

THE Canada Lumberman

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THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interests of the lumber trade and 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 for a 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 anyway 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.

IN COMMON WITH LOYAL SUBJECTS OF THE EMPIRE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, WE DEEPLY DEPLORE THE LOSS OF THE GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN WHOSE LONG AND GLORIOUS REIGN CAME TO A CLOSE AT OSBORNE PALACE ON JANUARY 22ND, 1901. "SHE WROUGHT HER PEOPLE LASTING GOOD."

JUSTICE FOR CANADIAN LUMBERMEN.

Mr. W. H. Bennett, M. P., has given notice in the Dominion Parliament that he will introduce the following resolution: "That in the opinion of the House a duty should be levied upon lumber imported into Canada corresponding with the existing United States duties." How this resolution will be received by the legislators cannot even be surmised. The fact that the Government has turned almost a deaf ear to the representations of the lumbermen in this direction in the past is not a hopeful indication; but the sentiment in favor of an import duty is gradually growing stronger, and the lumbermen are daily making converts from among the thinking public. In the case of recent legislation by the Ontario Government affecting lumbering, it may prove that the Dominion authorities will conclude that the time has now arrived when the legislation asked for should be granted.

It is almost unnecessary to again review the situation and point out the unfair conditions resulting from the free importation of United States lumber. These conditions must already be known to our legislators. The situation was clearly set forth in the address of Mr. John Waldie before the Ontario Lumbermen's Association.

In this country the cost of labor and mill supplies is greater than in the United States, while that country enjoys the advantages of cheap transportation by railways, which is something unknown in Canada.

A memorial printed in another column gives the views of the lumber and shingle manufacturers of British Columbia, and in our opinion makes out such a strong case in favor of an import duty that it will be difficult for the Government to conscientiously ignore the request. The statements contained in this memorial are a fair representation of the situation, and are actually borne out by facts. The manufacture of lumber in British Columbia is so handicapped by the free import of the United States product (while the Canadian product is shut out of the United States by an import duty), that some manufacturers have already removed their mills to the United States, where they may enjoy the advantages of both markets. Proof of this is to be found in the following letter, unsolicited so far as it relates to the question of an import duty:

VANCOUVER, B. C., January 31, 1901.

CANADA LUMBERMAN, Toronto:

GENTLEMEN,—Replying to yours of the 13th inst., would say that at the present time we do not care to put an advertisement in your paper, for the reason that our territory called Canada is well covered at present with men, and on the other hand, there being no import duty on shingles from the United States, it leaves us so that we are not pushing very particularly for business in Canada. It seems that on account of this duty and the importation of wooden goods from the United States to Canada, we are compelled to go to Washington, as you will see by our advertisements in those papers.

We are building another mill at Sumas, in Washington, and anticipate building still another in the course of two months. We do not understand the unfair treatment to the lumber industry in Canada, and we have got tired trying to remedy matters in that way, and are simply going where we can do business and where the lumber industries are protected as well as others. We are neither strong Conservatives nor Liberals, but we look at the unfairness of the matter.

At the present time the capacity of the Canadian mills, according to the Canadian trade that is left us, exceeds the demand about three times if all mills run full time.

We are sorry to have to write in this way to practically the only lumber paper in Canada, but we are compelled to.

Yours very truly,

HASTINGS SHINGLE MFG. CO.

The injury wrought to the lumber manufacturing industry of British Columbia is apparent and Canadian workmen are thus deprived of the employment which it should be the duty of the national government as far as is expedient to provide for them.

The suggestion which has been made in the Dominion House to nationalize the railways of the Dominion is one bearing an important relation to the proposed import duty on lumber, inasmuch as the inability to obtain reasonable freight rates has been one of the great drawbacks to Canadian lumbermen. The opposition to an import duty on lumber will come from the inhabitants of Manitoba and the North-West Territories, who may fear that they would be called upon to pay exorbitant prices for the necessary lumber for building and other purposes. At the present time a large quantity of lumber is imported into these provinces annually from the United States, the railways of that country fixing the freight rate at such a figure as will permit the manufacturers in northern Minnesota to supply certain sections of Manitoba and the Terri-

ories, to the exclusion of the Canadian product. There is no reason, however, why the cost of lumber in these provinces should be called on to pay excessive prices for building materials unless it be the arbitrary position now taken by the Canadian Pacific Railway. There is an abundant supply of timber in the Lake of the Woods district, and with the United States product excluded from the Canadian market, facilities for producing lumber in this district would be increased so as to furnish an ample supply for the western markets. If more reasonable freight rates were obtainable, the manufacturers of the north shore of the Georgian Bay would also make a bid for the trade of the prairie province, so that there seems no reason to doubt that competition would prevent the lumberer from being called upon to pay more than a reasonable price for his lumber. Some of the mills of the north shore of the Georgian Bay, we understand, already made shipments of lumber to the city of Winnipeg.

Reasonable freight rates, however, are necessary, and whether these are secured by nationalization of the railroads or by the appointment of a commission to regulate freight rates and like matters, they would prove a benefit to the lumber trade, and would solve the problem of a lumber supply for the prairie provinces from the Canadian forests.

THE ASSESSMENT OF LUMBER.

THE latest device to burden the lumber industry of this country is a proposition to assess all lumber piled within corporation limits. The city council of Ottawa is responsible for having originated this movement. A motion was recently introduced in the council of the city "to petition the Ontario Legislature to make such provision in the Assessment Act as will ensure the taxation of lumber piled within the city limits; and also that all lumber piled or stored on any land within the city limits be assessed to its full value against the property assessed for such land, without regard for the ownership of such lumber or any indebtedness against the same, in order that such lumber piled on land may be placed upon the same basis as to regard to taxation as other property and be made to bear its fair proportion of taxation."

It is difficult to understand why, in the eyes of these municipal authorities, lumber should be singled out to be dealt with in a manner different from other lines of manufactured goods. Is the product of the farm, the mine, and the fisheries equally liable in the matter of taxation with that of the forest?

No business or industry is more helpful to the farmers of Canada than the lumber trade, and there is no industry which has done more to build up the villages, towns and cities of the Dominion. Such a proposition as has been made comes as a bad grace from the city of Ottawa, which owes much of its commercial importance to-day to the lumber industry and to lumbermen who have invested their money in establishing saw mills and other enterprises.

For some reason there seems to be an enmity towards the lumberman. He is taxed to the utmost, while he is not afforded the corresponding measure of protection. Every article used in his business that it is necessary to import is subject to a duty imposed by