

Canada in London. With cheaper freight rates, which are now almost certain, the trade in forest products with European countries is certain to expand.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The budget speech of Hon. Wm. Fielding, Minister of Finance, gives little encouragement to the lumbermen of Canada that an import duty will be placed on United States lumber. He announces the decision of the government not to disturb the tariff at the present time. These remarks, if taken literally, would settle the question for the time being, but it is possible that action will be taken in one or two instances where it is absolutely necessary, without affecting the tariff as a whole. In any case, the lumbermen should not give up the fight; they have a just cause, and eventually the government will surely accede to their wishes.

The double-acting band mill, although at first regarded by many as an impractical innovation, is undoubtedly one of the most important inventions yet introduced into the sawmilling business. By sawing when moving both forward and backward, the capacity of the mill is increased fully fifty per cent. over the ordinary mill, and with only a slight increase in the number of workmen. Successfully tested for the first time in the United States only last year, it is encouraging to learn that two of these mills have already been placed in Canadian sawmills, the first in the mill of Mr. J. D. Shier at Bracebridge, and the other in that of the Rat Portage Lumber Company. The telescopic band mill has come to stay, and its merits should be fully investigated by lumbermen when building new mills or increasing their equipment.

Deadman's Island, a part of Stanley park, adjoining the city of Vancouver, B. C., has lately been the scene of exciting incidents. The Dominion government granted a lease of the island to one Ludgate, representing a Chicago syndicate, for the purpose of erecting thereon a huge saw mill. This action, it is said, was approved of by a large majority of the citizens of Vancouver, who were eager to reap the benefits to be derived from such an establishment. By a few influential persons the granting of such a lease was opposed, resulting in the ownership of the island, and hence the right of the Dominion government to control the island, being called into question. There was much doubt as to whether the title was vested in the Imperial, the Dominion, or the provincial governments. On May 17th Mr. Ludgate, with a company of sixty men, commenced cutting timber, but was immediately placed under arrest by the provincial authorities. Some of his men remained on the island and continued to cut timber, whereupon the magistrate read the riot act, adding that unless they dispersed they were liable to be shot down. This warning was effective. Mr. Ludgate has been given his liberty and the matter will likely be fought out in the courts.

The National Hardwood Lumber Association of the United States, at its meeting in Chicago on the 4th ultimo, appointed a committee to devise a plan for organizing an inspection bureau, with a view to securing, as far as possible, the universal adoption of the rules of inspection in all

markets. The plan to be recommended to the association at its forthcoming annual meeting is that the association shall issue a certificate of inspection on hardwood lumber, much as a board of trade issues a certificate of inspection on grain, this certificate to form a basis for sales and contracts, or, in other words, to be a guarantee of the quality of the lumber. A committee of nine shall have charge of the inspection bureau, they to appoint a chief inspector to supervise the work of subordinate inspectors, these latter to be recommended by the organization of hardwood lumbermen in the locality in which they are to operate, or in case there is no association in the locality, then by leading firms who are members of the National Association. The subordinate inspectors are to receive as remuneration a fee from the buyer and seller for the inspection done, said fee to be fixed by the parties interested, and ten per cent. of same to be paid by the inspector to the secretary of the association. Where the inspection is not satisfactory, an appeal may be made to the chief inspector, but in no case can the certificate be altered. The plan as outlined above is no doubt one of some merit, being the product of the brains of practical lumbermen, yet we doubt if it would be found successful in practice. For instance, as we understand the phraseology of the report, a certificate issued by the subordinate inspector must be final, even though he may have favored the buyer or the seller. It would be little satisfaction for the aggrieved party to know that the inspector had been dismissed, while the injury done was allowed to stand. Nevertheless, the movement is along the proper lines, and the efforts of the National Hardwood Lumber Association to secure uniform inspection rules should be encouraged. We would be glad to learn of a similar movement in Canada.

TRADE OPENINGS.

The Ontario Forestry Department has received enquiries from Great Britain regarding the quality of birch timber to be found in Canada. There is said to be a good demand in Great Britain for Canadian birch for furniture manufacture.

At the office of the High Commissioner, London, Eng., the following enquiries have been received: For the names of exporters of birch spool wood from Quebec and the maritime provinces; from a firm of importers of turnery and joinery, for the address of Canadian exporters of basswood broom handles and ash rake and fork handles; from a Spanish house, for names of Canadian timber merchants; for names of exporters of birch cut in squares for making bobbins—in any lengths up to one foot square—other wood, such as oak or beech, might be quoted for instead of birch, so long as there is no bark in it; from a Swedish firm, for Canadians open to export aspen wood for the manufacture of match splints. Large quantities are already imported from Russia.

EXCELSIOR OR WOOD WOOL.—Previous reports have shown, writes Mr. Harrison Watson, that the main and almost insuperable obstacle lies in the necessarily heavy cost of transport, which would have the effect of limiting any trade which Canadians might possibly secure to the more expensive grades, for which, unfortunately, there is a much less demand than for the medium and coarse. Some transactions have resulted between a large importer in the Midlands and a Halifax, N. S., producer. Latterly the position has become rather more unfavourable. Several firms have commenced making excelsior in the United Kingdom, with the result that values have still further declined, and the continental supplies, even with low freights, have been shut out. It is stated that the results of manufacturing the material in Great Britain have not been profitable.

WOODEN SKEWERS.—Regarding wooden skewers, it is

learned that the business in Great Britain is practically in the hands of an American corporation, which supplies the trade through resident London houses. Generally speaking, the principal demand is for the ordinary hickory round skewer, and about half the trade is in the 7 inch size. The "Gypsy" skewer used in Canada has not been adopted in Great Britain to any extent, although one or two lots have been sent over. Mr. Harrison Watson, curator of the Canadian section of the Imperial Institute, writes that some small lots of maple skewers from Canada have been well received, but the American hickory skewers practically hold the market. If Canadian makers can compete with the United States in price, there should be no lack of trade. Besides an immense trade in meat skewers, there is a very large number used by cotton manufacturers for holding bales while being hydraulically pressed, and by woollen manufacturers to fasten bags of wool.

PULP.—Mr. H. M. Murray, government agent at Glasgow, Scotland, gives the following as the views of an importer of Canadian pulp: "Canadian sulphite pulp is much in favor with our paper-makers as to quality of fibre, but they claim that sufficient care is not taken in screening to remove chips of bark, shins and other impurities. We believe that there is a great future for Canadian sulphite if manufacturers comply with the wants of the market." Mr. Amstead, manager of the Ely Paper Mills, the largest manufacturer of paper for newspapers in the United Kingdom, states that many mills in Scandinavia have a good reputation for turning out pulp of reliable quality, and this is a factor which will require reckoning in the Canadian calculations. The British paper-makers are somewhat prejudiced against some of the pulps supplied from America, because of the bad packing. They do not ship the stuff in good condition, and although some mills may think little of it, the bulk of the makers pass it by on this account.

In the last report of the High Commissioner of Canada to the Department of Trade and Commerce at Ottawa, particulars are given regarding wood-flour, for which there is a demand in Great Britain. It appears that wood-flour is used to some extent as an absorbent for nitro-glycerine in the manufacture of various explosives, and a finer grade is also required for the manufacture of a certain kind of linoleum. The manager of a large house engaged in the explosive business estimates the consumption of wood-flour in this trade at about 700 tons per annum. The wood-flour must be made from white wood, free from resin and impurities, special care being taken that no nails or other scraps of metal are present in it. The moisture must not exceed 5 per cent. The wood-flour must be ground to such a degree that it will pass through a sieve of fifty meshes to the lineal inch, but not more than one-third through one of one hundred meshes. The price paid is from £4 3s 10d to £4 10s per ton of 2240 lbs. at factory. Stout canvas bags containing about 200 weight each are used for packing. The High Commissioner has forwarded samples to the Department at Ottawa.

BOX WOOD.—The High Commissioner has also been making enquiries regarding the prospect of importing box wood from Canada. In reply to an enquiry, Messrs. Bryce, Junor & White, of 32 Bassinghall street, London, E.C., write: "There is, we understand, a very considerable trade done in box pieces in this country, but we have always found that the Canadians cannot deliver cheaply enough to compete with Scandinavian goods. Stock should be white Canadian hardwood, 3½ inch thick, 3¼ inch ends, ready cut to make up cases measuring inside 24 x 18 x 13, the wood to be similar to that used by the Quaker Oat Co." Messrs. Baker & James, 164 Corporation street, write that their single trade is box boards, which they are always open to buy, and subject, of course, to the price and quality, they could place sufficient trade to keep a number of saws going. With regard to the demand for tin-plate shooks, i.e., boxes in which tin-plates are packed, a firm writes that the chief tin-plate districts are Llanelly, Morrison, Neath, Port Talbot and Britain Ferry. It is probable that the pieces suitable for making boxes for packing tin-plates, measuring 14 x 10, 14 x 8½, 14 x 20, 14 x 19½ and 10 x 20, might be imported cut already for nailing together, but for a very large proportion of the trade boxes could not be made economically out of such pieces. Another correspondent writes that he is informed that the boxes are all made at the tin-plate works, the best of elm, and the second quality of birch. He believes that a trade might be done if the bottom, top and sides were cut in sizes and sent over in packages.