in even lengths, either in the woods or mill; (3) Our stumpage dues are collected on a different principle (Quebec has now adopted our style, but not our log scale); (4) Our lumber is classed differently; (5) On account of the St. John being an international river there are two distinct classes of lumbermen and mill owners here. The American who has the right (by the treaty of Washington and resolution of Congress) to manufacture lumber here cut in the State of Maine, and ship the same to the American market free of duty, and the provincial millman who, no matter where his lumber is cut, would have to pay duty if exported to the United States, and therefore is forced to make England his market. The manufacture for the two markets, too, is very different."

We will at some future time dwell on this matter at further length, and shall be pleased in the meantime to receive any points which any of our readers may be able to furnish

Now that the Government of Ontario is forming a new Ministry of Agriculture and is consequently making minor rearrangements in other departments, advantage might be taken of these changes to make certain improvements in our system which would be very beneficial both to the country and the lumber trade. If a sub. department, or bureau of Forestry, were formed, the Crown Lands might be divided, after proper examination and survey, into forest lands and land open for agricultural settlement. This would avoid much friction, waste and even destruction of property. On the one hand the settlers would not be grumbling at the lumbermen taking the pine from their farms, for settlement need not be allowed on the limits when there is elsewhere plenty of better land for agriculture. Nor would there be any encouragement for bogus settlers having no object but to secure the pine under pretence of homesteading. On the other hand the lumbermen would not be hurried to cut the timber from those portions of their limits that are settled or about to be settled, such haste often leading to want of economy in their operations or to premature cutting when delay would be expedient. Again the lumbermen would not be exposed to the increased risk of fire which much follow partial settlement with its burnings to prepare the land for the plow; nor would they have their property destroyed by actual forest fires, involving much complete or partial destruction and the necessity for the immediate felling of burnt timber to save it from destruction. With the Crown Lands properly classified much of these evils might be obviated or greatly lessened. And there need be no restriction upon agricultural settlement, for as more farm land was required, former forests where the soil is suitable to agriculture, might be transferred and opened to settlers. Such a system would also have the incidental advantage of determining the extent of the remaining forests of Ontario, thus affording valuable information to the lumber trade, economising our forests resources, and improving the revenue of the Province from the source which even now contributes to it so largely. Sometimes the lumbermen are blamed for the too rapid destruction of our forests, but in many cases haste is forced upon them by the present system. There is now a good chance for its modification.