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—BY—

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THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interests of the lumber trade and of 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 on which it can rely in its operations.

Special correspondents in localities of importance present an accurate report not only of prices and the condition of the market, but also of other matters specially interesting to our readers. But correspondence is not only welcome, but is invited from all who have any information to communicate or subjects to discuss relating to the trade or in any way affecting it. Even when we may not be able to agree with the writers we will give them a fair opportunity for free discussion as the best means of eliciting the truth. Any items of interest are particularly requested, for even if not of great importance individually they contribute to a fund of information from which general results are obtained.

Advertisers will receive careful attention and liberal treatment. We need not point out that for many the CANADA LUMBERMAN, with its special claim 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 25 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.

ONTARIO CROWN LANDS.

THE annual report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands for this province is a document of special interest to lumbermen. Notwithstanding the unpopularity of the average blue book we do not know why every citizen should not be deeply interested in this particular volume. The proud position of Ontario to-day is due in no small measure to the wealth of her forest products. What we shall yet be will be dependent, in part at least, on the future management of these products. There would appear to be no valid reason for dissatisfaction with the management in the past. In matters of detail, there are those who will criticise this management. We suppose mistakes have been made; we do not know that infallibility is claimed by the Commissioner; but broadly, the generally successful and satisfactory results to the province at large is the best comment on the generally wise administration of our wood and forest interests by Mr. Hardy and his associates. We will all trust that this record may be sustained throughout the years to come. It will not be the case, however, without more skillful management each year than in any of the years preceding. Our timber products become less with each season's cutting. As shown in the Minister's report, to which we refer more in detail below, losses are continually experienced from the ravages of the bush fire. In a sentence, our woods and forests are not inexhaustible. When we had plenty we could perhaps afford to be prodigal; to quote Poor Richard: "When the well is dry we know the worth of water." A timber famine is not yet imminent in Ontario, but the long view of public affairs is the wise view, and its application to our forest wealth will mean a continuation to the province of the prosperity it has so amply enjoyed in the past.

The past year: The Commissioner inform us in the report laid before the House at the present session that the total collections from woods and forests amounted to \$1,022,619.31, which includes \$172,521.22 on account of bonuses, leaving the revenue from timber dues, ground rent, etc., \$850,068.09.

Little or no improvement is said to have taken place in the "square timber trade during the year, but the large stocks held in the makers' hands and at ports of shipment have materially decreased, and as only a limited quantity of timber is being taken out this winter there is good prospect of the square timber trade being soon in a satisfactory condition. The sawn lumber trade has been fairly active during the year, and, though there has not been a great advance in values, the demand for lumber has been sufficient to keep prices firm. The output of logs and timber last year was less than that of the previous year, and consequently the stocks of logs and lumber held at the mills have been greatly reduced. From present appearances, if the winter continues favorable, the output of sawlogs for the coming year will be greatly in excess of last year, and a consequently increased accrual of revenue may be expected."

About 95,000,000 feet of pine timber damaged by fire on the north shore of Lake Huron was placed on the market for sale, and disposed of at prices satisfactory to the department. Besides this loss, a result of the extremely dry weather of the past summer, about 100,000,000 feet, more or less, were damaged on licensed lands, but, owing to the presence of the fire rangers, the localities where the damage was done and the quantities damaged were known in time to enable the licensees to make arrangements to cut so much of the timber as would be wasted if not at once manufactured. The estimated loss on account of timber burnt on licensed lands, from figures furnished by the licensees, would appear to be about \$70,000. What the net loss from these fires will be to the province cannot yet be definitely stated until the cutting is completed, but there seems to be little doubt that had it not been for the fire ranging service of the department these losses would have proven much heavier. The largest limit-holders in the province avail themselves of the service; and last season thirty-seven of the various lumber firms had rangers upon their limits. The number of rangers employed was ninety-eight, at a cost of \$20,053.24. In answer to circulars sent out the licensees have expressed themselves well satisfied with the fire ranging service.

The Ontario Cullers' Act came into operation for the first time last year, which necessitated the holding of examinations at various points throughout the province to test the fitness of persons desiring to be licensed to cull sawlogs and timber cut upon Crown lands. Each of the examining Boards consisted of three skilled persons, one of whom represented the lumbering interests, the other two being selected by the department. Examinations were held at thirteen of the most important and easily accessible lumbering centres; 383 candidates were examined, of whom 371 were found qualified and granted licenses.

CROWN LANDS IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

THE system of management of Crown Lands in New Brunswick has been a source of discontent and friction in that province for many years. To endeavor to remedy the various evils the Local Legislature in July, 1890, appointed a commission with instructions to enter fully into the question and report to the House at a later date. The Commission have taken nearly two years to complete the work, holding eighteen meetings during that time, with the result that the report is now in the hands of the provincial secretary.

The instructions to the Commission were in these words: "To investigate and report upon the best method of administering the Crown timber lands of the province, and in so doing to consider and report upon the relative merits of long and short leases; as to the rate of stumpage proper to be charged, having regard to the state and condition of the lumber market and the competition to which the New Brunswick product is subject in European markets; also as to the relative advantages and disadvantages to which the trade is subject in the northern section of the province as compared with the southern section; also as to what aid, if any, can properly be given, and upon what rivers and streams, towards facilitating driving operations; also as to what changes could with advantage be proposed and adopted in respect to the scaling of logs and lumber; also as to the permanent employment of scalers or rangers by the year and the mode of compensation to those officials;

also as to the protection and conservation of the forest wealth of the province." A circular was sent to those engaged in the lumber business in other provinces, and also to the leading lumbermen of New Brunswick, in which accurate information and statistics were sought on various troublesome points. Oral testimony was likewise taken from a number of persons interested in lumber affairs.

The report favors long leases rather than short leases, as being in the interests of both the Crown and lessee and is consistent with the practice in Maine, and is said to be the general desire of the principal operators in the province. The recommendation is made that at the expiration of the term for which existing leases are held the lumber lands be leased at public auction, to be held by the lessees thereof by yearly license, renewable from year to year during the pleasure of the Government under conditions of compliance with all regulations made or to be made by the Governor-in-Council. The Commission say they are of the opinion that "the present value of the timber upon the Crown lands is considerably in excess of the rate or price for stumpage now obtained therefor, and if it were husbanded a rate of stumpage very much larger, perhaps double the present rate, would be realized within a few years. It is urged that there should be a strict enforcement of the law against cutting under-sized trees for pulpwood as well as piling. To correct this prevailing abuse the Commissioners advise that in all such cases double stumpage be charged. They would not at present advise discriminating rates of stumpage in different sections of the province, but advise that the stumpage on cedar be made the same as on spruce and pine logs.

Following on the lines of management of Crown lands in Ontario the Commission further recommend the permanent employment of men of experience and character to act as scalers, rangers, fire police, fishery and game wardens, assistants in surveying, etc., at fixed yearly salaries, to be paid out of the Crown land revenues. The Commission would have these appointments non-political. They find that at present the scaling is not uniform, and that while in many cases operators have had their logs over-scaled, yet on the whole there has been a loss of stumpage to the Province of perhaps 20 per cent. No reasonable expenditure, it is stated, should be considered too great for the protection of timber lands from fire, and a clause should be inserted in all leases requiring lessees to use every reasonable precaution to protect them against fire.

They would have an appropriation made annually to be expended in retracing and marking established lines of survey, and would like to have all the timber lands of the Province surveyed into blocks of not more than five miles square, and the quantity of lumber thereon approximately ascertained, when the expense is warranted. They direct attention to the injury done to the lumbering interest as well as to the reputation of the Province as an agricultural district by permitting settlers to locate on timber lands which are unfit for tillage. They also direct attention to the waste of hemlock timber when cut for the purpose of obtaining bark, the logs being left to rot in the woods.

The report is signed by the three commissioners: Messrs. A. F. Randolph, Frank Todd and Hon. Allan Ritchie. It has been looked for with more than ordinary interest by lumbermen both inside and outside of New Brunswick; and will prove of general interest to LUMBERMAN readers in their desire to keep in intelligent touch with lumber affairs generally.

LUMBER TARIFFS.

OUR Ottawa correspondent has something to say of the several deputations which have waited upon the Government within the past month asking that certain changes be made in the lumber tariff.

The requests named were in the line of increased duties on lumber; the paper men asking for a re-imposition of the duties on spruce, and British Columbians that Douglas fir be protected. Mr. Ives' notice of motion calls for a re-imposition of the duty on all sawlogs. On the 1st inst., after our Ottawa letter was in print, a large and influential deputation waited on Messrs. Abbott, Foster and Bowell, taking diametrically opposite ground on the lumber duties to that advocated by