



IN this page have appeared not a few stories of peculiar finds, and strange growths in trees and woodlands. The following from Ottawa I may give as a fitting addition to the others. A curiosity was discovered lately by Mr. Robert Burland while walking by an inland lake on Mr. Booth's property at Britannia. A tree of peculiar appearance was found to have a chain fastened around it, the wood having grown so completely over the iron as to cover all but a few loose links at the end, which the growth of the bark had almost obscured. The chain had evidently been placed there many years ago to preserve a valued young tree from splitting apart and had held its grip while the woody growth had spread all over it in the progress of perhaps half a century. Mr. Burland secured the iron-bound section of the tree and will preserve it as a memento of his lake-side meanderings.

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"The lumber stringency is relaxing," said Mr. Thos. Meaney, manager for Robert Thomson & Co. "I was in Buffalo, Tonawanda and other points during the month and found things much easier than a month earlier. What is very satisfactory to lumbermen is the continued firmness of prices. There does not appear to be any disposition to break prices. It is not unlikely, however, as a result of the monetary scare, that there will be less work in the woods the coming winter than had in the first place been planned."

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A Southern lumberman, Mr. Henry J. Litcher, of Orange, Texas, has been delivering himself on the tariff question, and is one of the men who is not afraid of Canadian competition injuring United States lumber markets. "As far as the lumber business is concerned," he said, "I do not believe that the tariff makes any difference to the lumbermen one way or the other, except perhaps, to a few immediately adjoining Canada; but the standing timber of this country is disappearing altogether too fast, and in behalf of the people of the country I would be in favor of a measure which would let the Canadian timber and lumber in so as to save our own resources."

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A Michigan lumberman, who owns many millions of feet of Canadian timber, discussing the probable placing of lumber on the free list by Congress is reported to have said, that to put lumber on the free list, cutting off the duty at present levied, would not lessen the cost of lumber to the consumer a single cent, but that dollar taken off would be added to the price of Canadian stumpage, and would thus enhance the value of his holdings to the extent of the duty removed, as well as that of every other Canadian timber owner; and he could, therefore, view the prospect of free lumber with the greatest equanimity. To those who own timber in the States, the cutting off of the slight duty on imported lumber would stimulate competition, and the result would be a decrease in wages to meet it. He was willing to pay the duty on his Canadian timber when he should get ready to market it in the states, in order that labor here might derive the benefit, and for that reason only.

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A scribe of the Northwestern Lumberman has been sizing up Mr. Claude McLachlan, of McLachlan Bros., of Arnprior, Ont. "He is a quiet gentleman," says the writer of the Windy City, "but a mighty keen observer, withal." Speaking of the number of people attending the Fair, Mr. McLachlan said: "I think it safe to say that there are every day fully as many people—visitors—in Chicago outside the fair grounds as inside. I stop at the Palmer House and at the boot-blackening stand I learned from the master of ceremonies that they were

giving an average of 600 shines a day as against 150 in ordinary times. The men who would have picked up an item of information of that kind, thinks the Northwestern, are very few. Mr. McLachlan says the financial squeeze has not yet affected Canada, and the lumber output of this year will be fully up to the average, but he looks for a material falling off next season. The McLachlan mills at Arnprior, as everyone knows, are among the most extensive in Ontario.

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Hon. Theo. Davie, Attorney General of British Columbia, said to an interviewer recently: "The province of British Columbia is so closely identified with Washington, Oregon and California that the slightest depression or increase in business affairs affects both Vancouver and Victoria to a remarkable extent. What the people of our province would appreciate would be the abolition of the American tariff on lumber and coal. The commerce between the United States and British Columbia is large, constantly increasing, and were the tariff laws repealed to a certain extent, the trade between the two countries would be greatly benefitted. An overwhelming majority of our people do not want to be annexed to the United States, but they do want to establish a closer commercial relationship with the United States. The commerce between Australia, Asia, Europe, Central and South America and British Columbia and Puget Sound has assumed gigantic proportions in the last ten years. By the united efforts of the State of Washington and our province the trade of the western world could be made to pass between the Straits of Juan de Fuca, and a great commercial metropolis will center in this Northwest territory."

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Three prominent lumber merchants of Beirut, Turkey, Abdallah Sayih, Nicola Sahion and J. F. Afmus, who have been visiting the World's Fair were very much impressed with the Canadian exhibit of lumber, and a few weeks ago visited Ottawa to ascertain what arrangements might be made looking towards an opening of trade between the two countries. Mr. J. F. Afmus, who is spokesman of the party, said: "The three of us are lumber merchants from Turkey and have an exhibit at the World's Fair. We think the exhibit of Canadian lumber at the fair is ahead of any country in the world, and we were advised to come on to Ottawa, as it was the greatest lumbering city in Canada, as we hope to build up a trade between this country and our own if reasonable shipping rates can be had. We supply all Syrian Turkey and part of Egypt with lumber, most of which we get from the north of Russia. Every year we sell more than a hundred shiploads of lumber, 35 ship loads being sold in the city of Beirut alone. No Canadian lumber reaches us at all, but we want to get Canadian spruce and pine. We do not require any hard lumber because we have the olive and the oak at home. If we can open a trade with Canada it will be greatly in the interest of both countries."

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"This season," says a prominent lumber shipper, of Ottawa, "has been the poorest for many years. There has been absolutely nothing doing in the lumber trade to the United States, as well as to the English market, compared with other years. Since, however, an improvement has taken place in the former the fall rush may make up slightly for the summer slackness. The firms across the line who have purchased the cuts for the past season will take all their lumber away but not so quickly as they would if the market had been brisker. Next year's cut in the Chaudiere mills will likely be somewhat curtailed owing to the fact that their yards are full. The piling grounds everywhere around the city have been filling up all season so that several new properties have been purchased. The depression of this summer may cause a double rebound, which will take all the lumber that can be cut next year on the Canadian side, for the Americans are a queer people, by no means disposed to low spirits, and next season may see a boom in the lumber trade, as well as in all branches of commerce. The large American lumber yards owned by the middle men in different states are pretty well choked, so that they could stand a big boom next summer. Just now

Bronson & Weston have orders from their Stewarton yards for over one-half a million feet of lumber to be shipped part to Rouse's Point, and a great deal to Burlington, Vt. Many of the other lumber firms have immense orders which will take them a long time to fill. In several of the yards there are not nearly men enough to handle the lumber, and many are leaving every day, some for the shanties and others for the country where the crops are being reaped."

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"At the time I was in New York and other United States lumber points the early part of September," said Mr. C. H. Clark, of Barrie, "business men were smarting severely under the financial depression. There was no moving business, and yet nobody was breaking his heart over conditions. The feeling was general that the depression would only be temporary. There would be some after-claps, of course, and some one would be hurt, but so far as lumber is concerned, confidence is strong." "Do you know," continued Mr. Clark, with enthusiasm, "I have been studying conditions in Washington territory and watching developments in that part of the country. I think I know something of that country and believe it has a great future before it. The lumber supply is almost unlimited. As far west as Chicago I found the cedar shingles of Puget Sound, and with the favorable freight rates that are being secured I see no reason why shingles and lumber from that point cannot be laid down at Albany, Buffalo and Chicago with profit to all concerned. Talk about a timber famine; there is supply enough in Washington to last for a few generations yet." I reminded Mr. Clark that so far as the present was concerned lumber, and especially the shingle market, was very rocky in the very part of country he named. Shingle men had been over-producing to such an extent that the bottom would seem to have completely fallen out of prices, and there are some nice stories going of the slaughter that has been made. It is stated as an instance in point that there are lying at the one little port of New Whatcom, Washington, alone, millions of feet of lumber and millions also of shingles, that are at present as they have long been, unsaleable in default of a market.

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Referring to the announcement made in the daily press that the committee on Ways and Means, at Washington, had decided to place lumber on the free list, Mr. H. H. Cook, of the Ontario Lumber Company, said: "As I interpret the message, it does not remove the duty from our lumber. The report says, 'timber, hewn, sawed or unmanufactured.' Lumber is only lumber up to a thickness of two or three inches. Beyond that it is timber. Americans need our timber; they cannot do without it. They need it for their dock buildings and so on, and Canada can supply far better timber than they can. It is very kind of them to take the duty off our timber, which they cannot do without, and by enconsuming themselves behind their limited Michigan lumber resources, exclude our lumber. I consider the move is only one of advantage to themselves and not Canada. Of course there is a large timber export trade done, but the Americans have always profited by it. They exclude our lumber, because they can saw their own. They will not allow us to compete with any industry they themselves can carry on, but just as soon as their timber supply falls short, they are only too glad to remove a duty that will enable them to scoop in our timber." Mr. J. B. Smith, wholesale lumber dealer, said: "The removal of the lumber export duty, if lumber were to be included, was a most desirable change, and would doubtless serve as a stimulus to the trade. It will likely add to the price of lumber per thousand feet, just the amount of the duty, which is \$1 on white pine, and \$2 on red pine" said Mr. Smith. "The export trade has been very dull of late. After paying the export duty, American dealers could not afford to pay Canadian dealers enough to make it pay them to ship if they could find a ready market in Canada. Now, if the duty is paid to the seller instead of the Government, it will have the effect of making Canadian lumbermen anxious to place their lumber on the American market. No doubt the removal of the duty will greatly increase the export trade."