

# THE CANADA LUMBERMAN.

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## THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

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### TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:

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THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interest 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 of them 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 upon which it can rely in its operations.

Special correspondents in localities of importance present 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 effecting 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 ten cents per line for each insertion. Announcements of this character will be subject to a discount of 25 per cent. if ordered for three 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.

ANOTHER new method of utilizing sawdust has recently come to light in the Ottawa district. At Deseronto bricks are now being made of sawdust and are known as the terra cotta brick. The bricks composing the flooring of the printing bureau at Ottawa are of this kind. The flooring is all arched, and the plank laid on the top. The sawdust bricks are very light and are porous.

TAKING the trade and navigation returns for 1888 it appears that no distinction as to quality is made under the heading of dutiable lumber imported from the United States into Canada, which, however, in value only reached \$90,723, upon which \$18,164 was collected as duty. On the free list, lumber and timber, plank and boards, sawed, not shaped, planed and otherwise manufactured, of boxwood, cherry, chestnut, gum, hickory, whitewood, there was imported 1,986,000 feet; mahogany, 1,750 feet; oak, 3,744,000 feet; pitch pine, 3,499,000 feet; walnut, 5,714,000 feet, and other woods 479,000 feet.

THE lumber trade at Ottawa has assumed large proportions and is constantly increasing. At this time of the year the Ottawa district is a veritable hive of industry. The driving and sorting of logs, the hum of a score or more of mills, the loading of cars and steamers all tend to give it a busy appearance. Ottawa lumbermen carried over 150,000,000 feet last winter, which is a larger amount than has been wintered for many years, very little of which is now in first hands. Most of the operators have been very lucky in making contracts for this season's cut, and from what we can ascertain they have no reason to complain in regard to prices. Export orders are rapidly going forward, and considerable

is going to the States. Many of the mills are being pushed for all they are worth and the season's cut will be a large one. It is estimated that the cut of the different mills will aggregate about 702,000,000 feet. In order to carry stock for all year shipment the mill men are taking up piling ground several miles distant from the mills.

The proposition made to Washington by the government meets with the hearty approval of most of the lumbermen of Canada, as the reciprocity in lumber would not only enable them to dispose of a grade of lumber, which the duty now prevents their shipping to advantage to the United States, but would open a market for a grade that is at present not being cut. It would give an impetus to the manufacture of spruce lumber, which cannot now with profit be sent to the United States. Judging from the tone of the American journals, the lumbermen are anything but pleased with the idea of reciprocity in lumber, knowing full well that they cannot compete with Canada. They clamored for a reduction of the duty, and now they have got it they are not happy. They want the "whole hog" or nothing. We never for a moment supposed that they would be satisfied with the reduction. What they want is our logs admitted free of duty and a tariff on Canadian lumber high enough to keep it from coming into competition with them in their own markets. There is nothing selfish in that!

THE Dominion commissioner, who recently visited South America with a view to inquiring into the possibility of extending trade relations between Canada, Brazil, the Argentine Republic and Uruguay, reports that last year the Argentine Republic used 212,000,000 feet of lumber. Of this quantity he says, Canada only supplied 34,000,000; whereas, if this trade were cultivated by Canadians to the extent of their capacity, a very much larger portion of the business could be done by the Dominion, as a large amount of spruce and pine lumber, he says, which was shipped from the United States to the Republic was first purchased in Canada, shipped thence to the United States, and there re-shipped to ports in Argentine. Of the lumber sent to the Republic from Canada last year, nearly the whole of it was sent from ports on the St. Lawrence, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia sending very little, although they are so situated and supplied with the raw material as to be able to participate in this trade to a very much larger extent than they are doing at present, if the business was looked after.

THE demand for square timber is improving and prices are looking up. It is now a settled fact, that so far as Canada is concerned, the mill men will have an abundant supply of logs, and with a steady demand at fair prices they are assured of a good season's business. Notwithstanding all that has been said in regard to the increase of the tariff on box shooks going into the United States, Messrs. Barnes & Co., of Ottawa, manufacturers of box shooks, are running their mill night and day, and are kept busy filling their orders. The reduction of the export duty on logs, and the proposition of the Canadian Government to abolish the import and export duties on lumber providing the Washington authorities reciprocate, has created a better feeling in the trade, and lumbermen are more hopeful of the future. The proposal of the government to open up extensive commercial relations between Australia, South America and the West Indies is a movement of great importance. The West Indies offers a promising field for a greatly extended trade, and the same may be said of Australia. We already have a growing trade with China and Japan via the

Canadian Pacific Railway, and we see no just reason why the government should not make an effort to build up a profitable trade with these remote countries for British Columbia products.

THE *Chicago Lumber Trade Journal* referring to the recent action of the Canadian Government in taking off the duty from lumber under eleven inches in diameter, and reducing the export duty on saw logs from \$3 to \$2 per thousand as it had previously been, says it is a step in the right direction, but does not go far enough to satisfy the American Government. "Ask for what you want and take what you can get", was the advice of a great reformer, and it would probably be wise to act upon that advice in the present case. We have not the least doubt but it would answer the purpose of the American Government to get all the Canadian logs they require free of duty, to be manufactured in American mills, and at the same time retain their import duty on Canadian lumber. The journal referred to says. "Nothing short of a repeal of all export duties on logs and timber by the Dominion can satisfy the lumbermen of this country. The Constitution of the United States prohibits retaliation by the imposition of export duties, but it is within the province of Congress to add to the import duty a sum, equal if need be, to double the export duty charged by a Government which is disposed to discriminate against this country, and a strong pressure will be brought to bear next winter to this end, if the wisdom of the Canadian officials in the meantime does not render it unnecessary." The proposition of the Dominion Government to remove all import duties on logs and lumber, providing the American Government will reciprocate, is a wise one; but it can hardly be expected that the present tariff Congress will consent to the abolishing of the import duty on Canadian lumber.

THE resources of Canada are of such immensity and brilliant promise that they are not generally understood by those who have not taken the trouble to post themselves. Every year the prospects grow brighter, as our geologists, our miners and our surveyors penetrate more thoroughly into the less known districts. The seven provinces and the organized territories of Canada cover an area of about 1,700,000 miles. These districts mostly are very fertile, containing the finest farming lands in the world, and the remainder is either covered with virgin forest or is the site of minerals. The immense district to the north of our territories, comprises over a million and a half miles of land. Regarding that area, the evidence before the senate committee in 1888 was most satisfactory and conclusive. "The area inquired into was about 1,260,000 square miles. Of these it was estimated 860,000 square miles were fit for settlement, and about 400,000 square miles useless for cultivation; 650,000 square miles were suitable for potatoes, 407,000 square miles for barley, and 316,000 square miles for wheat." In the particular area to which reference is made, there are large auriferous deposits, while the petroleum ore is so extensive as to justify the belief that eventually it will supply the larger part of the continent. The minerals of both the organized and unorganized territories are immense, the coal deposits throughout the whole Northwest are inexhaustible, the coal-bearing ore being estimated at 65,000 square miles, and the quality of fuel known to underlie some portions of this is believed to be 4,500,000 to 9,000,000 tons per square mile. The Northwest is also believed to contain the most extensive petroleum field "in America, if not in the world," says an official government return. No wonder that Benjamin F. Butler should announce to the world that Canada is a greater country than the United States.