



MR. David Gillies, M.P.P. for Pontiac, lumber merchant at Carleton Place, says: "The prospects for the winter's cut are very fair and not too bad at all. The woods are as full of men as there is any need for now. I could take a few more, however, as there are always a number of deserters. The wages are better this year than last and average about \$20 per month in the shanties taking the good and the bad together. We shall work earlier this year and stop earlier. There is more work and better work done when there is one foot of snow on the ground than when there are three. It is expected that there will be a good demand for lumber and timber."

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A local lumberman would like to see a distributing yard at Toronto, similar to that which they have at Lockport, N.Y. "If we had this, all the lumber cut in the northern part of the province could be brought here and assorted. Then American buyers would need to come to Toronto to make their purchases through middlemen instead of going direct to the mills, where they only take the best and leave the rest for whoever comes along. If Toronto was made a distributing point, as I suggest, all the output of a mill, the good with the bad, would be brought here, and I am confident the millmen would favor it. Some years ago, when this thing was mooted, the Grand Trunk Railway offered to transfer lumber at Toronto consigned to the United States at \$5 a car extra, and I have no doubt it would still be doing so."

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Mr. Berkeley Powell, of the firm of Perley & Pattee, Ottawa, says that there is nothing in the statement which has been published that the demand for white pine in California would make a boom in the Ottawa lumber trade, and that lumbermen who had been holding limits in this neighborhood entirely for the production of square timber had determined to cut logs to suit the demand. "The matter is absurd," said Mr. Powell, recently. "There are better pines in California than we have here, and millions of yards of limits. The largest mills in the world are there, including the Puget Sound mills. Mr. Bronson owns and works miles of limits there, and they would not look at our lumber. They really have much more than they can find a market for. The Chilean war has restricted their market, and that makes the output smaller. Even if they had no lumber they would draw their supply from British Columbia, and not from here."

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Hon. Mr. Hardy, speaking of the big timber sale of the 13th ult., after all transactions had been closed, said: "I think nine out of every ten of the lots were bought by Canadians, and mostly Canadian manufacturers at that. This secures the result for which there have been some advocates, viz., that the timber should be manufactured in the province. The department was inclined to the opinion that had the manufacture of the timber in the province been imposed as a condition the receipts would probably have been from a quarter of a million to half a million less than they have been. In any case, a large part of the manufacturing takes place in the province, and if the cost of driving and towing be added to the expenditure, there would not be much but the mere sawing left, and that would not add as much to the cost of manufacturing as some appear to think. The actual sawing is not as important a factor in the expenditure connected with preparing timber as some writers upon the subject suppose. Although efforts were made by some of the lumbermen to have this condition imposed and circulars were sent out to the lumbermen of the country and boards of trade asking them to press this upon the Government, not more than half a dozen have written to the department favoring the object sought by the circular, and but one Board of Trade."

Mr. W. Margach, Ontario Crown timber agent at Rat Portage, who was in the city a week ago, says the town is rapidly progressing in population and manufacturing. The lumbering industry this year has been very successful, and a greater quantity has been manufactured than in any previous year. This quantity will be over 60,000,000 feet, board measure. There will also be taken out 100,000 cedar posts and 5,000 telegraph poles. There are three mills on the Rainy river which cut about 3,000,000 feet board measure. Two of these supply the local demand. Settlement is progressing quite favorably. A large number of the settlers are from the older parts of the province, and are well satisfied. Mr. Margach says that each of such settlers is worth half-a-dozen immigrants who expect to find the land flowing with milk and honey. The demand for labor, Mr. Margach says, is brisk, as large numbers of men are required in the lumber camps. People who do not wish to go into the camps can find employment in taking out railway ties, cedar posts and other timber. Almost all the lumber manufactured at Rat Portage is shipped out west, and as the west develops so does the lumber trade.

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Mr. C. J. Haden, a southern lumberman, secretary of the Georgia Saw Mill Association, who spent some time in England recently investigating lumber trade affairs, says: "The difference in the prices paid for large timbers and the worked boards is greatly out of proportion to their intrinsic relative value. For example, hewn and sawn pitch pine is worth in the English market to day from \$22 to \$32 per thousand superficial square feet, while for flooring and ceiling, dried, tongued and grooved, they pay from \$35 to \$45 per thousand. Here the difference is from \$6 to \$12 per thousand in favor of the finished lumber, while in America the drying, dressing and matching only cost the manufacturer from \$2 to \$3 per thousand. Pitch pine is steadily growing in favor for indoor finish in the best houses. It ranks next to the rare woods of Central America in the estimation of London house-builders. White pine from the shores of the Baltic Sea being the cheapest lumber in the British markets, is therefore most generally used for the construction of cheap or tenement houses. A considerable quantity of pitch pine is being used now in building the decks of sailing ships. However, the Canadian pine is preferred for this purpose."

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A brief personal appeared in the October LUMBERMAN crediting the naming of Douglas Fir of British Columbia to its finder, David Douglas, a British botanist. Edward Jack, of the Maritime provinces, tells of a visit he paid to the home of this botanist a few years ago. "In the flower garden of Scone, one of the finest mansions of Scotland, of which the Earl of Mansfield was hereditary keeper, there stood," says Mr. Jack, "when I was there a few years ago, a Douglas Fir, which was planted in 1834. It was seventy-five feet high and seven feet in circumference at a height of five feet from the ground. The tree was thus named in honor of David Douglas, who was the son of a laboring man, and was born at Scone in 1798. He was educated at the parish school of Kinnorell, subsequently serving an apprenticeship as a gardener in Scone gardens. He was afterward employed in the Glasgow Botanic garden, where his knowledge of botany brought him under the notice of Sir William Hooker, whom he accompanied in a botanical tour through the Highlands. By Sir William he was recommended to the Horticultural Society of London, and was sent several times to America to examine the plants growing in the neighborhood of the Columbia river. In 1824 he was sent out again. On this voyage he sowed a collection of garden seeds in the island of Juan Fernandez, arriving at Fort Vancouver on the 7th of April, 1825. During this visit he crossed the Rocky Mountains. He then returned to London, where he remained some years, but in 1829, when on a visit to the Sandwich Islands, he was accidentally killed by falling into a trap made by the natives to catch wild beasts. There is a pretty monument erected to his memory in his native village, where his talents and virtues are yet remembered."

Just how far the following story is told for political effect I do not know. The LUMBERMAN knows no politics as this term is commonly understood. Moreover I am prepared to give politicians credit for a larger share of honesty than is oftentimes placed to their credit. The devil himself is not always as black as he is painted, albeit that Canadian politicians are not supposed to have any dealings with his Satanic Majesty. The story referred to is told by one of the audience present at the Ontario timber sale of the 13th ult., and does not reflect discreditably on a prominent Ontario politician: "I noticed a little thing that escaped the general observation," said the gentleman in question. "Tom Murray, the Liberal victim of Pontiac, bid \$500 a mile on a lot, and then there was a drag. 'Withdraw,' said Hardy quietly, and the faithful Peter obeyed the command of his chief. Later on the parcel was put up once more and Murray bid \$200 this time, followed by another pause. 'Withdraw' was again the word. Then for the third time the lot was put up and it was bid up to \$1,200 a mile and sold. But," said the gentleman who tells the story, "Hardy, by merely keeping his mouth shut, could have put \$10,000 in the pocket of one of the party's most faithful adherents and no one would have been any the wiser. That shows the scrupulous honesty even of one who has been known as the Wicked Partner of Oliver the Good."

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James Moiles is one of the firm of Moiles Bros., lumbermen, who have mills at St John's Island, in the Georgian Bay district. Mr. Moiles has lumbered in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, the three great pine states of the American union, and consequently has had a considerable experience as a lumberman. He takes a serious view of the exportation of logs to the United States so far as the welfare of Canada is concerned. "Few people understand," says Mr. Moiles, "the extent to which the business of exporting logs from Canada has attained. While the export duties were in force Saginaw lumbermen were towing logs from the American side of Lake Superior as far west as Marquette and from Green Bay in Lake Michigan. These points are both further from Saginaw Bay than Georgian Bay is. The Menominee district on Green Bay is exhausted and Saginaw dealers are consequently obliged to look to Lake Superior and Canada for their supplies. The extent to which Canada is being drawn upon is shown by these figures: The Saginaw Lumber Co. is putting in over 20,000,000 feet in the Spanish river; Sibley & Bearinger, 15,000,000; Spanish River Lumber Co., for Polson & Arnold, at Bay City, 17,000,000; Nelson, for his Cheboygan mill, 8,000,000; Park, Woods & Co., for Sauble, Mich., 15,000,000, and E. Hall, of Detroit, for his Bay City mill, 16,000,000. On the Mississauga river, Gilchrist, of Alpena, has let contracts for 80,000,000 to stock his mill, and Howry & Sons will take out 25,000,000. On the French river and Wahapite there are heavy operators. The Emery Lumber Co. are taking out over 50,000,000 for Tawas and Bay City; Hurst & Fisher are going to get out all the logs they can this winter, and next summer they will take out over 50,000,000 feet; Captain Bliss will take from French river for his Saginaw mill 16,000,000, and the Moore Lumber Co. about 10,000,000. Further east, William Peters will take out 17,000,000, and Merrill & Ring about 12,000,000. All these figures represent the quantity of logs being taken from Canadian limits to furnish work for American mills. But even this is not all, as I have not included the large quantity taken out by Canadian jobbers for American dealers. A prominent operator told a Saginaw audience not long ago that they would make the waves of Lake Huron smooth by the enormous rafts of Canadian pine towed over them, and the figures given justify the boast. A conservative estimate places the export of logs for the coming season at 400,000,000 feet, and the business has only fairly started. Before the export duty on logs from Canada was removed by the Dominion Government Michigan mills were beginning to fall into decay, but since the removal of that duty new ones have been put up. Two have been erected at Bay City, one is in course of construction at Detour, Nelson Holland has bought property at Tawas for the purpose of building one there and the cut at Bay Mills, twelve miles from the Sault, has been largely increased."