

Costing above 10 per cent. of receipts :

27	136	504,223	62,019
----	-----	---------	--------

Costing above 5 per cent. of receipts :

22	343	4,393,106	285,241
----	-----	-----------	---------

Costing above 2½ per cent. of receipts :

5	135	5,138,546	152,696
---	-----	-----------	---------

Costing less than 2½ per cent. of receipts :

2	52	2,275,518	56,044
---	----	-----------	--------

This table shows the distribution among the entire 135 customs offices of the amount expended for salaries, wages and contingencies, and the meagre returns not a few among them give for so much expense. Had our space permitted we might have made known some curiosities of the service; how, for instance, four officers are busying themselves collecting \$99, and receiving for their efforts \$726 from the Government; at another point, a collector, a landing waiter and a preventive officer benefit the treasury by the amount of \$299, and bleed it in return of \$650 for salaries. Seventeen offices costing the country \$5,416 above their receipts to keep them open ought evidently to be closed as ports of entry and placed in charge of a preventive officer, if the situation is such that a loss through smuggling is to be apprehended. A few years ago, the United States closed up all the customs offices that were not self-supporting, and the example is worthy of imitation.

There does not seem to be a just proportion between the number of officers in certain ports and the work thereat performed if the amount of receipts is taken as a proof of their activity; for instance, Sherbrooke, with two officers, collects \$23,643, and its expenses are only 6½ per cent., while Stanstead, with a force of seven officers, collects but \$9,000, and the expenses of the office are 44 per cent. of the receipts; on the other hand, Truro, Nova Scotia, with four officers, at an expense of \$952, collects \$29,333 at a rate of 3½ per cent. Many similar cases might be instanced, but the table above is sufficient to point out how the efficiency of the service might be improved.

THE LUMBERMEN'S CONVENTION.

The lumbermen met at Ottawa on the 11th inst., and agreed with tolerable unanimity to a memorial to the government setting forth that increased burdens in the shape of duties on the articles used by the lumbermen would inevitably lead to the stoppage of the industry, and not only cause serious loss to the lumbermen, but would spread distress among farmers, mechanics, sailors, and laborers now dependent on it for employment.

The articles of consumption specially referred to in the memorial are flour, pork, corn, oats, blankets, woollens, iron, hardware and steel, and it may be observed that the same articles are consumed by those engaged in the fisheries, and indeed in every industry of the country. The best security for the lumbermen is that it is hardly possible by any tariff to increase materially the prices of articles which are staple articles of export from this continent. The prices of those articles will continue to be regulated, as they are at present, by the price in European markets. It is, however, not undesirable that, in framing the tariff, the government should bear in mind that some of our most important industries such as lumber, fisheries, ship building and many others are deeply interested in having articles of consumption as cheap as possible. We infer from the reply of the Minister of Finance to the memorial of the lumberers that he will be careful not to press too heavily on these industries.

In the course of the discussion at the meeting Mr. Perley referred to exorbitant crown land dues exacted by the government of Ontario. It is rather extraordinary that we should have read quite recently in a leading commercial paper in the United States an article in which the same dues were stated to be so very much less than what the United States lumberers had to pay, that Canada was enabled to supply the United States to the great advantage of the latter, while the Canadian forests were being rapidly stripped of their lumber. This view is in accordance with what Mr. Little has repeatedly urged; and we doubt much whether it would be sound policy in either the Legislatures of Ontario or Quebec to reduce the dues on the timber cut on Crown lands. We infer from the discussion that the western lumbermen were more decided in favor of a free trade policy than those in the Ottawa Valley. Mr. Peter White, M.P., and Mr. Perley spoke favorably of the national policy, as it is termed, which means a general system of duties on articles of food, coal, and other natural products, as well as on manufactures, while Mr. Miller, M.P., seemed to be the champion of free trade. Fortunately for the lumbermen, the duty which is likely to prove the most oppressive to the consumers generally throughout the Dominion, viz., that on coal, will not affect them. It is hardly possible for the present government to frame a tariff that will be entirely satisfactory to the lumber, fishing or ship building interests, but it must be borne in mind that increased taxation has become absolutely

necessary, and that it is not possible to levy additional duties without creating dissatisfaction. The memorial of the lumbermen we have little doubt will strengthen the hands of the government against the advocates of extreme measures of protection.

NATIONAL CURRENCY LEAGUE.

It may be questionable whether the organization which has been established to effect the ruin of the Dominion should be treated with utter contempt. A league has been formed with regular officers, and a country meeting has been held in Lincoln on the call of the warden, which, though not numerously attended, adopted resolutions in support of its views. It is really humiliating that at a time when, after enduring during many years the evils attendant on an inconvertible paper currency money, our neighbors have succeeded in resuming specie payments with complete success, and are apparently recovering from the depression which has so long prevailed, any number of people in Canada should be so infatuated as to advocate the very same description of currency which has produced such calamitous results. It is possible that we attach too much importance to this new league, but there is so much ignorance prevailing on the subject of the currency that in a time of severe depression many will be captivated by the declaration that "an abundance of money creates prosperity." The headquarters of the League are in St. Catharines, and it has a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, and an effort will doubtless be made to disseminate doctrines similar to those which have been repudiated by our neighbors in the United States, although supported by men of more mark than any that have yet joined the Canadian fraternity. We cannot allow ourselves to believe that the Currency League will find any sympathisers among the members of the Dominion Parliament, either on one side or the other, but we think that a watchful eye should be kept over its proceedings, and that some efforts shall be used to inculcate sound information on the subject.

THE TARIFF.

Judging from the reports from Ottawa, the Finance Minister is likely to explain the fiscal policy of the Government at a very early day, and we think it fortunate that he intends doing so, as the wildest statements have been disseminated through the press as to the intentions of the government. Leading journals in New York have been induced to believe