

proportionate to the saving that might be made. The exact whereabouts of the remains of the raft seems uncertain. Various vessels report seeing portions of it in different localities and some of the widely scattered logs have already travelled long distances. Fortunately they do not seem to have caused any damage or even serious inconvenience to vessels. There is now some talk of building up timber into roughly constructed vessels, to be broken up on reaching their destination. This, however, is not a new device. It has been tried before and the fact that the experiment was not repeated by those who made it, would go to show that it was not very successful or remunerative. The cost of construction, of navigation and of breaking up and preparing for market with the deterioration of the timber thus treated, probably left little if any saving as compared with the usual means of conveyance.

We have to apologize to our readers for the lateness of the present number. The delay was unavoidable, being occasioned by the refitting of our office with new presses and steam power, in accordance with the increased requirements of our business. There is every prospect that we shall be able to issue the LUMBERMAN on time in the future.

HON. BENJAMIN BUTTERWORTH, of Ohio, has introduced his Reciprocity bill into the Washington Congress. Its provisions are very simple, and are to the effect that whenever Canada throws off the duty upon "all articles of trade and commerce, of whatever name or nature, whether products of the soil or the waters of the United States, or manufactured articles, live stock of all kinds, and all minerals or products of the United States," the American government will remove the duty on Canadian imports. The stiffest protectionist in the country can support a bill like that unreservedly, the contingency upon which it will become operative being so exceedingly remote.

It is understood that the Dominion and Ontario Governments have agreed upon a bill to be submitted to the Imperial Government, fixing the boundary between Ontario and Manitoba. As regarding the northern boundary of Ontario, it is estimated that propositions have been made which are likely to result in fixing conventional lines, as the boundaries of both Ontario and Quebec, as well as the line between the northern portions of those provinces. The vexed question of provincial boundaries has been the source of much trouble and uncertainty to the holders of timber limits, and its speedy settlement one way or another is much to be desired.

THE current issue of THE LUMBERMAN is intended to find every man engaged in the lumber and wood-working branches of trade in the Dominion, and as the time has not yet arrived when all can be classed as regular subscribers, we would respectfully invite each and every one to fill in the blank subscription order herewith enclosed, and remit one dollar, which will secure the paper to them for one year. Every man directly, or indirectly, interested in lumber will find that such a small investment is money well spent. The larger our subscription list the better the paper will become. Let every man show his interest at least to the extent of one dollar.

MR. PHILLIPS THOMPSON, for many years connected with the editorial staffs of the Toronto *Globe* and *News*, is now filling the onerous duties of travelling correspondent and general business agent of the CANADA LUMBERMAN, and will shortly visit some of the larger business centres with the view of advancing the interests of the paper, and holding interviews with all with whom he comes in contact. We bespeak for Mr. Thompson a continuance of that courtesy hitherto shown by the trade to previous representatives of this journal, and can assure them that their personal and combined interests will be as closely advocated in the future as in the past. The Toronto branch of THE LUMBERMAN is at No. 37 Yonge street Arcade.

P. O. BYRAM, of Madawaska, N. B., sends us a letter protesting in strong terms against the fashion in which the country is being stripped of its forests by the present lumber policy of our Dominion and Provincial governments. He urges that much might be done to avert the exhaustion of our timber supply, if the exportation of the raw or half-manufactured material were prohibited, and wood were only allowed to be exported in the shape of the fully manufactured article. "From the Atlantic to the Pacific" he says "we don't want to ship one foot before it is manufactured to meet the domestic wants of all the countries. It could be manufactured in the Dominion and shipped together at the place of destination. There would be no loss in paying freight on waste lumber, and it would employ an army of laborers and boom our industries." Mr. Byram's idea is well worthy of thoughtful consideration.

THE United States Secretary of the Treasury recently received a letter requesting that persons engaged in the lumbering business in the Counties of St. Lawrence and Franklin, N. Y. may be permitted to import from Canada for temporary use, and without payment of duty, teams of animals and articles for use in the lumbering camps, which teams and animals are to be brought in by Canadians. The question was submitted to the collector of customs at Ogdensburg, in order to ascertain the necessity for such action, and that officer has reported that during the past year many horses suitable for use in lumbering have been imported from Canada. He has also expressed the opinion that the bringing in of Canadians with their teams for the purpose indicated would be in contravention of the Contract Labor Act. He said further that there was no immediate necessity for granting the request, for the reason that animals needed in the lumbering business can be readily obtained in the United States. Assistant Secretary Maynard has therefore informed the persons interested that as there is no legal authority for granting the request the department declines to interfere in the matter.

THE American fire record for 1887 as affecting saw, shingle and planing mills, lumber-yards and other wood-working establishments, according to the *Northwestern Lumberman*, discloses a total of 398 losses. This includes 221 saw mills, of which 25 were in connection with planing mills, and five in connection with shingle mills. There are 78 other planing mills and 13 other shingle mills shown; also 18 dry kiln fires, 13 sash, door and blind factory losses, eight of box factories, 87 cases where lumber losses were reported, and 11 of shingles, the remainder being fires which consumed cooperage works, stave and heading factories, and similar wood-working establishments. The totals of fires shown in previous years were as follows: 1886, 207; 1885, 223; 1884, 310; 1883, 349; that for 1887 being the largest yet reported. In 292 cases where the losses were reported, the aggregate for 1887 is \$7,021,100, as compared with \$5,913,600 in '86, \$4,075,950 in '85, \$6,742,500 in '84, and \$5,913,600 in '83. The aggregate insurance reported is \$1,998,650, as against \$1,574,675 in '86, and \$1,780,975 in '85. Making allowance for 105 cases the losses in which amounted to \$2,105,000, where no information was obtained as to the insurance, the total reported insurance amounted to over 40 per cent. of the losses.

THE press of the United States is at the present time devoting a great deal of attention to the proposed removal of duty on lumber. In most instances we find that there is a strong opposition to the measure now before Congress. The opinion is freely expressed that the lumber industry has never received sufficient protection to pamper its growth. It is pointed out that there is now annually imported about 500,000,000 feet of lumber, chiefly of the better grades, because the specific duty of \$2 per thousand can be better borne by lumber of a high value than the course grades. Because this is so, and that there is an annual increase in the shipments of good grade lumber from Menomville and other points to the eastern market, free lumber would mean a loss of this trade which would otherwise find its way to the Canadian mill men. There are various other reasons assigned for the United States lumbermen opposing the scheme. Of course these objections only hold good throughout a certain section of the Union, other sections being equally enthusiastic in pronouncing in favor of the bill, believing that the indirect advantages which might accrue from direct competition from Canadian lumber, would redound to the commerce of the United States.

AT Washington the great question of the day seems to be tariff reform. Public interest is awake on the subject and not only the journals but the politicians and legislators are moving. Not only is the protectionist and free trade controversy revived again with considerable energy, but many thorough advocates of protection, in view of the surplus that is growing to an inconvenient extent, are in favor of a repeal or reduction of the duties on raw materials and natural products so as to diminish this excessive revenue. Lumber is among the articles generally named in this connection, and indeed it already figures in some of the propositions made in Congress to extend the free list. Then there is always a chance of some reciprocal arrangement, growing out of the fishery negotiations and if so lumber would almost certainly be included. So closely, however, have the Commissioners hitherto kept the secret of their proceedings that so far nothing authoritative is known of their progress, and the rumors that are circulated appear to be merely more or less happy guesses by ingenious newspaper correspondents and politicians who have to appear to be in the secret whether they are or not. Whether by international diplomacy or tariff legislation lumber is placed on the United States free list, the same treatment would result in Canada, for in the one case there would be a bargain for

reciprocity and in the other case the standing offer in our statute book would come into operation. This, however, would not materially effect Canadian lumbermen, as little lumber from the States is likely to come in, except perhaps in Manitoba and the Northwest which take a comparatively small amount at present from Ontario and British Columbia. The effect on prices is not so certain. Some talk of a consequent reduction of prices in the United States, but the general opinion is that little, if any, fall would be caused. If so the Canadian lumbermen would benefit almost to the extent of the duty on their exports to the States. At present there is uncertainty on all these points, but a few weeks more will probably tell the tale and give the guessers a rest.

CONGRESSMAN Nelson, a gentleman considerably interested in lumber, and well known among the fraternity, has introduced a bill in Congress which proposes to abolish the duty on that very necessary commodity. Whether or not he will succeed in convincing his fellow Congressmen that his ideas regarding the tariff on lumber are in accord with the best interests of the trade and country, will be determined in due time. So far as we can learn of American public sentiment as depicted in the press of that country, there are some grounds on which to base the opinion that the measure will at least receive the closest consideration, and perhaps be found to merit adoption. There seems to be, however, a still wider measure affecting the tariff of the country also before Congress at the present time. It is a bill introduced by Mr. Townsend, of Illinois, to promote the establishment of free commercial intercourse among the nations of America and the Dominion of Canada by the creation of an American Customs Union or Zollverein. This bill seeks to secure free commerce on this continent and the increase of the American merchant marine, a common system of weights and measures, a common system of silver coins in all American countries, and a plan of arbitration of all questions, disputes and differences among those countries that now exists or may arise. Both of these measures will receive bitter opposition from many States of the Union. Leaving out the question of Commercial Union altogether—and we doubt if it will be seriously considered by Congress—there is no question but that if the United States government did sanction the bill of Mr. Nelson that it would be done with the proviso that the Canadian government also abolish the present export duty on Canadian logs entering United States ports. We venture the statement that our home government would readily accede to such a reasonable demand. The same offer would, we think, hold good not only in the free interchange of the products of the forest, but also in all other raw materials, fish, etc. The Reciprocity treaty existing from 1854 to 1867 was supported almost unanimously by the electorate of this country, and as the law still remains on our statute books, our American cousins have only to say the word and in a sense both countries will have all the free commercial intercourse that circumstances would justify.

THE mill saw and other files made by Messrs. Thos. Turton & Sons, (Limited), of Sheffield, England, have a well deserved reputation for excellence combined with cheapness. The attention of those requiring these articles is called to their advertisement.

THE demand for tents for camping-out purposes has greatly increased of late years. Mr. J. J. Turner, of the Peterborough Tent and Awning Factory, Brock street, has a great variety of goods in this line which lumbermen and others going into the bush for business or pleasure would do well to examine.

Chas. Esplin, of Minneapolis, whose advertisement appears regularly in THE LUMBERMAN, has invented another band mill. The latest device does away entirely with the central columns which is the main feature of all the existing band saw mills. He hangs the upper wheel from a frame work large enough to admit of the steam carriage and all passing through between the upright supports and leaves the entire space clear. The device is so simple as almost to suggest the enquiry why the same thing has not been attempted before. The chief impediment has been in the direction of getting rid of the guide which is so imported a feature of all the successful band mills, and the mechanism of which is more or less connected with the upright column. Mr. Esplin has not dispensed with the guide but he has, by an ingenious device, applied it without the use of the column. This is the third band mill Mr. Esplin has invented and the last of the series was undoubtedly suggested by necessity for such a change in the general device as to make it possible to saw big logs without "breaking down" with the circular. Col. F. A. Boyle, who was in the north searching for the best band mill, suggested these features as essential to the best results in any band saw designed to be used in cypress timber in which he is operating. Mr. Esplin went to work on the suggestion with the result as stated.