

from the year 1880 to 1888, while logs to the value of \$4,319,850 were imported from the United States. So far as Ontario is concerned, it will therefore be seen that for every dollar's worth of logs exported \$27 worth were imported. Ontario is thus largely the gainer by the international traffic in saw logs, and this makes the export log duty appear a huge farce.

In another sense it is a great deal worse than a farce, as it is likely to bring about retaliation by the United States. At present Ontario forests are being preserved and the country is gaining by the importation and manufacture here of logs from the United States. But in view of the Canadian export duty, it would be quite natural for the United States to take measures to prevent the export of logs to Canada, and perhaps also increase the duty upon imports of lumber from Canada. The placing of an export duty upon logs therefore becomes not only a farce, but a serious blunder, which is likely to result in serious injury to this country.

Though the imports of logs into Ontario are very much larger than the exports, the exports of lumber from this country to the United States are vastly in excess of imports. Should the United States retaliate by increasing the duty on lumber imported from Canada, the result would be very injurious to the great lumbering interests of this country.

This log question is one of special interest to Manitoba and this part of Canada generally. The lumber supply of Manitoba and the Territories say for 400 miles west of Winnipeg, is drawn principally from the Lake of the Woods district. Now, a very large portion of the imports of logs from the United States to Canada is drawn from the Minnesota district tributary to the Lake of the Woods. Should the United States retaliate by preventing the export of logs from that country, the result would be a very serious injury to the lumber-milling industry on the Lake of the Woods. The available supply of logs would be largely cut off, and prices of lumber would very naturally sharply advance here. This export duty on logs is therefore likely to work serious injury to Manitoba and the lumbering interest of the Lake of the Woods district. A strong protest should be made against the duty, before retaliatory measures are adopted by the United States.

Logs exported from Canada to the United States are principally from the Lake Huron region to Michigan mills. Logs are also exported from the Maritime Provinces to some extent.

COAL IN WESTERN CANADA.

Five hundred and twelve tons of lump coal was taken out of the mines at Lethbridge, Alberta, on one day recently. "This, with forty tons of nut, is the largest output for a single day," says the *Lethbridge News*, "since the mines have been running." The coal industry in the territories is steadily developing, and when the Galt railway is constructed into Montana, as it may be before another year, the industry will be given a great impetus at Lethbridge. The Lethbridge mine is the only one which has been worked steadily and continuously since it was first opened. With the increase in population, coal mining will become a vast industry in the territories. Almost every day new discoveries of coal are reported from some portion of Western Canada, and the frequency with which new coal discoveries have been made of late, would lead one to suppose that a vast bed of coal underlies a large portion of this country. These coal discoveries are being made at points hundreds of miles apart, all over the country, from the Souris district in southwestern Manitoba, to the islands of the Pacific ocean, and from the international boundary to the far northern points of settlement, and beyond as far as explorations have been carried to any extent. The latest discoveries have been in the Red Deer country, north of Calgary, where immense seams of coal have been found, of good quality. New discoveries of coal have also been made in southern Manitoba, within a few miles of the railway. It is quite likely that we will have coal from the Manitoba mines in Winnipeg, before another winter comes around. If the coal in the Souris district of Manitoba turns out of good quality and plentiful in quantity, we should have a revolution in the price of fuel here next winter.

In the mountains coal discoveries have been made at several points, the most important being the anthracite mines at Banff. These mines, after a temporary shut-down, have again been opened, and it is said an effort will be made to increase the output to 1,000 tons in the spring. The principal market for this coal is on

the Pacific coast. The coal is carried by the C. P. railway to Vancouver, and shipped to California points mostly. Owing to the distance, these mines being over 900 miles west of Winnipeg, the Banff coal has not been placed in the market here to any extent. At present the Lethbridge coal is the only native article to be had in this market. It is used to a considerable extent in Winnipeg and other Manitoba towns, and sells here retail, at \$8 per ton delivered, in competition with Pennsylvania anthracite at \$10 per ton, and imported soft coal at \$8.50 per ton.

The Lethbridge and Banff mines are the only ones now being worked in the territories on an extensive scale, though coal is taken out at different points, for local use by settlers in the respective districts.

On the Pacific coast coal mining was carried on last year on a larger scale than ever before, the exports from the Vancouver Island mines being 400,000 tons for the year. San Francisco is the principal export market for the Vancouver mines. New mines are being opened in the coal regions of the Island, and the output for the present year is expected to show a large increase.

In the Territories the country along the Rocky Mountains for a distance of 200 miles or more east of the mountains, and for an indefinite distance from north to south, is probably the great coal region of Western Canada, though outside of this area, as in the case of the Souris district and the coast mines of British Columbia, very valuable deposits of coal are found. The coal in the western portion of the Territories was discovered by the outcroppings along the steep banks of the rivers, and as a matter of fact, little prospecting has been done beyond the discovery of these natural exposures. The frequency with which these appear throughout the country is sufficient, however, to indicate that the coal deposits of the region are vast indeed.

The great coal wealth of Western Canada is only beginning to be found out, and doubtless a great many valuable discoveries will yet be made. Enough, however, is known to effectively remove any fears as to the fuel supply of this prairie country for the future. A few years ago the question of the fuel supply for the great prairie region of Western Canada was looked upon as quite a serious problem, the problem has now been satisfactorily solved.