

# THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

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## BY THE WAY.

IN August of '93 the ten years' lumber licenses in New Brunswick will expire. The Government are reticent in announcing their policy, though intimate friends of those in power say that a change will take place. Not unlikely the matter will be kept in tempting position for some time pending a general election which is not far distant. This mixing of business and politics is bad business, if not bad politics.

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The Ottawa Lumber Co., of Ottawa, is at present making the experiment of shipping spruce logs from the Ottawa district to the United States. They have had the Canada Atlantic Railway put in a siding to the water's edge at Hawkesbury, Ont., to which place they have had their logs towed, and where they are loading them on cars and shipping them direct via Canada Atlantic Ry. to the States to be sawed up into lumber for consumption there. Should the shipment of 20,000 logs, which they are at present making, prove a success the same company intend taking out a much larger quantity during this coming winter to be shipped to the American market next season.

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The Pacific coast is obtaining considerable fame for its cedar shingles. We gave some particulars of the volume of this trade in the September CANADA LUMBERMAN, and our British Columbia correspondent has something to say on the question this month. Great durability appears to be a prominent feature of this shingle. An illustration of these lasting qualities is to be made, we understand, at the World's Fair, when a bundle of cedar shingles, taken from the roof of a house in Sequam Prairie, Washington Territory, and in use since 1853, will be exhibited. The shingles are in a good state of preservation. So not alone is the Pacific coast to be celebrated for its immense timbers, taking size as indicating immensity, but also for the rare quality of some of its timbers.

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Alarm, perhaps more suggestive than startling, is entertained in some lumber quarters that work in the woods the coming winter and the cut at the mills expected on the opening of another season, will run into figures large enough to create an overstocked market and bring lumber prices down again, as they were not very far back in the past. We do not know that there is strong ground for anticipating any result of the kind. No doubt work in the woods will be more active than for several years, and if no unforeseen obstacles intervene, increased numbers of logs will be taken out. But present requirements make necessary an enlarged output over some portion of the past. Certain grades of lumber are almost unobtainable at the present time, and if, as there is reason to suppose, general trade is on the up-grade, and better times are ahead, this scarcity will become more strongly marked. Still the word of caution need not go unheeded.

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The pollution of the rivers and streams of the lumbering sections of the country from sawdust and mill refuse has ever been a disturbing question between governments and lumbermen, and few questions are slower to settle. The sawdust dump at Ottawa has given no end of trouble to the people of the Capital, and the trouble remains. Some difficulty in similar lines is experienced in the province of New Brunswick, which has brought forth this comment in the last report of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries: "The question of the injurious effect resulting from the deposit of sawdust and mill rubbish upon the salmon fishing in the river St. John,

and especially at the headwaters of this river, has engaged the attention of the fisheries department. In a memorial from the owners of saw mills on this river and its tributaries, praying for exemption from the statutes relative to sawdust and mill rubbish, it was set forth that no law existed in Maine on this subject, and that on that portion of the river St. John which formed the boundary between the United States and Canada there were at least eight or ten mills on the United States side to one on the Canadian side of the river, and that, as all the sawdust from the mills on the Maine side was permitted to be carried into the river without restriction, any benefit which could possibly result from a stringent enforcement of the law in New Brunswick would be very trifling and outweighed many times by the injury to the milling business in that place. In consequence of such representations the government of Maine was requested to consider the question in order that United action might be adopted by both the Canadian and state governments, and a promise was made that it would engage the attention of the legislature of that state."

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From what we have to say elsewhere in these columns it will be understood that the agitation for the reimposition of the export duty on logs is being carried on with unusual vigor in certain districts of the country. But it is not alone the Dominion Government who are hearing from the lumbermen. The following letter, addressed by Gilmour & Co., of Trenton, Ont., to the various boards of trade in localities affected by the shipment of saw logs to the United States, has started an attack on the Ontario Government that is not without a good deal of life. The big Trenton lumbermen say: "We see with alarm the large quantity of logs unmanufactured going annually from Canada to the United States, and the great disadvantage Canadians are at in bidding on limits put up for sale by the Government, owing to there being a duty of \$1 a thousand feet on lumber, while there is no export duty on logs. We would suggest, to overcome the trouble, that the Government be asked to postpone the coming sales, in whole or in part, until the present difficulties between the two countries in regard to canal dues, etc., are settled, or that a clause be inserted in the advertisement of sale, making it compulsory to manufacture logs in Canada, and we think that joint action should be taken by the lumbermen, bankers and others interested to decide on what is best to be done. We shall be glad to hear your views on the subject. This suggestion, like that for the reimposition of the export duty, has much in its favor providing its enactment would not react on the very interests it aims to conserve. To make it compulsory that all logs cut from Canadian limits should be manufactured in the country would be to place an embargo on the timber that would certainly operate against a successful sale. Then it is a question just how far such a step would be viewed as in contravention to the conditions entered into between the Dominion Government and the United States at the time the export duty on logs was removed. It is among the possibilities that it would lead to retaliatory complications that might be very injurious to the general lumber interests of the country. We are aware that the Ontario Government has nothing to do with the fixing of tariff rates, but it is a question how far the authorities at Washington would separate the action of the provincial from that of the Federal Government. These may be taken, possibly, as some of the reasons that have influenced the local Government in making their coming timber sale of the 13th inst. perfectly unconditional, so far, at least, as location of cut is concerned. In how far it is to be viewed as a strong home policy may be another question.

## THE LATE JOHN M. DOLLAR.

IT was a matter of sincere regret to his many friends in Canada when news reached them that on August 17, John Melville Dollar had died at his home in San Rafael, Cal., at the age of forty-six. The deceased was born in Falkirk, Scotland, in 1846, and came to Canada with his parents when about eleven years of age, locating in Ottawa. Three years later he started shantying on the Gatineau river for Hamilton Bros., occupying the



JOHN M. DOLLAR.

position of chore boy. He remained with this firm until he had reached the position of foreman. He left them to enter the employ of Perley & Pattee, on the Madawaska, being special agent with full charge of the firm's large operations in the Madawaska district. He remained with this firm six years, removing in 1874 to Bracebridge, and, securing timber limits in Muskoka, he commenced business on his own account. He built his first mill at Midland, and there carried on a very successful lumber business. A few years later he entered into business with H. H. Cook and others under the style of the Ontario Lumber Co., this concern acquiring extensive limits in the Georgian Bay, Muskoka and Parry Sound districts. In addition to the Midland mill the company built large mills at French River, Mr. Dollar acting as manager until three years ago, when he sold out his interest in the business and removed to San Rafael, Cal.

In his new home Mr. Dollar entered again into the lumber business. In company with Mr. Fraser he purchased the Duncan Mills property, and the following year he bought the Markham mill, near which he owned a tract of timber. Success followed his business operations here, and though only spared to his work for a few years he had been successful in building up a very prosperous business.

A year ago he built a handsome residence at San Rafael. Mr. Dollar during his residence in Canada, and his residence in California carries a similar record, was ever ready to lend of his energies, talents and means to advance any good movement. He was an uncompromising opponent of the liquor traffic, and for years was active as a temperance reformer. In religion he was a Presbyterian, and at the time of his death was president of the Board of Trustees of the church in San Rafael. He leaves behind him a widow and three children to mourn his death. His host of friends, for his lovable nature made him friends wherever he was known in both countries, will long keep green in their memory the remembrance of honest John M. Dollar. Cancer of the stomach was the immediate cause of death.

## ANOTHER APPLICANT.

A NEW claimant for lumber favor is the Lumberman's Review, published monthly by John G. Staats, of New York. It is tastily designed and printed, and, as an old lumber journalist, Mr. Staats is sure to make an interesting and valuable paper of the Review.