

FROM more than one locality in the United States there come accounts of the adoption of the practice of haling sawdust. At Manatee the machine used is an ordinary power hay press worked by steam. In Canada there are not such large cities near the mills to afford a good market, but surely a certain quantity could be sold. It would be worth the while of some of our millowners conveniently situated to see if they cannot adopt this process. What is now a source of expense might be made to produce a revenue, and the complaints would be avoided of the effect of the mill refuse in the rivers.

THE Ottawa Journal is very much chagrined because THE LUMBERMAN failed last month to give credit for an article which was reproduced from that journal, emanating from an Ottawa lumber manufacturer. We can assure the Journal editor that we had no intention of hurting his feelings, as the omission was not intended. Were we to use "cuss words" every time an article was stolen from this journal without due credit, we think our prospects of "climbing up the golden stairs" would be slim indeed. Dear Journal, we sympathize with you.

AT length the great Nova Scotian log raft has been successfully launched. This time the ways, which last year yielded to the enormous weight, necessitating the reconstruction of the raft, did their duty and the large mass was floated. Mr. Robertson, the patentee, has so much confidence in the success of the tow to New York, that he has already commenced the construction of another raft on the same ways. If his hopes are verified, a revolution of no slight importance will be effected in the trade, for the example will no doubt be followed with the advantage gained from the experience of the costly preliminary failures. The conveyance of three million feet of timber by means of one tug would certainly be economical, if the risk should be shown not to be too great. Log rafts on this principle may perhaps be used on the great lakes to enable United States mill owners to carry out their desire of supplying their mills from Ontario forests.

THE merchants of St. John and Halifax are making renewed attempts to induce the Dominion authorities to foster trade with the West Indies and South America by granting subsidies to steamship lines. There is every appearance that their efforts are likely to be successful. This matter has a considerable interest for the lumbermen of our Dominion. A deputation from St. John, N. B. while recently addressing the Montreal Board of Trade to obtain its co-operation, pointed out that not only was there at present an export of Canadian lumber and other wooden goods from the Maritime Provinces to the countries in question but that also there was a far larger export from the United States a considerable portion of which was the product of Canada. The deputation urged very reasonably that this trade if carried on direct would be more profitable to Canada. The trade should use its influence to support this movement.

IN addition to the immediate destruction of property caused by the forest fires which have wrought devastation in so many limits this year, an indirect bad effect has been produced. From several quarters we hear of lumbermen making preparations for getting out an unusual quantity of logs, because their limits having been burned over the trees have been killed and must be at once felled to escape the ravages of the "borer." This must have a tendency towards a glutted supply, besides disturbing the calculations of mill owners, who had aimed at sparing their forests so as to reserve a supply of logs for their mills as long as possible. The loss and inconvenience thus caused will be an additional incentive to maintain and even improve the means that have been adopted for guarding against forest fires. The laws on this subject should also be rigorously enforced.

REFERRING to our remarks on the increased mileage and stumpage tax in the province of Quebec, the *Miravalchi Advocate*, of Chatham, N. B., asks:—"What would the LUMBERMAN say if Quebec operators had to pay \$8 per square mile as rental and \$1.25 per M. for spruce as the New Brunswick government forces our lumbermen to do?" It certainly appears on the face of it, that these demands upon the lumbermen are excessive, and that our contemporary has reason to say "The Quebec government is moderate and merciful in comparison with ours." To compare the two systems with exactitude it would be necessary, however, to take other circumstances into consideration. One of the worst features of the Quebec increase is that it prejudicially affects property that was acquired, has changed hands and has been accepted as security on the basis of the old dues, the value being suddenly and unexpectedly diminished by the increased tax. Those who now acquire timber limits in the Province of Que-

bec will not be subject to this wrong, for they will value the limit with reference to the amount of the rental and dues. Not having immediate access to information as to the dues formerly exacted in New Brunswick, we cannot say whether the same injustice has been done there. It would seem so from the language used by the *Advocate*, which says: "Our government knows that its victims cannot at once withdraw their capital, and they seem determined to secure as much as possible of it while it is within their reach." This is where the injustice comes in; it is no valid excuse to say that the leases are only for the year, since relying on the established practice and custom, men have in good faith invested capital for their operations, have bought limits, or have advanced money on them, and now find that their confidence in receiving fair play has been misplaced. We would be glad to learn from our contemporary what changes, and when, there have been made in the New Brunswick timber dues.

THE market reports and other information have shown that there has been generally an active business in shingles. Though there has certainly been no diminution in the output, values have been fully maintained, sales have been readily effected, and there has been a steady demand. With a few local exceptions such has been the satisfactory condition generally of this branch of the trade. The natural result has followed; from many different quarters we hear of orders for new machinery, the erection of new mills and enlarged operations among the shingle manufacturers. There is evidently room for expansion and it is well that advantage should be taken of the opportunity. It should, however, be borne in mind that the business may be overdone, and that any exaggerated increase of production must weaken the market even if it does not glut it. The steady demand for shingles that has prevailed seems to speak of increased building operations, more especially in residences of the class for which this kind of roofing is used, and therefore is an indication of progress and industrial prosperity.

BESIDES their general interest as Canadians, the lumber men of the Dominion have a special interest in the proceedings of the Joint Fishery Commission now in session at Washington. Even if not adopted, it is certain that reciprocity will be considered as a means of settling the long pending controversy as to the enjoyment of our fisheries. Whatever restrictions may be established, lumber would undoubtedly be included in the articles on the free list as it is already in the standing offer in our statutes. Such a change must necessarily effect the trade materially, though the extent of the benefit is a matter as to which there is some difference of opinion. Then besides the remission of the United States duty on lumber, any reciprocity even in natural products only would largely effect our lumbermen by their being able to import pork, beef, coarse grains and other supplies without paying the present Canadian duties, which with the prices now ruling would be advantageous to them. As the Commission is conducting its deliberations in private some little time must elapse before the results are made public. Our readers will await their publication with very natural interest.

AT this season it is necessarily impossible to form even an approximate estimate of the log cut for the coming winter, and the amount that will be brought to the mills. Much must depend upon the snowfall, which may be either too large or too small, and much also upon the supply of water for driving. Last winter many operators found that the work in the woods did not come up to their expectations, and an unusually large quantity of logs were detained by a deficiency of waters which also, in some water-power mills, diminished their cut of lumber. But though the result cannot be predicted, it is at least certain that preparations have been made for a large cut this season. The reports from different centres show that generally extensive operations are contemplated. Another strong indication to the same effect is the fact that men for the camps are in demand and there is even some difficulty in obtaining the required number, the common notice on the office door, "No more men wanted," having been rarely seen. With a favorable winter in the woods and spring on the streams and rivers, a large supply of logs may be anticipated, the cut being augmented also by the numerous logs "hung up" this year. A fairly prosperous season, with anticipations of a further improvement of general business, have contributed to this activity. Though there was nothing that could be called a boom, prices were well maintained, there was a steady demand, and a healthy, if not very active, business. The official returns for the Dominion show that the exports of "produce of the forest" amounted in October to a value of \$2,534,855. The home consumption also has been considerable. Altogether the results of the season's business have been satisfactory, and there are favorable anticipations for the future.

THERE is shortly to take place an important sale of timber limits by the province of Ontario, including forests in the heart of the Province that have not hitherto been opened to the lumberman, almost the last in a virgin state in that region. There would be a keen competition for these limits, for they are well timbered, well situated, and are almost the last in the settled portion of the province to be obtained at first hand. It is, however, very desirable that before the sale there should be authoritative information as to the conditions on which the purchasers are to hold the limits, as to the stumpage and other dues to which they may be liable. It has been extensively rumored that the Mowat administration contemplated following the example of Mr. Mercier in asking increased payments from the lumbermen. It has even been surmised that Mr. Mowat would avail himself of the opportunity of the meeting at Quebec to consider this subject with a view to similar action. If there was any such consultation its results have not transpired. In view, however, of these rumors and of the action of the Governments of Quebec and other Provinces it is only natural that some incertitude and anxiety should prevail among the Ontario lumbermen. Under these circumstances it is very expedient that before the sale, which is to take place on December 15th, full information should be given as to the terms on which the property is to be held, and as to the rentals and royalties reserved by the vendors. These terms should even be embodied in the conditions of sale. This is the only fair course alike to the purchasers and the vendors. The lumbermen acquiring the property would know exactly what they were buying, and could not have their calculations vitiated by demands for increased payments which they did not contemplate. The province would gain by obtaining the full value of the property by competition unrestrained by the belief that the purchase was a lottery. Business men would not dream of selling property on such loose terms as to make bidders uncertain and therefore timid, and the provincial authorities should adopt the same business-like policy.

WE find that the London, (Eng.) Board of Trade returns for October are more favorable, both as regards imports and exports, which have swollen considerably. The total declared value of the imports is £30,550,307, against £29,054,399 for the corresponding month of last year, or £1,495,908 more. The increase is chiefly in raw materials for textile manufactures, but is also striking in articles of food and drink, durable, metals, tobacco, and manufactured articles. The receipts of cereals from the United States have fallen off largely, and those from the British East Indies and North America are also less. On the other hand, consignments from Russia have about doubled, and those from Australasia are rather larger. For the ten months the total imports are valued at £294,953,817, against £285,468,148 last year, showing an increase of £9,485,669. The exports for the month amounted to £18,736,201, as compared with £18,224,823 last year—an increase of £511,378. Nearly all the items are larger, but the growth of business is largely seen in metals and articles manufactured therefrom (except machinery), and in machinery and millwork. The shipments of cotton piece goods to India continue to diminish, and there is also a decline in those to Egypt, Turkey, and Greece, while to China and Japan and to the European continent the quantities are more important. For the ten months the total exports are valued at £181,835,615, against £177,740,793 last year, being an augmentation of £4,094,822. Turning our attention to that department with which we are more directly associated, says *Timber*, we find that the import of hewn timber for October was 164,985 loads, as compared with 149,150 loads for the corresponding month of 1886, an increase of 15,835 loads. For the ten months ending October 31st, the figures give 1,476,460 loads for 1887, as compared with 1,368,275 loads for 1886, an increase of 108,185 loads. Taking sawn timber for October, the figures give 475,177 loads for 1887, as compared with 605,849 loads for 1886, a decrease of 130,672 loads for the present year. For the ten months ending October 31st, the returns give 3,380,038 loads for 1887, as compared with 3,244,657 loads for last year, an increase of 135,381 loads. The falling off in sawn timber is general in all districts from which we draw our supplies; the only exception to the statement being the United States, which gives a slight increase. For October the importation of staves has been smaller than last year at corresponding date, and the returns for the ten months show an importation less than half the quantity imported in 1886 up to the same date. The importation of mahogany shows a much lessened quantity, the return for October giving 2,197 tons less than in the same month of last year, while of the ten months, the statistics are 31,684 tons for 1887, as compared with 47,070 tons for 1886, a decrease of 15,386 tons, or a declared value of £30,000 less this year than there was last. On the whole the returns show a more favorable state of affairs.