



FULL of his usual fire and vigor was Mr. Peter Ryan when I met him a week ago, shortly after his return from Ottawa, where he had been putting in some of his best knocks at the Perley & Pattee lumber sale. Toronto's Registrar is a well-known character among nearly all classes of the community, in city or out of it. His tall, erect, and always genial bearing makes him a marked man, wherever he may go. A long experience in trade, and especially as a trade auctioneer, has made his name and face familiar to hosts of business men everywhere. Besides who does not know Peter Ryan as one of the cleverest stump speakers in the Province? Everyone may not agree with all that Peter may tell them, though he is a pretty level-headed chap, but they enjoy his talk, nevertheless, and he is as good a knocker, and he has knocked many an opponent out, on the public platform, as when making the knocks ring from his auctioneer's hammer. Try to trip Peter Ryan up with interruptions from an audience, and if with his ready Irish wit he cannot give as good as one may give him then call my name Dennis. Mr. Ryan takes a very intelligent interest in lumbering operations. The Provincial Government may give him credit for not a little of the success of their last timber sale, when Mr. Ryan was master of ceremonies with the hammer. He has handled this little weapon in not a few other instances where lumber has been the article to be knocked down to the highest bidder. Mr. Ryan did not forget to say that he was an out-and-out free trader. "We want no restrictions in trade," said he - and of course he would like to see free lumber.

S. W. Osgood, of the Whitehall Lumber Company, of Cheboygan, Mich., has this to say in regard to the lumber business of Cheboygan and of lumber matters in general: "Shipments of lumber during the past season from Cheboygan have amounted to 100,000,000, several of the mills are running nights to work up the stock. Lumber operations will be somewhat curtailed both in Canada and other points where Cheboygan mills go for their supply. Alger, Smith & Co. are putting 10,000,000 feet of logs into Spanish river and Georgian Bay, Canada, to be towed to Cheboygan next season. It is estimated 250,000,000 feet of logs were towed from Canada to Michigan points last season, principally to Saginaw, Bay City, Alpena, Cheboygan, and Manistique."

Senator Snowball, of Chatham, N. B., is of opinion that free lumber, as given by the Wilson tariff bill, which to all appearance is to become law, will indirectly benefit the north shore of New Brunswick by attracting the trade of the southern ports to the United States and leaving more of the British market for the northern counties, who would be handicapped in the American market by heavy freights. The senator points out that Spain and Mediterranean ports took more of our lumber last year than usual. Last year the Miramichi dealers shipped 6,000,000 feet to Spain, 5,000,000 feet to France and 1,500,000 feet to Africa ports, besides 40,000,000 feet to Great Britain and 31,000,000 feet to Ireland. So far as present trade is concerned this extensive lumberman says it is in an unsatisfactory condition owing to its prevailing low prices for fish and lumber.

In answer to the enquiry, "How is logging this winter?" Mr. R. Cook, Manager of the South River Lumber Co. Ltd., South River, Ont., said, "that operations were being impeded by the heavy snows, and if these continued they would not be able to get out as large a cut as had been anticipated. Mr. Cook's company have been manufacturing a considerable quantity of shingles. I asked him, if he anticipated that red cedar shingles from British Columbia would prove a serious competitor in Ontario with white pine shingles. "During the present year," Mr. Cook replied, "I believe that

British Columbia shingles will come into active competition with shingles here. There was a fair quantity of these shingles sold in the province last year at about \$2.75, as against \$2.25 for pine, and so far as my enquiries have gone they have given good satisfaction. But the matter does not give me any great concern. I am under the impression that we have lately been cutting up for shingles a grade of white pine that it would have paid better to have manufactured into lumber." Mr. Cook informs me that United States lumbermen have been active in cutting spruce in the Parry Sound section, and at a loss, he thinks, to our lumber interests. Spruce is one of our best timber resources, but it is not having the protection from the Government that ought to be the case. Hemlock in no inconsiderable quantity is being sacrificed in the northern woods through the farmers destroying the logs for the sake of the bark. The time will come, Mr. Cook believes, when we will see the foolishness of this waste. Mr. Cook formerly carried on lumbering at Dashwood, in Huron Co., and had been in that section a week ago. In place of an excess of snow there he found mud. Hemlock is now the chief timber in Huron, but it is fast being cut out. There is yet a fair stock of hardwoods.

Standing fully six feet in height, I would say, and of genial countenance and pleasant manner, is Mr. H. H. Spicer, of Vancouver, B.C., who has been a week or so in the city in the interests of his shingle business. Mr. Spicer is one of the largest red cedar shingle manufacturers on the coast. The past year, he says, was not without its vicissitudes in shingle manufacturing in his province. The shingle men of Washington Territory, adjoining, have been in a pretty demoralized condition, and whilst this would not be a fair term to use in speaking of the trade in British Columbia, yet the shingle trade there was also somewhat overdone, and prices broken. I suggested to Mr. Spicer that the newly-organized shingle manufacturers' association, in connection with which he is a moving spirit, would probably remedy this evil. He replied, "Yes, he hoped so. But, right here, I would like to say," added Mr. Spicer, "that this association has not any idea of creating a corner, or fixing a combine, in shingles that would unfairly raise prices. All we want is a reasonable profit, and we are not likely to get more than this, as the shingle trade is to-day. A more important object is to protect ourselves against the unwise and reckless cutting that has to some extent been the case in the past. I agree thoroughly with the editorial in the LUMBERMAN of last month, in which you point out that whilst a combine that means an unjust monopoly of trade should be condemned by any sensible man, that at the same time there is also another evil, that in justice to the honest trader needs to be guarded against, viz.: that phase of competition that so ruins prices that the inevitable end is bankruptcy." Mr. Spicer would like to see free trade in shingles, but does not anticipate that in the meantime, at any rate, British Columbia would reap any direct benefit owing to the overstocked nature of the Washington Territory market. Mr. Spicer expects Ontario to prove a profitable field for operations in the future.

From various interviews and observations that have found a place in this page, it will have been noticed that quite an interest is taken in the question of placing the Red Cedar shingles of British Columbia on the Ontario lumber market. In the judgment of some the plan is unworkable, heavy freight rates, a dearer shingle, and other conditions adding to the unpracticability of the scheme. Then Ontario is the great pine province of Confederation, and is the natural home of the white pine shingle. The Red brother from the west is looked upon as an intruder on preserves that belong to some one else, forgetful of Bobby Burns' refrain, that we're a' brothers for a' that. Suggested by considerations of this kind, our friend H. G. Ross, of New Westminster, B. C., has given us his views of the situation from his point of view. This is what Mr. Ross has to say. "The growth of the trade in British Columbia red cedar shingles with Ontario is probably worthy of notice and will interest some of your readers. In 1892 probably not more than 20 cars left British Columbia for Ontario, last year it jumped up to

about 300 cars, and the trade is now regarded as fairly introduced. Mr. A. Tait, of Orillia, who was in this Province recently, looking up the shingle interests, said that although he had been running his shingle machines night and day in the past, he would make but few pine shingles in future, he regards our shingles as the coming article. Lumber, he said, had in the past fifteen years doubled in value in Ontario, while to-day pine shingles were not bringing any more than they were fifteen years ago. He had made a number of tests and had satisfied himself there was no money in running stock, no matter how poor it was, into shingles. A number of practical tests, he said, were to be made this season by Ontario mill men, and he was convinced the results would surprise many of them. We have heard others express the same opinion as Mr. Tait and are convinced that the only man who has not found this out for himself is the man who does not figure. The British Columbia mill men therefore feel that the invasion of Ontario by British Columbia red cedar shingles need place no hardship on the shoulders of their eastern brethren. Apart from that the people are the judges and they recognize British Columbia cedar shingles as the best and will buy them accordingly, so the Ontario pine man may as well govern himself accordingly. Among the comparative points of merit are: Our shingles will last more than twice as long as pine, will shrink and swell less with heat and moisture, consequently are not as hard on the nails; they are cut from clear stock; are a wider shingle than pine and can therefore be laid faster and cheaper and will not warp or split when laid. We can show you out here roofs thirty and forty years old as water tight as when laid. Some of the Ontario people not familiar with red cedar complain of the dark streaks in the shingles. This is purely the nature of the wood, is no indication whatever of rot and occurs just as frequently in live green trees that are sound to the heart as it does in hollow-hearted trees. The fact that they are kiln dried, we see commented on unfavorably. This is done purely to save freight in precisely the same manner as pine shingles intended for long shipment are dried in Ontario, Michigan, and Wisconsin, and red cedar as it contains no gum and is but very little subject to expansion and contraction with heat and cold will come through a heat without injury that would ruin pine. It has been found that eight to ten days in a hot air kiln at a maximum temperature of 170 degrees will reduce the weight tolerably well without any injury to the fibre of the wood, and when it is considered that at least \$1 per M is saved in freight to Ontario the necessity for kiln drying is apparent. We have too much rain here to dry naturally excepting during three or four months of the year. Most of the mill men here are Ontario lumbermen, many of whom have already put in several years of patient struggling and waiting, realizing that the time must come when this magnificent wood would find a market. There is a total mill capacity in this Province of fully eight hundred million shingles annually. These shingles will probably find their way into every corner in Ontario next season, that is if the consuming public will realize their value and will be willing to pay a price that will enable the manufacturers to pay wages and live, and if the mills can be run to even one half their capacity and dispose of their product it will be much better than they have done yet."

An interest in the curious is natural to almost everyone. In this respect we are all children, and it is by retaining this simplicity, this readiness to receive, that we can often pick up much that is useful. Two tid-bits in the line of lumber, that have come under my notice, I give place to be: (1) At Mongtze, in China, there is a timber mine. The trees have been buried under sandy soil to a depth of six to twenty-five feet, and they are well preserved. Apparently they have been overwhelmed by an earthquake at some immemorial time. They are of the pine trees called "Nan Hou" by the Chinese, and contain a preservative essence, hence the wood is employed in making coffins. (2) In manufacturing some of the smallest wooden articles, millions of feet of timber are annually consumed. One match firm is said to be the largest consumer of white pine in the country. A company in Sweden is said to consume several millions of feet of spruce each year in making small turned wooden boxes for druggists.