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ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED ON APPLICATION

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 trade 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.

## UNIFORM INSPECTION RULES WANTED.

MORE than once we have pointed out in this journal the necessity of the lumber trade of Canada adopting some uniform system for the grading of lumber, and it affords us at least some satisfaction to learn that the movement in favor of so doing is spreading. A faint hope may be indulged that at some time in the future there will be inaugurated a system of classifying lumber which will be recognized by the trade as the standard.

Even in the Ottawa valley, where the trade is known to be very conservative, there is quite a strong feeling in favor of standard inspection. True, the foremost advocates are the dealers, the large manufacturers having conducted their business along the one line for so many years as to be loath to court any change; but it is not believed that they would offer any opposition, but would gradually fall into line.

That we have no proper inspection rules does not speak well for the Canadian lumber trade. Every centre in the United States has a set of rules upon which the business is transacted, and

now an effort is being made by the hardwood lumbermen to secure the adoption of a national inspection for hardwoods. The movement has so far met with success, although some difficulty has been experienced in deciding upon the rules which would serve all the markets to the best advantage.

The question may be asked why some steps have not been taken in this direction in Canada. One reason is that our lumbermen have depended too much upon the United States inspection. Indifference and lack of organization may be cited as another cause. Now that we have an association of lumbermen in Ontario, let this question be brought forward and carried to its ultimate conclusion. We feel free to state that, among our hardwood mill men and dealers at least, there is no lack of appreciation of the necessity of taking action to secure the adoption of standard rules. The trade realize the benefits to be derived therefrom, and if an earnest move was made in the matter it would surely receive a hearty support.

## LABOR IN SAW MILLS.

THE recent strike of workmen in some of the saw mills of the Ottawa valley has, perhaps, created an impression in the minds of the public that employees of lumbermen are subject to extraordinary hardships, and that they receive from their employers very unfair treatment. Certainly only circumstances such as these should cause a general uprising of workmen against the person or persons who, by their enterprise, are furnishing necessary employment to hundreds of men. But unfortunately, these disturbances are too often the result of thoughtless agitation by a few individuals who pose as friends of the laboring man, and give little or no consideration to the justice of their demands. Many men are thus forced to become identified with strikes against the dictates of their own consciences.

That saw mill hands are underpaid is not generally believed by those who have a knowledge of the lumbering industry and know the inner working of the business. The question of wages will always be governed by the law of supply and demand, and cannot be fixed by labor organizations.

We believe that the misapprehension exists in the minds of many, and particularly mill employees, that immense profits have been and are being made by saw mill owners. Because large industries have been established, the inference is drawn that the business is a particularly remunerative one, and that the proprietors have accumulated great personal wealth. Generally, this is not true. Considering the amount of capital invested, the profits in the saw milling business are no greater, if as great, as in other lines of industry. Indeed, we could point to numerous instances in which the promoters of saw milling enterprises have suffered the total destruction of their capital, owing to the precarious nature of the trade. It is admitted that by speculation in timber limits considerable sums of money have been made, but in the process of sawing and marketing lumber the profits have been none too substantial. Heavy losses have been met with by many lumbermen in late years, owing to the general depression in the trade. These losses may have rendered a reduction in wages necessary, in order that the business might be con-

tinued, and in this the workmen should feel jointly interested with the proprietors.

In comparison with earlier years, the position of men working in saw mills is much improved. Their remuneration is quite as great, while the ten-hour day has been adopted almost universally. When working eleven hours per day, they are paid for the extra hour.

It is very desirable that employers and employees should work in harmony; otherwise the interests of both are likely to suffer. The usual result of strikes is anything but favorable to the participants, hence this method of securing a settlement of difficulties should be discouraged.

## HARDWOOD FLOORS.

CANADIAN white maple, when properly seasoned, makes a good durable floor if care is taken in laying it, and placing it where it will not be exposed to damp, or likely to be soaked with water at any time. Where possible, the material used should be weather seasoned, as maple that has been kiln dried is apt to swell with the least possible moisture, such as being washed, or by absorbing the damp from newly plastered walls, and expands to such an extent that injury may result. Weather seasoned maple does not swell so readily nor so much when moist, and experience has proven that its lasting qualities are greater than when kiln dried. As of maple, so of black birch, that which is weather seasoned is, in many respects, better than when kiln dried. In weather seasoning maple, birch, cherry and beech, it should be so placed that neither rain or sun will get on it, as the first will be sure to doze it, while the second will crack, split or warp it. If intended for flooring, warping does not much matter, as it will be ripped into strips less than three inches in width, so that when it is run through the flooring machine the warping will be pretty well taken out of it. Beech makes a very handsome floor, and if used in a room where it is intended there will be no carpet, it may be waxed or polished, and will have a fine metallic lustre. Red beech, of course, is the wood intended. Cherry, while one of the handsomest of woods, is not very well adapted for flooring, as it is rather soft, and shoes with sharp angles, or having metal nails in them, would be apt to mark it if the floor was left bare and polished. Perhaps, after all, there is no wood grown in Canada that so well fills the requirements needed for a good floor as our white oak. This wood makes at once a handsome, durable and lasting floor; and if quarter sawn and wisely selected, is superior in appearance, when properly finished, to any other wood grown. A quartered oak floor, laid in a room where all the woodwork is quartered oak finished, is a sight that is sure to impress everyone who sees it with an idea of solidity and worth, that never obtains in the use of other woods. It is not a very good method to mix maple and birch together in the one floor. They do not last equally, neither do they wear equally, and when a floor wears out in one part, the whole of it must come up, the worn and the unworn, whereas, if it had been of one kind of material it would have worn evenly, and throughout. Another reprehensible custom is that of laying flooring in dark and light strips alternately. By so doing it gives the floor a sort of "cheap John" appearance, and every joint is so empha-