



MONTHLY AND WEEKLY EDITIONS

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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 15 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.

## FUNCTIONS OF A TRADE JOURNAL.

RECENT observations have suggested the writing of a few lines regarding the functions of a trade journal, and THE LUMBERMAN in particular. Briefly, a trade journal is a source of information, by which members may be kept in touch with the transactions bearing upon the trade, and having for its object the improvement of the trade in general. That this is the scope of a trade paper is, we believe, generally recognized, but it is possible that a misapprehension may exist in the minds of some as to how this can best be accomplished.

During the many years of its existence, THE LUMBERMAN has received hearty support from the lumber trade, for which we feel grateful. By the assistance thus given, we have endeavored to place before our readers a creditable journal. As to how far we have succeeded we leave them to decide. It is the purpose to relax no effort during the coming year to render the journal more valuable, and to this end the co-operation of our readers is asked. These columns are open for the free and fair discussion of all subjects affecting the trade or allied interests, and readers are requested to contribute their views.

Another way by which assistance may be rendered is by sending in items of news from your locality, which would enable us to compile a fund of information of general interest. Should you contemplate making any improvements to your plant, purchasing additional machinery, erecting a new building, or in any way improving your facilities, you are asked to forward advance information concerning your purpose to THE LUMBERMAN. When about to place an order for machinery, consult our advertisement pages, and mention THE LUMBERMAN in your correspondence.

Now, a word as to the WEEKLY EDITION. Its purpose is to present, as accurately as possible, the condition of the lumber market, both at home and abroad. Therefore, we need scarcely refer to the desirability of obtaining reports of volume of cut, sales of stocks, and information of this character. Only by this means are we enabled to give reliable and up-to-date information.

With this number THE LUMBERMAN closes its eighteenth volume, and before another issue the festive season will have come and gone. To all our readers and lumbermen in general we extend a hearty greeting. May the New Year bring to all increased happiness and prosperity.

## ATTEMPTED BOYCOTT OF CANADIAN JOINERY.

AN effort has been made by the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners of Great Britain to boycott Canadian and United States joinery. This society recently issued a circular to its members requesting them not to fix or use foreign joinery, and drawing special attention to the importation of doors, windows, etc., from America, which they claimed were manufactured under unfair conditions and by ill-paid labor. Several weeks were granted before the injunction was put in operation, but on a certain date the members were, in substance, instructed to band together to prohibit the importation of such joinery.

For many years large quantities of manufactured joinery have been exported from Canada and the United States to Great Britain, and this is, we believe, the first organized effort that has been made to restrict importation. The consequences, however, are not likely to be serious, as the trade has now become too well established to be permanently injured by the selfish and ill-advised action of a trade organization.

Before taking such a step, it would have been well had the society endeavored to ascertain the actual facts and conditions. We will consider only the conditions as they exist in Canada, and in this connection will endeavor to prove that Canadian doors, to which particular reference is made, are manufactured under proper conditions, and not by inferior workmen employed at low wages.

By an act passed by the Ontario Legislature on May 5th, 1894, and which is now in force, provision is made for the appointment of councils of conciliation and arbitration for settling industrial disputes arising out of the price to be paid for labor, disagreement with respect to wages, number of working hours, insufficient or unwholesome food supplied by employers, and ill-ventilated or dangerous workshops or places of accommodation. Whenever a complaint

arises these councils visit the locality and obtain all particulars of the case. The Ontario Factories Act provides, among other things, that no girl or boy under fourteen years of age shall be employed in any factory, that every factory shall be kept in first-class condition as regards cleanliness, and that proper ventilation be provided. These provisions are generally complied with, and very few complaints are received by the inspectors.

Regarding the wages in our wood-working factories, we have ascertained the average wage paid by several sash and door manufacturers in Canada. One of the largest exporters to the British market writes that the range of men's wages in the factory is from \$1.00 to \$2.25 per day of ten hours, according to character of work and skill of workman; another that from \$1.50 to \$1.75 is the average; and another that \$1.50 would be about the correct figure. In addition to the adults employed, there are some apprentices learning the trade whose wages would average from 50 cents to \$1.00 per day. This would give an average of nearly \$1.60 per day for adults and 75 cents for apprentices. Four other firms who manufacture largely for the local trade, but who have also exported doors to Newfoundland, the West Indies and South America, give the average scale of wages as follows: No. 1—\$1.50 to \$1.80 per day; No. 2—\$1.60, \$1.75, \$1.80 and \$2.00 per day; No. 3—\$1.25 to \$2.00; No. 4—9 first-class joiners, \$12 a week; 37 very good, \$11; 63 good, \$10; 61 pretty good, \$9; 49 common, \$8.00 to \$8.50; 26 3rd year, \$7.50; 31 2nd year, \$6.00 to \$7.00; 10 1st year and apprentices, \$3.00 to \$5.00. The above figures give an average of \$1.60 per day. It must also be remembered that most of the factories are operated the year round, and consequently the average is lower than would be the case if operated only during the building season. For living accommodation the cost in the localities in which the factories are located is not above three dollars per week.

We think the above figures should convince the most skeptical that Canadian doors are manufactured by properly-paid labor and under fair conditions. The average scale of wages compares favorably with that paid in other lines of industry, and we believe that nowhere in the world are laborers given greater remuneration for their services than in Canada, and nowhere does greater harmony exist between capital and labor. The rights of our workmen are respected, and protected by law. The absence of serious strikes is an evidence of the fact that the conditions are such as we have described.

The secret of our success in competing in the British market against home-made joinery is not to be found in the price of labor, but rather in the skilful manipulation of our raw materials by means of improved machinery. England is the great manufacturing nation of the world, but unfortunately she is compelled to import her raw material. Hence Canada, with her forest wealth, becomes a competitor in manufactured joinery, and the country producing the goods at the smallest cost naturally captures the market.

A visitor to some of our woodworking factories will at once be impressed with the marvelous work accomplished by machinery, by means of which the productive capacity is greatly increased and the quality of the work improved as