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ARTHUR G. MORTIMER

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J. S. ROBERTSON,

EDITOR.

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 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.

LUMBER IN THE LEGISLATURE.

THE question of lumber in several different forms occupied the attention of the Local Legislature at the sessions which closed in this city a week ago. There were a number of enquiries concerning the disposition of and changes in sales of certain berths at the last sale of the local government, and also in regard to the rights of locatees and settlers on lands over which timber licenses extended.

A bill to establish the Algonquin National Park of Ontario was introduced by the Commissioner of Crown Lands and carried through its several stages to completion. We deal with this matter in a separate article.

A discussion of the government's timber policy, introduced in the following resolution by Mr. Miscampbell, gave rise to the leading debate of the session touching lumber:

This House disapproves of the policy of disposing of the timber reserves of the province without its approval being first obtained, and is of opinion that the right to cut timber upon the present reserves should be sold under such conditions as will ensure the manufacture of the lumber cut therefrom within the province and more effectually guard against the unnecessary cutting and destruction of the small growing timber on such reserves.

The member for Simcoe, in speaking to the question, referred to the valuable assets the province possessed in its timber resources. And yet these resources were rapidly diminishing under the policy pursued by the government. A heavy drain was being made on the supplies of timber in the large and growing exportation of logs, free of duty, to the United States. It was given on good authority that 180,000,000 feet of logs were towed from the north shore of Georgian bay to Saginaw last year and it was estimated that the exportations of the present season would reach fully 400,000,000 feet. Michigan lumbermen claimed to have 3,000,000,000 feet of standing pine in Canada. In connection with this phase of the situation Mr. Miscampbell referred to the growing scarcity of white pine in Michigan, Wisconsin

and Minnesota. It was admitted by Michigan lumbermen that they were touching the end of supplies in that state; it became absolutely necessary that supplies be sought for elsewhere, and no more convenient or desirable point was to be found than the forests of Ontario. With no restrictions as to where the lumber should be cut; with no duty exacted on logs exported to the States, and having their own mills in Michigan, with certain advantages over Canada, in respect to cost of manufacturing the lumber, United States lumbermen had good reason to cast covetous eyes on Canadian pine. In view of these facts Mr. Miscampbell's contention was that the government should do what was in its power to secure to the province and people the benefits that would come of the manufacture of the timber cut within our own borders.

Mr. Clancy said the plain duty of the government was to preserve the resources of the province. He argued that there was an alarming shrinkage in the size of timber cut. To-day they were cutting timber that 20 years ago would have been passed over.

The Commissioner of Crown Lands vigorously defended the policy of the government. Timber limits were sold as the necessities of the Province called for certain sums of money to cover the expenditure of public works. He believed it would be injudicious to adopt the resolution as that would be the means of provoking retaliation from the United States. The international relations between this country and the United States were already strained over the question of duties and it was not for this province to involve us in international troubles.

The leader of the opposition, Mr. Meredith, said that whilst there might be something to be said against imposing an export duty on logs going from the whole of Canada there could be no contention on the part of the United States that the province had not the right to insist that the timber sold should be cut within its borders.

The outcome of the debate was foreshadowed in the remarks of the Minister of Education who, replying to the statement made by one of the speakers that the question was being discussed with a strong party bias, argued that nothing else was to be expected as the resolution meant a vote of want of confidence. The vote was certainly on strict party lines standing 48 to 27 and the resolution was consequently defeated.

If Mr. Ross' statement is to be taken as expressing the views of the members generally, whilst not, perhaps, unexpected, it must be regretted. The question suggested by Mr. Miscampbell's resolution was commercial in its character, and aside from the policy enunciated, whether the best in the interests of the province or not, ought to have been discussed purely from a commercial basis. We shall not easily get at right views of business legislation except as we prepare ourselves to deal with business questions from the point of view of strict business and away from the prejudices of political partizanship.

ALGONQUIN PARK AND FOREST PROTECTION.

THE bill of the Commissioner of Crown Lands to establish a forest reservation and national park, passed at the sessions of the Local Legislature a few weeks since, gives a practical turn to Canadian forestry. The matter had been under consideration by the government for some years and about a year ago a Royal Commission was appointed to enquire into and report on the matter. This report was laid before the Legislature at its last session.

A description of the location of the park has already appeared in these columns. It will be situated in the Nipissing district, embracing about eighteen townships comprising 938,186 acres or 1,300 square miles. Of this 106,000 acres were under water. One important reason for the selection of this territory, said the Hon. Mr. Hardy, was that it had within its bounds the sources of all the considerable rivers flowing into the Nipissing or Muskoka lakes. Those having charge of the park would be able to inaugurate a system of forestry that would be beneficial to the whole province. The territory, in addition to being a splendid fishing ground, was the natural home of the moose, deer, otter and beaver. It was not intended to allow any destruction of these animals, those in charge, however, being empowered to

kill destructive animals, such as wolves. In certain portions permission would be given for the erection of summer cottages and hotels, and he had no doubt but it would be in time a most popular resort for health and recreation. No fishing, except with the rod and line, would be permitted. One superintendent at a salary of about \$800 to \$1,000 and four or five park rangers at a salary of about \$500 each would be necessary. A \$1,000 hut would be erected for the superintendent and ten or fifteen huts at a cost of about \$20 each merely for sleeping purposes. This would be about all the cost outside of a few implements.

The report of the commissioners indicates an intelligent and sympathetic interest in the general subject of forestry. The names of the commission were, Alexander Kirkwood (chairman), Aubrey White, Archibald Blue, James Dickson and R. W. Phipps. All have to a considerable extent been careful students of forestry, and they have at the same time a very general knowledge of lumbering interests and needs.

There is a good deal to be said on the subject of forestry from the scientific and also the national point of view. No intelligent lumberman will pretend to say that serious consequences do not come to any country as a result of the too prodigal destruction of its forests. As the Ontario commissioners remarked in their report: "The experience of older countries has everywhere shown that the wholesale and indiscriminate slaughter of forests brings a host of evils in its train. Wide tracts are converted from fertile plains into arid deserts, springs and streams are dried up, and the rainfall, instead of percolating gently through the forest floor and finding its way by easy stages through brook and river to the lower levels, now descends the valleys in hurrying torrents, carrying before it tempestuous floods."

With a somewhat rapid denudation of Ontario forests of late years, a national view of the question is one that is coming home to the people with enhanced emphasis. The timber resources of Ontario, and the other provinces as well, are among their richest possessions. Should these some day become extinct would not the financial condition of the country become seriously impaired? To many, we know, this question will seem so chimerical that it will not cause them a moment's consideration. Such a possibility will not come in our time is a frequent setting of the problem. But from the genuinely national standpoint have those of the present day no interest in the conditions of the future?

The danger usually in pursuing a study of this question from either the scientific or national side is that one forgets that when the lumberman invests his thousands and perhaps his millions of dollars in the products of the forest it is only by making this product marketable that he can hope for a paying return for his investments. And so far as forestry regulations exact unfair restrictions in the cutting of the standing timber in that measure the considerations of commerce are interfered with.

An indication of the interest lumbermen manifest in the present movement of the government is shown by a letter from Messrs. McLachlin Bros., of Arnprior, who are owners of extensive timber limits in the vicinity of the proposed reservation. They have asked the Commissioners that the boundaries of the park be so arranged as to take in a number of the townships over some of which they hold the right to cut. The government have included two of these within the proposed boundaries. The land set aside by the government for the Park belongs wholly to the Crown and as a consequence there are no vested or private interest in it to be bought up or dealt with.

The field will prove a satisfactory one for experiments in forestry, and lumbermen, no doubt, will watch with interest, the development in this direction.

DISCRIMINATION IN RATES.

The millmen in the vicinity of Fredericton, N.B., are complaining over an increase made by the Canadian Pacific road in the rate on shingles to American points, in which it is claimed that there is discrimination in favor of other places. The rate from St. John, St. Stephen and St. Andrews is 33½ cents; from Fredericton it is 40 cents, though the distance is no greater.