

THE LUMBER TRADE.

The British Provinces have almost inexhaustible supplies of pine lumber. This is greatly needed for building purposes in most of the Western cities, and through the prairie country of the West immense quantities would be used, could it be freely imported. It is needed also in the Eastern States, by those of our manufacturers whose wares are made wholly or in part of this material; and in all the Eastern cities it is as absolutely needed as in the West, for building purposes—in fact, it is there a necessary of life; house and home, which cannot be built without lumber, are just as necessary as food and fire.

Maine and North Carolina have pine lumber for exportation. The lumber from these States, and particularly that from North Carolina, finds a market in our Atlantic cities, and also in the British West India Islands, where it is received without any discrimination being made in favor of Canadian lumber. This West India market is so valuable, that North Carolina makes little or no objection to the free admission of Canadian lumber into those sections of the Union that could not, from their geographical position and the want of water communication, be supplied from that State, the West India market being an equivalent for and better than that of the Western States. But Maine, from which a large share of the best timber is already cut, wants to exclude the lumber of the Canadas, and to force her spruce and inferior pine on the market at high prices. It is asserted, that unless competition from the Provinces is prevented, and the absolute monopoly of the trade be secured to Maine, her hardy lumbermen cannot make fair wages, because, as they express it, "stumpage is so high." This stumpage is the price paid by the lumbermen to the landed proprietors for the privilege of cutting the timber, and varies, I am told, according to the quality and location, from two dollars up to eight dollars a thousand feet. It is the monopoly of the trade excluding foreign lumber that enables the Maine landholders to charge so much for stumpage. Increase the duty on imported lumber, and stumpage will rise still higher; reduce the duties, and then stumpage will be lower. Prices regulate stumpage, and the lumbermen will not be affected, whether stumpage be high or low. The hardy lumbermen, over whom tears are almost shed, are not benefited in the least, but rather injured, by those high duties; and all this humbug of protection is not designed for their benefit, but for the benefit of the wealthy few.

The Provinces are ready to concede to the United States the free navigation of the St. John's; but with this bonus Maine is not satisfied. She demands, in addition, not only the

West India market, which is already granted, but also that all the ports of the British islands shall be open to her lumber. Of course, we do not object to the opening of the ports of Great Britain. We do not in the least object to Maine getting a good bargain. On the contrary, we would be glad to see it; but we protest against loading down this bill with provisions which are probably designed, and certainly calculated, to defeat the whole measure, by making it impossible for the Provinces to agree. Shall the St. Lawrence remain closed to our commerce, and the interests of the whole North be sacrificed? Shall the whole country be taxed, and its progress arrested, for the sake of this monopoly, when the whole value of the entire lumber trade of Maine bears such an insignificant proportion to the interests to be promoted by a liberal reciprocity? Assuredly not. And now a word or two in reference to manufactures.

MANUFACTURING INTEREST.

I am happy to see that but little opposition to this measure comes from the representatives of the manufacturing interest. The manufactures of Canada are not in a condition to compete with ours, and of course ours do not need to be protected against them. On the other hand, many of our wares will find in Canada an excellent market, and Eastern manufacturers are, some of them, already becoming convinced that the Canadian market is worth more to them than any protective duty they will be likely to obtain. Our manufacturers will also be benefited by the free introduction of various kinds of raw material. To cheapen these is to increase the manufacturer's profits; or, what is the same thing, it enables him to enter into competition more successfully with the foreign article. And, further, by establishing an extensive free list of Canadian unmanufactured articles, the more tariff must be raised from those articles which come more into competition with our own. The manufacturing interest, in fact, loses nothing by reciprocity with Canada, but gains much. Having said this much in reply to some of the objections to this measure, let us now consider some of its advantages.

TRADE WITH CANADA.

Some idea of the beneficial character of our Canadian trade, and the still greater benefits to be derived from a liberal reciprocity, may be obtained by a view of the extent to which this trade has already reached, in spite of all obstacles and restrictions. I will not consume the time of the House by reading tabular statements, but content myself with giving amounts in round numbers, securing, however, substantial accuracy. Our registered exports to the