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J. S. ROBERTSON, . . . . . EDITOR.

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interests 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 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 on which it can rely in its operations.

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

RAPID DIMINUTION OF ONTARIO PINE.

IN another column will be found a detailed account of the timber limits sold by the Ontario Government on the 13th ult. As in every former instance in which the Government have put stumpage up for auction, the amount of money realized exceeded the Government's expectations. Looked at from this point of view the sale was no doubt a great success, in the same way that each of the former sales was, at the time it was held, considered a success; but as each of the former sales has been so eclipsed in the matter of prices by the sale succeeding it as entirely to reverse this appearance, it is probable that the same will be the case again, and that the apparently large places of to-day will look quite small in the near future.

Indeed, we look for this result with more certainty now than on former occasions for the reason that our pine timber resources, which a few years ago seemed so great that to attempt an accurate estimate of them was deemed too difficult an undertaking, have since then become reduced to such small proportions that the end of the whole supply in both Canada and the United States is now plainly within view.

While the United States Government has from time to time had estimates made of its total timber resources, nothing of the kind that we know of has ever been done on the part of the Dominion or Provincial Governments; at least, if any such statistics have been prepared their publication has been so limited that we have never seen them. Now, however, as far as pine is concerned, there is scarcely any need of such action on the part of the Government, for the lumbermen have pierced so nearly through our pine forests with their operations that they have not only made short work of the estimating as far as they have gone, but have reached the point where daylight, so to speak, can be plainly seen showing through from the far side. In the Province of Ontario, while the streams running into the Ottawa on the east have been operated up to their sources by the lumber-

men of that district, these have been met at the summit by the western men following up the streams leading into the Georgian Bay. At the same time both Canadians and Americans have been busy on the north shore.

The Crown Lands Department has at this sale disposed of the last timber berths remaining to the Government in all this territory to a distance of some three or four miles north of Lake Nipissing. And not only is the whole of this section of country now in the hands of the operators, but it has been, with the exception of the last sold, very largely cut off; so much so that we do not believe there is now left 5% of the pine timber which once stood upon it. To the north of this there is left nothing more than what may be termed the fringe of our once great pinery, and a very straggling fringe it is, containing little or no timber equal in size and quality to what has been cut, and only a small proportion of pine timber of any kind.

The pine is there nearing the northern limit of its growth, is decreasing in size, quality and quantity, and the greater part of the country is quite destitute of it. Of the once great Ontario pinery we feel safe in saying not 10% remains.

The Province of Quebec is still more depleted, and the great pine states of the Union, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota with an annual output to date of some 7,000,000,000 feet, have, we understand, scarcely got twice that quantity left now. We are merely pointing to the present state of affairs without comment, hoping to inspire a higher appreciation among our own people of the remnant still left us of what has been and is yet one of our greatest sources of wealth and prosperity.

LOG DUTY ENQUIRY.

A MEMBER of the Globe staff has been visiting the various lumber sections of the Dominion with the view, it is stated, of securing an expression of opinion from those interested concerning the much discussed question of an export duty on logs. This ground has been so thoroughly travelled in these columns during the past two years that it can hardly be said the letters of our daily contemporary, complete and impartial as they have been, have brought forth any facts or information that have not appeared in some shape in the LUMBERMAN. They will prove valuable, however, in reaffirming what is clear to any one who has given the question close study, that if there is any truth in the old saw that every question has two sides it is certainly true of the log duty question. The wide difference of opinion among lumbermen themselves, indicated in the interviews of the Globe's correspondent with lumbermen in the same district and those of different districts, shows that there can be little expectation of a united front being presented by the trade in any agitation for altered tariff conditions.

The points visited by the Globe's representative, at the time of this writing, had been Parry Sound, from which place two letters were written, Midland, Waubesa, Ottawa and St. John, N.B. In the first letter we are told that the people of the Georgian Bay district are seriously perplexed over the exportation of saw logs to the United States. This remark is followed by the significant statement, which is the keynote of the whole enquiry, that "there is such diversity of opinion and such a conflict of interest that it is almost impossible to arrive at a conclusion as to what course of action should be pursued, having regard both to vested rights and public welfare." Lumbermen who are limit owners are "quite satisfied to leave what they consider well enough alone." They are able under present conditions to dispose of the larger part of their manufactured product in the United States market, while, if barred out of this field, they only see stagnation ahead for the Canadian lumber business. We can understand that the townspeople from Penetanguishene to Parry Sound hold only one opinion on the subject, which is that the free exportation of logs must prove ruinous to these communities.

The News of this city, which assumes to speak for the labor interests, has laid special stress on the injurious effect of the large log exportation upon the labor market in these northern towns. It is well in discussing a question of this character that one should be sure one is right before going too far ahead. The loss to the workingman is not as great as some have stated, as has been pointed

out in these columns before, and the President of the Midland and North Shore Lumber Co. touches this point in saying: "By far the largest amount of money is expended and the greatest number of men employed in getting the timber out of the woods. It costs about \$7 to bring the logs here, and two dollars to saw them. It must be remembered that the Americans bring over here a large amount of their capital, which they pay out in wages to cutters and drivers."

No lumber town in the province has suffered more from the closing down of its saw mills than Midland. Four large mills are located in that town and not one of them has been in operation for some time. It would be unfair, however, to say that these conditions are due wholly to the exportation of logs to the States. The Ontario Lumber Co. avoid the expense and risk of towing their logs down the Georgian Bay by cutting them into lumber at their mill at French river. And here is Midland's most serious disadvantage as a lumber centre. The logs are no longer near the mills, and each year the distance between the saw and the logs becomes greater. A second mill in Midland is that operated for a time by Peters & Cane, and now in the hands of the Western Bank. Their chief difficulty in continuing was that of securing logs to cut. The Emery Co. and Chew Bros., owners of the other two mills, find it more profitable to export logs to Michigan, and "the premium placed upon the exportation of logs to the United States is no doubt responsible for closing those two mills."

Waubesa is the home of the large mills of the Georgian Bay Consolidated Lumber Co. Mr. Sheppard, manager of the mills, says his company are opposed to having the export duty reimposed upon logs for various reasons, and chief of these "because the McKinley Bill provides that there shall be added to the United States import duty upon lumber, the amount of export duty imposed upon logs by any foreign country." His company are owners of limits and also manufacture lumber. They have not sold any logs for export. One-third of their cut of lumber goes to the old country.

Ottawa lumbermen are practically a unit against the re-imposition of the export duty. Hon. E. H. Bronson, Mr. J. R. Booth and Mr. Pattee were among those interviewed. Mr. Booth owns extensive limits on the Georgian Bay, and might, he said, "be thought to be directly interested in the re-imposition of an export duty, but nevertheless he believed it to be to the general interest to leave things as they were." "What is more," added Mr. Booth, "it is surely time to cease this continual change and agitation. It is important to the business that those engaged in it should know what to figure on."

The New Brunswick letter of the Globe does not deal with the question of duty, but is mainly a review of the lumber trade in the Maritime provinces. The indications for a revival in the lumber trade in these provinces is not considered over bright.

The one satisfactory solution to the whole difficulty is free trade in lumber. This proposition does not meet with universal favor among United States lumbermen; but the signal failure of the On-to-Washington agitation of a few months ago to protest against the passage of the Bryan free lumber bill, when less than fifty lumbermen thought it worth their while to trouble Congress about the matter with their presence, may be taken as satisfactory evidence that the American lumber trade have no serious objection to free lumber. Mr. Ulyot, of the Midland and North Shore Lumber Co., thinks "we will be able to get American import duty on lumber taken off." This view of the situation is not held alone by Mr. Ulyot. The election of Mr. Cleveland to the presidency might bring about free lumber.

A BIG JOB.

A MONTREAL correspondent, usually well informed on lumber matters, writes: "It is reported that a great syndicate of Michigan lumbermen is aiming at buying out the whole lumber interests of the Ottawa valley. It is a big job to undertake, but western lumbermen do great things, vide prices paid for Ontario limits at the late sale, say equal to \$30 per acre, many of which no doubt contain no merchantable timber."

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