

It is a pity that there should not appear in the estimates an appropriation for subsidizing a line of steamers to the West Indies, for the encouragement of such commerce would have the undoubted effect of increasing the export of lumber and wooden goods to the Islands. The reason given by Sir Chas. Tupper for delay was that it would be premature and possibly injurious to take any action in the matter until the pending negotiations with Spain are completed, as he hoped would shortly be the case. We trust that by next year such satisfactory commercial treaties will have been concluded with Spain and possibly with France, as to open up new channels of trade for the Canadian lumber interest, and at the same time that the obstacle to establishing a line of steamers to the West Indies may be removed.

THE decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in the case of the St. Catharines Milling and Lumber Company is one of considerable interest. It will be remembered that the company obtained from the Dominion Government timber land in the disputed territory of Canada, the Canada authorities claiming to deal with the property because they had acquired the Indian title. The Ontario courts, have upheld the right of the Province and now by a majority of four to two judges, the Supreme Court, the highest tribunal in the Dominion, has confirmed their judgment, maintaining that the Indian title is only extinguished not acquired and that the Province, not the Dominion, represents the Crown and enjoys its rights. It is said, and is probably true, that the case will be taken to the Judicial Committee of the Imperial Privy Council. This is the last resort and must settle the question definitely and finally. Thus an end must soon be put to a state of uncertainty from disputed title that has been very inconvenient to the lumbermen of Northwestern Ontario.

PROTECTION, COMMERCIAL UNION, OR LIMITED RECIPROCITY, WHICH?

THERE has arisen lately considerable discussion as regards commercial relations between Canada and the United States. Some are advocating absolute commercial union between the two countries with no custom houses on the international boundary, and the same tariff as against the rest of the world. Some on the other hand would maintain, and even push still further, the policy adopted both at Ottawa and Washington of protecting home productions against foreign competition even between the two countries. The advocates of both plans are doing their utmost to advance their views and gain converts to their opinions. And between the two extremes there are many who without going the length of unrestricted commercial interchange between the two countries, would be glad to see some of the restrictions removed and mutual trade fostered and encouraged. With the object of ascertaining the views of the lumber trade on this important issue, a representative of this journal has during the past month, interviewed a number of representative lumbermen in Ontario. The original intention was to publish the substance of each interview separately, but after inspecting our note book it was found that the opinion of one was in reality the opinion of all, therefore it only becomes necessary to set forth the views as expressed in a general way. From among the wholesale lumbermen of Toronto an expression of opinion was given by the following well-known gentlemen: Messrs. J. M. Dollar, manager Ontario Lumber Co.; Tennant & Co.; F. N. Tennant; A. H. Campbell, of A. H. Campbell & Co.; William Kerr, of Christie, Kerr & Co.; Mr. Willmott, of Willmott & McIntosh; Mr. Scott, of Scott, Scott & Co.; Mr. Donagh, of Donagh & Oliver; Mr. Hargreaves, of Hargreaves & Co.; Frank Thorpe; Mr. McCraney, of McCraney & McCool, and Wm. Leak. In Hamilton we called upon Messrs. Flatt & Bradley; R. Cruickshank; Robt. Thomson and Patterson Bros. When we say that every member of the trade visited expressed himself in favor of commercial union, we mean that they were unanimous in the opinion that from a lumberman's standpoint such a treaty would be of incalculable advantage to the trade in general. The views as expressed on this question can be summed up in a few words. The rapid destruction of United States forests has made it necessary for Americans to look to Canada for a large percentage of their lumber. The production in this country is even now much larger than the home market requires, and naturally enough we turn our attention to the most contiguous outside market. This market is found in the Eastern States. Under the present protective tariff there is an import duty of \$2 per thousand on manufactured lumber going into the United States, and an export duty of \$2 per thousand feet on pine logs. This import duty, it is claimed, comes out of the pockets of the Canadian manufacturers, for the reason that Canadian shippers are compelled to lay down their lumber on the other side as cheap as the same class article can be obtained at Tonawanda or any other point. If both the import and export duties were removed it is but natural to conclude that a much larger and more profit-

able market would be opened out, an advantage alike to the American as well as the Canadian. Such an arrangement would at once enhance the value of timber lands, and would induce capitalists from both sides of the line to make heavy investments. It would, to a great extent at least, do away with the export of saw logs, as it could be found far more profitable to bring the saw mill to the timber than the timber to the saw mill. New mills would spring up rapidly, and additional employment would be found for thousands of men who are compelled to seek work elsewhere, and in a word it would give an incentive to the lumber business of Canada such as has yet never been realized. Under a commercial treaty such as is here referred to the probability is that Manitoba and the Northwest would be largely supplied from Minneapolis and other contiguous points; the Western peninsula of Ontario from Michigan; and the eastern markets from Ontario, Quebec and the other eastern Provinces. Then also would be found a ready market for our coarse lumber and mill culls, which at the present time are a drag on the market, as owing to the import duty it is impossible to profitably ship them abroad. The opinion seems to be general that such a step would not materially, if at all, affect the present price of lumber. It might have a tendency towards slightly higher rates, but not enough to influence the market to any extent.

Till the year 1867 there had been in force since 1854 a treaty establishing limited reciprocity between Canada and the United States. But this arrangement was then terminated by our neighbors for reasons which they deemed sufficient. Under this reciprocity as it then existed there were no duties but freedom of interchange between the two countries as regards the products of the forests, the farm, the fisheries and the mine—the raw materials as they may be called for the food, the clothing and the habitations of the people. While we do not assume to voice the whole lumber trade of Canada, from what we can learn from those with whom we have conversed, the conclusion arrived at is that a treaty similar in every respect to the one just referred to, is all that is really required by the lumbermen of this country, as we have been repeatedly informed that the trade was never so prosperous as during the existence of the old treaty. The advocates of the protection of native industries and the advocates of a Zollverein, however much they differ, may unite in accepting a return to reciprocity as it existed from 1854 to 1867. Many in both countries are in favor of such interchange of produce and would gladly see it revived whether it went further or not. To the lumbermen it would be of as much advantage as unrestricted commercial union; removing the duties on what they export to the other side of the line and the duties they have to pay on any food, such as pork for instance, that they import. Such limited reciprocity might be adopted without difficulty or much delay. Indeed the Canadian statute book already contains a measure authorizing the executive to adopt it. One objection made to "commercial union" does not apply to this more limited arrangement, for both countries import little of such goods except from each other and may easily make them free of duty, so that the question of Canada discriminating against the mother country is not involved. Neither would the other difficulty arise as to the equitable division of the custom receipts between the two countries. In fact there is no serious obstacle in the way of a speedy return to a limited reciprocity, while on the other hand there are strong barriers to surmount before the people of either country will care to express themselves favorably on the question of commercial union.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

One of the neatest machine catalogues issued this year is that of the Tanite Company, Stroudsburg, Pa., describing its specialties in Emery wheels, grinding machinery, gummers, &c.

We have received from Messrs. Butterworth & Lowe, Grand Rapids, Mich., their new catalogue of cars for logging roads. It is a neat production and not only contains descriptions and illustrations of all the latest productions in logging cars, but also some valuable tables, rules, data, etc., which we have no doubt will be of value to lumbermen and others. This catalogue will be cheerfully mailed to any of our readers who are contemplating a purchase in this line.

Through the courtesy of Mr. J. H. Walker, manager of the Toronto branch of the Canadian Rubber Company, we were recently shown through the various departments of the Toronto house, and was much interested not only in the large and varied stock of goods there shown but also in the valuable information given us concerning the extensive proportions of this business. We were informed that the business done last year by this company aggregated \$2,000,000, while employment was given to nearly 1000 operatives. The Toronto branch alone, through the indefatigable efforts of the Company's popular manager, done a business of one half million dollars. We have pleasure in again directing attention to the Company's advert. on another page.

We have much pleasure in directing attention to the announcement made in this issue of THE LUMBERMAN by the representative wholesale lumber firms of Toronto. These announcements will increase from month to month until we hope to have a classified list of all or nearly all the leading lumber firms in Canada. The retail trade will find this new department of special interest. We respectfully solicit from the trade in every part of Canada cards similar to those contained in this issue, and shall be pleased to furnish quotations promptly.

On another page will be found an advertisement from Mr. James T. Milne, of Peterborough, which appears for the first time in this issue. This gentleman has commenced the manufacture of Milne's Oscillating Steam Gang and Solid Wheel Band Mill. We have examined models and drawings of this new device in saw milling and consider it a valuable improvement on anything of the kind yet introduced. This machine has a substantial straight column frame, containing the foundation, engine-power, sawing resistance and oscillating movement. The sawing movement does away entirely with side rods and slides, which not only overcomes a great trouble and expense, but also increases the power and speed. Placing the engine under the saw frame is also a great advantage, in giving steam and steam-cushion to the ends of stroke, while the self-acting press rolls, taking their power from main column under saw floor, and the device for cutting crooked logs, are each of themselves an improvement on anything yet introduced. Mr. Milne is a practical millwright and draughtsman, and the merits of his machine are worthy of his long and practical experience.

EUROPEAN NOTES.

The subject of an exchange for the timber trade is again receiving considerable attention in London.

Glasgow trade is reported as being in a very unsatisfactory condition. "Nothing doing" is the report that meets one at almost every turn.

At an auction sale held in Glasgow, on the 18th May, Quebec deals realized the following figures according to Brown's *Export List*: Quebec 1st yellow deals—

12 ft.	7/10 x 3	3s 11 d
12 ft.	7/10 x 3	2s 1 1/2 d
11 ft.	7/10 x 3	2s 0 1/2 d
10 ft.	7/10 x 3	1s 11 1/2 d
9 ft.	7/10 x 3	1s 9 d
9 ft.	11 x 3	2s 0 1/2 d
10/14 ft.	6 x 2	2s 1 1/2 d

On the same occasion, Quebec second yellow pine deals ten by fourteen feet, six by two inches, brought one and four pence half penny.

The English import of hewn timber for May was 174,477 loads, as compared with 145,041 loads for the corresponding month of 1886. For the five months ending May 31st, the statistics give 572,066 loads for '87 as compared with 489,819 loads for '86. Taking sawn timber for May the increase is still larger, the figures being 315,723 loads, as compared with 221,983. For the five months ending the 31st ult., the returns give 655,855 loads, as compared with 499,825, an increase of 156,030 loads for 1887. The increase in sawn timber mainly goes from Russia, Norway, and Sweden, the former getting the larger portion of the increase. For the month of May, staves show a larger importation by 5,700 pieces than in May of the previous year, and for the five months the large increase of 9,642 pieces must be credited to them. Mahogany, on the other hand, is the only item showing a lessened quantity, the importation being 3,815 tons for May, 1887, as against 4,431 for the previous year. For the five months ending the 31st ult., 19,835 tons have been received, as compared with 21,589 tons for 1886.

The *Timber Trades Journal* speaking of London trade prospects and other things, says: "While prices of the limited quantity of sale goods offered at the 'Baltic' each succeeding week appear to be hardening, complaints of dull trade, or rather no trade at all, are certainly not diminishing; but rather on the increase, if that were possible. Now, how to fit these two things together is the puzzle. Nobody can point to a scarcity of any one commodity, and give an illustration of the stagnation on one hand, and the seeming advance on the other, for all, or nearly all, the goods sold last week exhibited an improvement. Can it be the continental drain on the Baltic stocks, or a colonial demand that has been under cover of the low freights restoring the level? Fortunately, according to Canadian reports, there is a strong demand arising in the Southern States for whitewood, and spruce of the higher grades is already beginning to feel the effects of this increased demand, so that as it goes out of consumption here another market may possibly be found for it. If it is any kind that will sell here, it should be the better class, which is also what the 'States' are apparently enquiring for."