DOCUMENT A.

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MEMORANDUM.

The undersigned deems it his duty, as Superintendent of Woods and Forests, to make the following remarks in connection with the sale of Timber Berths, held at Toronto, on the 4th ultimo :—

The Berths sold are situate as follows—

Oakley, 63½ square miles,
Hindon, 69 and 11-12ths square miles,
Monck, 29½ " "

making a total of 163 square miles, nearly; the Bonus on which amounted to $31,062 and 86½ cents,—or at the rate of 29 and 8-10th cents the acre.

The purchasers were Messrs. Sage & Co., of Toronto, an American firm engaged in the sawed lumber trade, having mills at Bell Ewart, on Lake Simcoe ; Mr. D. Thurston, who purchased, likely, for Messrs. Sage & Co. ; Mr. George Hilliard, of Peterboro', a saw-mill owner ; and Mr. Jno. Cook, who, it is thought, belongs to the firm of Messrs. Cook Brothers.

For a few years past the tendency has been to diminish the production of square timber, and to increase the production of sawed lumber. The diminution in the production of square timber has already commenced to affect the business of the Port of Quebec.

Up to 25th October, the comparative Statement of Timber measured during the years 1864, 1865 and 1866, through the office of the Supervisor of Cullers, stands thus :—

	1864.	1865.	1866.
White and Red Pine and Tamarac, up to 25th October.....	30,466,320	24,275,188	18,931,990 cubic feet.
Oak, Elm, Ash, Bassw'd, Butternut, Birch and Maple, up to 25th Oct.	5,906,604	4,052,954	3,033,955
	36,372,924	28,328,142	21,965,945