

AGAINST FREE LUMBER.

UNITED STATES LUMBERMEN REQUEST THE RESTORATION OF AN IMPORT DUTY.—PERMANENT ORGANIZATION EFFECTED TO CONSIDER TARIFF LEGISLATION.

In response to a call issued by the publishers of the *Timberman* and *Northwestern Lumberman*, of Chicago, acting under instructions from the Southern Lumber Manufacturers' Association, about 150 delegates convened in the city of Cincinnati, Ohio, on the 16th of December, to discuss the tariff question and to take action to secure the restoration of an import duty on lumber. Delegates are said to have been present from every lumber state in the union, and the representation included wholesale and retail dealers and manufacturers.

Upon opening the convention, Mr. Judson, of the *Northwestern Lumberman*, was called upon. He dwelt upon the injurious effect of Canadian competition in lumber, and stated that over \$500,000,000 were invested in mill plants in the United States, giving employment to more than half a million persons, to whom \$141,000,000 in round numbers was paid in wages annually.

Mr. Defebaugh, of The *Timberman*, followed, delivering an eloquent and carefully prepared address, and submitting the following figures for the consideration of the delegates:

IMPORTATION OF CANADIAN BOARDS, DEALS AND PLANKS TO THE UNITED STATES.

Year.	Thousand Feet.	Value.
1888	608,326	\$7,497,078
1889	747,842	7,804,163
1890	659,703	7,744,954
1891	757,149	8,498,046
1892	663,134	7,539,766
1893	742,351	8,217,331
1894	514,461	6,134,204
1895	600,809	6,859,532
Six months ending March 1, '96	262,002	3,662,041
Year ending June 30, 1896	786,209	8,505,634
Three months ending Sept. 30, '96	225,396	2,360,896
Nine months ending Sept. 30, '96	549,522	5,790,028

IMPORTATIONS OF CANADIAN SHINGLES.

From	Year	Thous'd.	Value.
Nova Scotia, New Br'ns'w'k, etc. 1890-1	1890-1	58,687	\$122,934
Quebec, Ontario, etc. 1890-1	1890-1	201,961	430,335
Total		260,648	\$553,269
Nova Scotia, New Br'ns'w'k, etc. 1891-2	1891-2	77,963	\$162,794
Quebec, Ontario, etc. 1891-2	1891-2	285,035	569,266
Total		362,998	\$732,060
Nova Scotia, New Br'ns'w'k, etc. 1892-3	1892-3	78,739	\$169,124
Quebec, Ontario, etc. 1892-3	1892-3	379,970	746,358
Total		458,709	\$915,482
Nova Scotia, New Br'ns'w'k, etc. 1893-4	1893-4	58,057	\$115,623
Quebec, Ontario, etc. 1893-4	1893-4	320,415	616,101
Total		378,472	\$731,724
Nova Scotia, New Br'ns'w'k, etc. 1894-5	1894-5	9,640	\$20,174
Quebec, Ontario, etc. 1894-5	1894-5	41,873	79,616
Total		51,513	\$99,790
All sources	1895-6	578,870	\$1,100,223

IMPORTATION OF CANADIAN TIMBER (NOT ROUND.)

Year.	Value.	Average Yearly Value.
1888	\$ 5,748	\$ 3,334
1889	3,108	3,334
1890	1,147	3,334
1891	37,652	37,652
1892	56,777	56,811
1893	65,792	56,811
1894	47,865	56,811
1895	56,783	56,783
Six months ending March 1, 1896	26,093	
Year ending June 30, 1896	87,603	87,603
Three months ending Sept. 30, 1896	24,763	
Nine months ending Sept. 30, 1896	46,654	

IMPORTATION OF LOGS FROM CANADA.

Year.	Yearly Average M. Feet.	Yearly Average Value.
1882-85	1,084	\$ 9,483
1886-89	5,132	52,964
1890-93	67,467	570,700
1894	277,947	2,359,951
1895	212,231	1,860,725
Year ending June 30, 1896	315,464	2,584,438
Three months ending Sept. 30, '96	187,077	1,508,600
Nine months ending Sept. 30, '96	303,716	2,432,076

Lumber product of Ottawa District, Can., in 1896

Total United States imports of boards, deals and planks for the nine months ending September 30, 1896

A portion of Mr. Defebaugh's remarks were as follows:

The true influence of the tariff is only seen when we compare the statistics of particular years with our commercial condition at those times. It will be noted that the year 1891 showed an increase in imports over the preceding year of nearly 100,000,000 feet to a total of 757,149,000 feet. During this year the McKinley bill was in effect. The reduction of the duty had let in a large amount of low grade Canadian stock that the higher duty previously in force had kept out. Many of you will recall the immediate developments at the gateways leading from Canada into this country, at Niagara, Lake Ontario ports, and on the northern boundaries of New York and New England.

The next year, 1892, imports dropped off materially, owing, it is believed by many of our lumbermen, to the assumed fact that Canada during the previous year had to a certain extent disposed of her surplus and was merely getting in readiness for the larger business which she did later on. The year 1893 showed another increase, bringing the imports almost up to the largest previous year.

But during 1893 came the panic and the period of dull trade that succeeded it. Canadian lumbermen at once felt the effect of that financial convulsion. Its exportations to this country of boards, deals and planks, which are the classes of product that I am in this connection considering, dropped down to the lowest point known for years, and it might have been supposed that Canadian competition was to be a thing of the past. But, given fresh courage by the removal of the one dollar a thousand duty provided by the McKinley bill, an increase began to be seen.

Notwithstanding the fact that the consumption was tremendously curtailed throughout this country, that the United States has not in any twelve months since June 30, 1893, consumed to exceed 75 per cent. of its annual consumption for several years preceding the panic, the Canadians have continued to gain. Mills have been erected on Canadian soil, and during the year ending June 30, 1896, importations of boards, deals, planks, etc., from Canada amounted to 786,209,000 feet, valued at \$8,505,634. The first three months of the present government fiscal year showed importations of 225,396,000 feet, which, if maintained for the year, would bring the aggregate to much the highest point ever known.

It would be instructive to know the precise magnitude of the American demand for lumber, but let us estimate the requirement for lumber with which the Canadian product comes directly in competition—such as white pine, yellow pine, hemlock and spruce—at sixteen billion feet in 1892, and twelve billion feet in 1895-96; and we find that Canada in the former year furnished about four per cent. of our supplies, and in the latter about six and one-half per cent.—a comparative increase of five-eighths.

Messrs. Judson and Defebaugh were appointed secretaries of the convention, and upon motion a permanent committee on organization was appointed. It was stated that those present represented 7,805,000,000 feet of the annual production of lumber. Communications were then read from a large number of manufacturers and lumber associations expressing their sympathy with the movement for the re-imposition of the duty, which was in most cases placed at \$2.00 per thousand.

Mr. Silas W. Gardner, who is interested in both yellow and white pine, spoke at some

length, advocating that a duty of \$1.00 per thousand feet be imposed on rough lumber and timber, and \$2.00 upon all dressed or re-manufactured lumber. Such a duty would realize a revenue for the government of one million dollars, while it would not be sufficient to shut out much of the Canadian product, but would protect the market from becoming demoralized.

Mr. H. E. Foster, of Washington, referred to the competition from British Columbia. The manufacturers there had quite an advantage in being able to ship their lumber in foreign ships to American ports, by means of which they were often enabled to get very cheap rates. Canadians had also an advantage with respect to stumpage, as they had no taxes to pay, the land reverting back to the government when cleared.

Several other delegates expressed their views, advocating a duty of not less than \$2.00 per thousand feet, and the Committee on Permanent Organization reported, recommending the appointment of a ways and means committee to establish such legislation as is considered in the best interests of the lumber trade, also the appointment of a committee on resolutions, to be composed of five members. Mr. C. W. Goodlander, of Pennsylvania, was elected president of the ways and means committee. Other speeches followed, and Mr. W. B. Mershon, of Saginaw, made the following report for the committee on resolutions:

Whereas, The placing of lumber on the free list by the existing tariff law not only promotes ruinous competition on lumber from Canadian mills, but discriminates against lumber as compared with other manufactures. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That this convention representing the entire lumber industry of the United States in all lines, respectfully petition congress to place lumber on the dutiable list. And be it further

Resolved, That each lumber dealer in the United States be urged to furnish to the senators of his state, and to the member of congress from his district, full information in relation to the needs and condition of the lumber industry, to the end that they can consistently assist in the passage of this measure. Finally

Resolved, That this convention recognizes the fact that unjust discrimination prevails in some countries in South America and elsewhere, as against American lumber, and that we are entirely opposed to such unjust discrimination, and we invoke the aid of the United States congress for the purpose of removing the same, either by reciprocity or otherwise.

Mr. G. W. Hotchkiss, of Chicago, gave an animated talk on the value of lumber and the effect of importations. He had commenced his lumber business in Canada, buying common lumber for \$3.00, fourths for \$7.00, and the three uppers for \$14.00. This was about forty years ago.

The chairman made a few remarks and adjournment was announced, after which a meeting of the Ways and Means Committee was held. In the evening a banquet was tendered the visiting delegates.

WELL PLEASED.

Mr. D. P. Sickelsteel, McGregor, Ont., having recently sold out his business, requests that THE LUMBERMAN be discontinued, and adds: "Am very well pleased with THE LUMBERMAN, and would continue to take it had I not sold out."

THE LUMBERMAN FILLS THE BILL.

The Napanee Pulp and Paper Co., Ltd., of Fenelon Falls, Ont., write: "It is with pleasure that we hand you settlement for our 'ad' in THE CANADA LUMBERMAN, and the results have been very satisfactory indeed."