



MONTHLY AND WEEKLY EDITIONS

C. H. MORTIMER

PUBLISHER

CONFEDERATION LIFE BUILDING, TORONTO

BRANCH OFFICE:

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE BUILDING, MONTREAL.

The LUMBERMAN Weekly Edition is published every Wednesday, and the Monthly Edition on the 1st day of every month.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:

One Copy, Weekly and Monthly, One Year, in advance..... \$1.00
 One Copy, Weekly and Monthly, Six Months, in advance..... .50
 Foreign Subscriptions, \$2.00 a Year.

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.

THE MANUFACTURE OF VENEERS.

In a recent number of the Canadian Gazette, of London, the statement is made that British capital might find profitable employment in Canada in the manufacture of veneers and cut stock. "There are in Ontario," says the Gazette, "considerable areas of suitable timber for both 'slicing' and 'rotary-cut' veneering—such as maple (four varieties), birch (three varieties), oak (three varieties), elm (three varieties), beech, sycamore, basswood, ash, balm and whitewood—adjacent to a line of railway, so as to be convenient for shipping. The most improved machinery for this class of work can be obtained in Canada; and the veneering or cut stock, properly dried, cut to size and carefully bundled, can be shipped to Great Britain and made into furniture, house decoration, packing boxes, nail kegs, barrels, butter tubs, and an almost infinite number of lesser although by no means small or unimportant lines of goods. A great deal of attention and study has been given this veneer industry, and its development and its extension from one line of manufactured goods to another—such as pianos, organs, sewing machines, etc.—have been such that at this present time large lines that were formerly manufactured of solid material are now 'built up,' so as to be cheaper, more durable and substantial, and much lighter; and many other lines of industry are

moving into the using of veneer for constructive material. A trade could, it is believed, be built up reaching into millions per annum; and as the industries provided for are increasing daily necessities, so the business would increase from year to year. The capital for the industry on a large scale, however, would have to come from England."

Several Canadian papers have recently published articles on this subject, echoing the opinions expressed by the Gazette. As the result of enquiries in various quarters, we are inclined to think that the prospects for a Canadian veneer manufacturing industry are scarcely so promising as they have been pictured. In order that our readers may be in a position to judge for themselves on this point, we submit for their consideration a few particulars bearing upon the subject.

First, as to the supply of native woods suitable for furniture veneers—we have only maple, birch and cherry—our oak is unsuitable for this purpose, and our walnut practically extinct. We would therefore be dependent upon foreign countries to a larger extent than the United States for our raw material.

As to the extent of the market for the manufactured product, we have in Canada about one hundred furniture factories, not more than twenty-five of which use veneers, as the majority make only the cheaper grades of stock. We have, perhaps, twenty piano and organ manufacturing factories, which consume a considerable quantity of veneers of the finer grades, such as could not be made from native material. We have also a limited number of casket factories which employ veneer. It is doubtful if from all these sources a sufficient demand would come to keep a single mill of fair capacity running six months in the year. It would be too much to expect that a local mill would succeed in capturing all the home trade. Indeed a well-known piano manufacturer informed the writer that if a mill were established his firm would not think of placing all their orders with it, as they would thereby be depriving themselves of the variety of stock which they now enjoy. There has likewise to be taken into account the fact that Canadian users of furniture veneers are at present supplied from American mills under a tariff of only 10 per cent. Unless a higher rate of duty than this were imposed, the Canadian manufacturer would find it a difficult matter to supplant American goods in the home market. What are the prospects outside the home market? A high tariff and the natural advantages enjoyed by the American manufacturer shuts out the possibility of finding a market in the United States. How is it with Great Britain? Her next-door neighbor, France, is the largest and most skilful producer of veneers in the world. To France, therefore, the British and German manufacturer goes to buy the finer grades of veneers, such as are not manufactured in his own country. There is demand in Great Britain for maple veneer which possibly Canada might hope to supply.

In view of the above facts, there would seem to be no satisfactory opening in Canada for manufacturing furniture veneers. On the other hand, there does seem to exist the opportunity for profitable enterprise in the manufacture of the rougher grades of veneer, such as are used for cheese boxes, butter tubs, fruit baskets, etc. The market for goods of this class has

wonderfully developed during the last decade, and is still growing. These goods are principally made of maple and elm, with which material we are abundantly supplied. As these goods are cut from steamed logs, the mill would require to be located at some central point, where cheap labor would be available, and where the veneer could be made at once into the finished article. In this way the great waste which would result from warping and cracking in the event of the veneer being shipped abroad, would be avoided.

We shall welcome any further information on this or any other subject bearing on new openings for enterprise in connection with the profitable disposal of our forest products.

QUEBEC AS A SHIPPING PORT.

THE evolution which has taken place within the past few years in connection with the lumber business is greater than would appear at first glance. The methods in vogue a few years ago have given place to those in keeping with modern developments. While these changes have been in the interest of commerce at large, disaster has sometimes resulted to some particular section or industry. Take, for instance, the city of Quebec, which in earlier years was the principal shipping centre for the timber products of the province and much of the deal trade of the Ottawa valley. In those days the timber in log form was taken to Quebec by the lakes and rivers for sawing, but the logs are now cut into deals and lumber in the vicinity in which they are obtained and the product shipped by rail. Consequently Montreal, being easily accessible by rail, has secured a large portion of the lumber trade of the Ottawa valley, and Quebec has lost much of its old-time prestige as a shipping port.

Further, it was thought that Quebec would be enabled to hold the square timber trade, even if losing the lumber shipping industry, but within the past two years large quantities of square timber have been shipped to Montreal by rail, to be loaded on the steamships for Europe. It is stated that even waney pine timber from points on the United States side of Lake Superior, 1,200 miles distant, is finding its way to Montreal in no small quantities.

The port of Quebec can only retain a fair proportion of the timber shipping trade by reaching out to meet the requirements of the times, and in this connection Messrs. Dobell and Sharples, two of the largest lumber merchants, have pointed out that it is necessary to improve the railway facilities with the lumber districts. The construction of the Parry Sound Railway would give direct communication with the mills of the Ottawa valley and with the timber districts of Parry Sound. An instance of the advantages of such communication is shown by the Lake St. John Railway, which carries a large portion of the trade of Quebec.

The Harbor Commissioners of Montreal have provided, at a large expenditure, ample accommodation for vessels. The announcement has just been made of a reduction of 20 per cent. on harbor dues, to take effect as soon as the necessary by-law receives the sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor. This step is of importance to all having to do with the commerce of the city, and will certainly prove beneficial to the St. Lawrence route, in competing for the carrying trade.