

## QUEBEC TIMBER DUES.

The Quebec Government having changed the system of computing the Crown dues on saw logs from charging by the piece to charging on the 1,000 feet broad measure, several changes in the regulations were found necessary. The following are the most important:

As heretofore licensed holders are bound to furnish sworn statements from their foremen or persons in charge of the number and description of all pieces of timber, saw logs and other wood goods cut under their direction, or to their knowledge upon the berths operated by them the previous season.

In addition to this clause the new regulations provide that license holders shall also provide specifications of measurement sworn to any time after the expiration of the license for the season (30th April), but not later than the 1st day of September, by the cutters duly qualified, whose engagement with the producer shall not previously have been disapproved of by the Crown Timber Agents, as well as an affidavit in corroboration from the proprietors themselves, or their representatives.

As the new table for computing the contents in feet board measure is particularly hard on small logs, the lumbermen had almost fully decided not to take out any logs below 13 inches in diameter. To meet this, however, the new regulations provide that "Parties cutting timber, sawlogs, or wood goods of any kind on Crown Lands, and failing to haul all the wood in the trees cut down, because it may not appear to have a commercial value, shall include the same in their returns, and the quantity may be estimated and the dues thereon charged and payment enforced or otherwise subject to the report of the Forest Ranger." Thus placing in the hands of the Forest Rangers very great powers, which are liable for various reasons to lead to great abuses.

The rate per foot B. M. for saw logs is placed at 30 cts. per M ft. more than the Ontario Government charge, but in reality the rate is full 55 cents per thousand feet more when the difference between the tables prescribed by the regulations and the Doyle rule as shown below is taken into consideration. There is a petition now being prepared to the Quebec Government, protesting against enforcing the new rule and asking the adoption of the Doyle rule which is that which has been in use in Ontario for many years. It is hard to predict the result, but it would be surprising if the Government acceded to it, as they seem determined to squeeze the last cent out of the lumbermen.

The following shows the quantity for logs of each size computed by the new rule compared with the Doyle rule for logs from 7 to 22 inches; a little attention to which will bear out what has already been said in regard to the difference between the Ontario and Quebec charges.

SAW LOGS, 16 feet long.				SAW LOGS, 13 feet long.			
Quebec Rule.		Doyle Rule.		Quebec Rule.		Doyle Rule.	
Diameter.	Contents in each piece.	Diameter.	Contents in each piece.	Diameter.	Contents in each piece.	Diameter.	Contents in each piece.
7	19	7	8	7	24	7	9
8	26	8	13	8	32	8	10
9	37	9	21	9	45	9	25
10	48	10	29	10	59	10	36
11	54	11	40	11	67	11	49
12	65	12	52	12	86	12	64
13	81	13	66	13	100	13	81
14	97	14	81	14	120	14	100
15	108	15	98	15	133	15	121
16	130	16	117	16	160	16	144
17	152	17	136	17	187	17	169
18	173	18	159	18	313	18	195
19	200	19	183	19	247	19	225
20	227	20	208	20	280	20	256
21	249	21	235	21	309	21	289
22	282	22	263	22	347	22	324

It will thus be seen how largely the new table favors the new government at the expense of the lumbermen and how the latter are totally at the mercy of the former.

## WASTES IN LUMBER.

Statisticians have proven that the primitive forest, before touched by the lumbermen, shows less than ten per cent. of actual money producing wealth. Think of a loss of over ninety per cent. in cutting and sawing before economic values are reached. The wanton waste of lumber is often one of the striking features of the camps. In California it is still worse; only the largest of trees are cut. Those measuring less than two feet in diameter are rarely touched but to ring and subsequently burn. In this country, even with the rare and valuable roots, we leave a large unsightly stump, often the most

dense and beautiful part of the tree. Generally speaking, the roots of these trees are not widely divergent nor extremely thick, and it is strange the woodsman insists in cutting off so far above ground.

Apropos of this may be mentioned a little experience of the writer: Two years ago in the usual run of business, an old wood lot came in my possession. One part of this was the remnant of an old walnut forest, being thickly studded with stumps from three to four feet high, and literally strewn with tops and limbs from a foot in diameter down to four inches. Some of these were quite lengthy, but the larger ones were, of course, crooked and scraggy. To make a long story short, these stumps were grubbed out, the tops all trimmed, and the entire lot being taken to the mill, the result being the interior of a new house was almost entirely finished with walnut. All the stationary stands, book cases, wainscoting, stairs, balustrades, and the like, besides much of the furniture was made from this walnut slash, besides which four thousand feet of beautifully grained lumber for special purposes was gotten out, which netted thirty-seven dollars per thousand feet. This one hundred and fifty dollars more than covered the cost of clearing, hauling and sawing, leaving the field perfectly clear and nearly ready for the plow.

Of course the field was a good one; but, all things considered, I venture the assertion that the aggregate profits from the slash and remains were greater than from the original forest, for the lumber from this particular field was sold in a bunch, mill run, for twenty-five dollars per thousand, and, including first cost of the land, nearly three-fourths of this price must have been exhausted before the lumber was ready for market, proving conclusively that the lumbermen of eight years ago did not hew close to the line. Whether he has learned to hew any closer may be demonstrated by visiting any section where trees, even the more expensive, are being cut. The stumps and tops still cumber the ground, while the manufactories are continually making small pieces from the plank sawed long and wide, whereas the trees would go a great deal farther, and the results would be as good or better by working no closer and down lower, making many shorter cuts, but producing much handsomer grain, as demonstrated in the foregoing. Besides, it should be borne in mind, that these results may be materially enhanced by working at the start. Cutting low, below the ground, means a longer butt cut, always the best of these hard wood trees, and, in connection with the upper cuts, limbs and benches can often be worked into much better advantage than after the main logs are cut.

What is true regarding valuable lumber, applies with all its force, only in a modified form, to all varieties of timber. Any stump that shows unbroken soundness on the top represents a waste in proportion to its height. The peculiar construction of tools, and the nature of the average tree renders it nearly as easy and much more profitable to cut off at the very bottom, and there is no reason why the long, straight limbs should not all be worked up into merchantable goods, and that, too, at a fair profit to producer and consumer.—*Exchange*.

## RECIPROCITY AND THE LUMBER TRADE.

## VIEWS OF A LEADING LUMBERMAN.

At the ordinary fortnightly meeting of the Commercial Union Club of Toronto, Professor Goldwin Smith presiding, the subject of "the effect of Reciprocity on the Lumber Trade of Canada" was discussed. Much interest was given to the proceedings owing to the presence of a large number of lumbermen, who were in the city attending the annual meeting of the Ontario Lumbermen's Association, some of whom took part in the interesting discussion.

Mr. A. H. Campbell was the first speaker. In introducing Mr. Campbell to the meeting the Chairman said he observed a number of gentlemen present from outside Toronto who were not members of the club. He would take the opportunity of assuring them that, notwithstanding what they might see in party journals to the contrary, this was no party movement. The club addressed itself to what is believed to be for the interest of the whole community. Its members belong to both political parties: Mr. Campbell who was to address them, was a Conservative.

Mr. Campbell then spoke. He said that when the present agitation for unrestricted reciprocity with the United States commenced, the benefits which would accrue to the lumber trade were so great and so manifest, that he feared his judgment might be warped by selfish considerations, and that what might be good for him personally might be detrimental to the interests of the country at large. A full consideration of the circumstances and of the various interests and industries which would be affected convinced him, however, that all the important interests, including farming, mining, stock-raising, with the fishing and carrying trade of Canada, would

equally share in the benefits of a free market with a people having a population of sixty millions, and consequently that this movement, he felt, was in the general interests of the whole country. Amongst the most important of our industries was that of lumber. From the lofty tree growing in the distant forest to the finished board manufactured for the varied uses of commerce, it employed the labor of a large number of men and horses, and provided the means of living to many families in the country. He had not the statistics for the export trade from Canada to the United States for 1887, but in 1885 it valued \$9,355,736; in 1886, \$8,545,506, and taking the value for 1887 to be not less than that for 1886, they would have a sum of money far exceeding \$26,000,000 in three years. Of that sum about \$5,289,308 was paid into the United States treasury in duties, and very nearly the whole of that money would be saved to this country had there been unrestricted reciprocity. Another way in which lumbermen would benefit by Commercial Union was that they could export dressed instead of rough lumber, and by the difference in weight reduce the freight. When the reciprocity treaty existed they had good trade with the States. The year 1866 was perhaps the most prosperous year lumbermen ever experienced in Canada. Since the abrogation of the reciprocity treaty he paid over \$350,000 for duty on exported lumber, and he was not a very large operator. The great want in this country now was a market. What made the National Policy a national failure was the want of a market. Under the National Policy instead of chimney stacks marking the country the mills were reducing labor or wages. High protection ever meant over-production, and over-production meant failures, ruin and distress. Commercial Union, or, as he preferred to call it, reciprocity, meant the opening of a market for our products. "Canada for the Canadians" was a great cry at one time, but it seemed to him to have ended as they might have expected, viz., Canadians were living upon each other. Why did England Colonize but to find a market. Why were France, Germany, etc., so anxious to get colonies but in order to have an outlet for their goods. Commercial Union would give them the large market which they needed. Not only would lumbermen be benefitted; the good effect would reach almost all classes of manufacturers and the farmers. American capital would flow into the country and the country would prosper. What made Maine such a large manufacturing country but that they had a market of 60,000,000 people. He believed our manufacturers were as good business men and more economical than those on the other side of the boundary line. Speaking generally, he was of opinion that about 800,000,000 feet of lumber were cut in Ontario yearly, and only one-third of that quantity was used in Canada.

Mr. Gordon Waldron asked whether a larger market and the investment of more capital would not have the effect of depleting our forests too rapidly?

Mr. Campbell, in reply, said the greater the demand the more valuable would lumber become, and consequently the greater would be the care to preserve it from fire and destruction. The cry that the country would be denuded of timber was a fallacy. Young trees were always growing, and thinning the forests would facilitate the growth of trees.

Mr. James Pearson pointed out that the increase in the value of lumber, consequent on Commercial Union, would increase the selling value of the limits, and thereby increase the public revenue derived from the sales of timber limits.

Mr. Geo. Kerr, Jr., suggested that the Government should begin at once to plant large areas of land with young trees.

Mr. Thomas Conlon, of Welland, said the inland marine was for the past few years fast disappearing from the lakes. This was a very serious matter, and one reason for it was found in the fact that vessels trading with American ports had often to return without a cargo. Boats took lumber from the Georgian Bay to Chicago, and because of the interpretation put on the American coasting laws they could not load with wheat from Chicago to Boston via Collingwood because both Chicago and Boston were American ports. Canadian vessels were not allowed to trade between American ports. There were minerals, copper, granite and marble, which would be developed. Commercial Union was of vital importance to the marine interests as well as to the lumbering interests.

Capt. Wm. Hall, a large vessel-owner, and one of the Vice-Presidents of the Commercial Union Club, endorsed what had fallen from the previous speaker, and gave an interesting account of his own experience and observations in connection with the inland marine trade of Canada. He keenly regretted the circumstances which had long depressed the shipping trade of the country and the disabilities under which owners of vessels engaged in the coasting trade found themselves in consequence of the restrictionist policy pursued by the government. He closed by warmly endorsing the Commercial Union movement and predicting its ultimate triumph.