

# THE Canada Lumberman

MONTHLY AND WEEKLY EDITIONS

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ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION.

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 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 in which it can rely in its operations.

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.

## PROPOSED TIMBER CHARTER.

The British Chamber of Shipping have submitted to the trade a new timber charter covering vessels sailing from British North American ports. This charter, so far as can be judged, is a reconstruction of the charter which was submitted in the fall of 1898. It will be remembered that the timber trade refused to accept this charter, on the ground that it contained many objectionable clauses. The document now submitted is, in the opinion of the trade, no improvement on the rejected one. At a meeting of the Quebec timber and deal exporters, an unanimous resolution was passed that the charter as promulgated by the Chamber of Shipping for British North America, to come into force in 1902, should be strongly opposed as an arbitrary change from the London Chamber of Commerce form of Charter Party which has been in use for the last eleven years. The trade placed itself on record in a very decided manner, at the same time pledging itself to accept such changes as might be shown to be of general advantage and mutually agreed upon after fair discussion.

The form of charter is so manifestly in the interest of the ship-owner that it is almost needless to specify the objectionable clauses. Perhaps those most glaringly unfair are clauses 3, 5 and 6, relating respectively to the manner in which the cargo is to be supplied and received, reservation as to strikes, and objectionable terms under which bills of lading would be given. There are likewise important omissions, and the bill of lading is ambiguous and by no means satisfactory. Under the circumstances the Quebec shippers are justified in insisting on the adoption of the form of charter which has been found workable for so many years.

## LESSONS OF THE YEAR.

The lumber trade of 1901, as reflected in the statistical information published in this number, was not particularly suggestive of either advancement or retrogression. The position of Canada as a lumber producing country was merely sustained. If the year served to prove one thing more than another, it was the supremacy of white pine—not, however, so much on account of its acknowledged superiority over most other woods as for the reason that the supply is annually decreasing.

In Canada the limit of production in white pine has not yet been reached, and it is hoped that by a wise policy of forest preservation such limit may be postponed for an almost indefinite period. But the top of the ladder has been reached in the United States, and a backward movement would seem to have set in. The cut of pine in the Lake Superior district last year was smaller in quantity than in any year since 1879. This was not due to a lack of demand for lumber, but rather to the increased difficulty and expense of getting out logs as compared with the earlier years of the white pine industry. The state of Michigan now furnishes a very small portion of the total white pine production, and is reckoned as a considerable importer of lumber.

It will be noticed from the tables that the shipments of British Columbia lumber to Australia were smaller than in the previous year, whereas that country took an increased quantity of spruce from the Maritime Provinces. France and Spain are also becoming better customers for Canadian spruce. The trade of the Pacific coast seems to be expanding in the direction of Japan, China and South America.

The figures with respect to shipments from British Columbia to South Africa are not encouraging. The assumption that South Africa is not a large buyer of lumber must be dismissed when reference is made to the Washington shipments, which were 21,000,000 feet last year, as compared with 12,000,000 feet in 1900. The falling off of over 50 per cent. in the lumber exports from British Columbia to that country shows that our lumbermen are not giving as much attention to that market as it deserves. This is to be regretted, as it is probable that merchants who now secure a foothold in South Africa will have little difficulty in maintaining it for years to come and in gradually increasing the volume of their business.

The conditions which have arisen in the shingle industry of British Columbia do not forecast a promising future for that trade. During the year a number of new shingle mills were built, and several others are now in process of construction. It is difficult to understand what has been the underlying cause for this expansion in shingle mill building; certainly it could not have been the prosperous condition of the industry nor the inability of the existing mills to supply the demand. Nevertheless, when the mills now under way are completed, the combined capacity of the then existing mills will be five times greater than the total consumption of British Columbia shingles in

Canada. What the ultimate result will be cannot be foretold, but it is not likely to be profitable to those engaged in the business. The supply of cedar timber cannot last long under the present consumption, and in a short time it is probable that British Columbia will reach the point when the manufacture of shingles must be abandoned for want of raw material. It is some satisfaction to learn that the provincial government has actually enforced the law prohibiting the export of cedar logs to the United States. The law, however, only applies to timber cut on crown lands and cannot affect that taken from deeded property.

It should be the aim of lumber manufacturers to make the most out of their raw material. The question with lumbermen should not be how much timber can be taken out of the woods and manufactured into lumber, but how can the greatest returns be obtained from a given quantity of timber. By pursuing such a policy the manufacturer, the workingman and the country at large will be benefitted to the greatest extent.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE suggestions made by a committee of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association to the Dominion Government regarding the extension of export trade should be heartily supported by Canadian manufacturers and the Canadian press. We may not all agree as to the particular methods to be adopted, but the necessity of taking steps to make our manufactured products better known in foreign countries must be universally admitted. The markets of the West Indies, for instance, are now very largely supplied by United States merchants. Very little is known of Canadian goods. It is claimed that New York houses already handle more Canadian goods in the West Indies than are shipped direct from Canada. The publishers of this journal, recently received from a gentleman at Hamilton, Bermuda, a request for a directory of Canadian wood-working firms and dealers in building material. This gentleman states that for materials for public works they are compelled to obtain estimates from the United States on account of not knowing where to apply in Canada. He adds that the Imperial Government Surveyor had applied to him for such a directory, and he was certain that such information would oftentimes lead to the placing of considerable orders that now go to the United States.

An interesting and instructive chart has been received by the CANADA LUMBERMAN from Messrs. Foy, Morgan & Company, showing the periodical estimates of the duration of the timber supply at London, England, for the past four years in comparison with the averages at the same time in the previous five years. With Canadian pine the largest stock for the years 1898, 1899 and 1900 was held on 31st January, 1899, when it reached 20 per cent. above the average of the preceding five years. In 1901 the supply reached 45 per cent. above the average on 30th April and 31st July. The largest supply of spruce for the past four years was on the 31st October, 1898, the quantity then in stock not being reached even last year, when