

IMPORTANT representations affecting the lumber industry in British Columbia were recently made to the government by Mr. Corbould, M. P. Hitherto the dues collected upon lumber manufactured from timber on all crown lands belonging to the Government of Canada in that province have been in the form of a ground rent of \$5 per square mile per annum, in addition to a bonus of five per cent. on all sales made by the manufacturer. While the British Columbians have no objection to this system on its merits, a great number of the lumbermen have been cutting on provincial, private, and upon Dominion lands. As the timber is all placed in the same stream, it is therefore difficult, when manufactured into logs at the saw mill, to distinguish between the product of those logs that are taken from Dominion Government lands and those obtained from private or provincial lands. Mr. Corbould's suggestion is that the limit holder might be permitted to pay dues upon sales of lumber, as at present, or to substitute for that a royalty upon the stumps as might be agreed upon between the limit holder and the crown timber agent. It is understood that Sir John Thompson, Acting Minister of the Interior, has decided to recommend that this change be made.

THE removal of the export duty on Canadian saw logs has given quite a boom to the Michigan lumber trade. The *Detroit Tribune* thus voices the opinion of lumbermen on the subject; "The removal of the export duty is really a triumph for the consumers of lumber and for Michigan lumbermen. Michigan mill owners and Michigan mill hands. Michigan men own about 3,000,000,000 feet of standing pine in Canada, and this timber they are rafting across the lake to be sawed in the mills of Saginaw, Tawas, Alpena, Cheboygan and other Michigan cities. In this way American labor and capital are kept employed, instead of relying on Canadian capital and labor to cut our lumber. Some idea of the benefit which the removal of the export tax will be to Michigan is to be gained from the fact that in the Saginaw valley alone there are 100 milling establishments, having a capacity of upward of 800,000,000 feet, and depending on these for fuel are salt manufacturing making 3,000,000 barrels of salt annually. These establishments employ between 10,000 and 15,000 men, and unless they can get Canadian logs they cannot run to half their capacity next year. These were the facts used by Col. Bliss in successfully urging the cause of Michigan, Toledo and Cleveland lumbermen for legislation which should compel the removal of the export duty on logs, an action on the part of the Canadians which practically insures free lumber to the consumers in the United States."

A TIMBER limit case was tried at Hamilton, Ont., last month. The action was brought by Francis F. Jones, of Comber, Essex County, against James Sharp, M. P. P., of the Parry Sound district, James Ryan and George Paget, of the Crown Lands Department, and Peter McDermott, a timber dealer. The suit was instituted to recover \$500 paid by plaintiff on account of the purchase of a timber limit. According to the plaintiff's statement of claim the defendants entered into a scheme to induce plaintiff to purchase timber limits. Defendant McDermott, so the plaintiff alleges, took him up to Spence and Armour Townships and showed him the wrong limits. The defendants introduced Regan to plaintiff as an American timber buyer, and by this and other means induced him to purchase a limit from defendant Sharp for \$7,500, of which plaintiff paid \$500. The timber limit, it is alleged, turned out to be worthless, and the plaintiff brought this action to recover the \$500 paid down. After a number of witnesses had been examined an offer of settlement was made by defendants, but Mr. Jones refused the terms. Matthew Wilson, Q. C., for plaintiff, would not accept less than his full claim and one half the costs, and after some delay the defendants accepted the terms, and judgment was given for plaintiff for \$500 and interest, and setting aside the agreement in question. Defendants to pay all their own and half the plaintiff's costs. In this way the defendants avoided being submitted to a cross examination.

HITHERTO Newfoundland has made no pretention of being a lumbering province, but she is now entering the market as an exporter of deals, and is bidding for a share of the deal trade of Great Britain. It is well known that the timber areas of Newfoundland are of sufficient extent to supply logs for a respectable deal business, and in coming to the front as an exporter of deals she takes no inferior position in the matter of quality of her output, as she enters the lists with the lower provinces. Besides she will have a decided advantage in the matter of freights and cheap labor. The *London Timber Trades Journal*, commenting on the arrival of a cargo of deals from Exploits Bay, says:—"It is a small cargo of about 140 standards of pine deals, and the first production of new mills erected there. It is sent here as a sample cargo, and the attention of the trade has been specially directed to it by the brokers, Messrs. Duncar, Ewing & Co., in whose hands the cargo has been placed for disposal. The manufacture of the deals show considerable care, the cutting being accurate and clean, whilst the specification is very similar to Quebec productions, a very large proportion being 12 to 16 ft. 3x11 in. Though these goods are a vast improvement upon the Lower Gulf pine deals to which we have been accustomed, there is room for a still further advance in that direction by improving the grading. It has evidently been the intention to follow the Quebec regulations for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th qualities, but neither the first nor the second come up to the standard we commonly see imported. Too many of the 1sts have sap on the edge and face, and as the deals evidently have been shipped as soon as cut, the blue mould upon the sappy portions is too prominent to please the eye. When these goods are properly conditioned before shipment, and the errors in classifying eliminated, we think there is a fair prospect of finding a place in the markets of this country. Of course the objections we have pointed out are in a measure inseparable from a new departure, which a little experience and care will soon remedy."

AT the Ontario Government sale of timber berths held in Toronto on the first of last month some pretty good figures were obtained. The berths sold were situated in the Rainy River and Thunder Bay districts and in part of the township of Aweres, Algoma. The lumbermen in the Port Arthur district think some of the prices were excessive. In all an area of 485½ square miles were offered, of which 141½ squares miles were withdrawn. The following are the amounts of bonus in full with names of purchasers:

	Sq. miles.	Amount.
Robert Thomson.....	23	\$24,725
George H. Wilkes.....	14	17,300
J. L. Murphy.....	70	45,650
W. H. Leavitt.....	6	3,650
Ross, Hall & Brown.....	13	9,725
L. B. Montgomery.....	31	10,450
H. L. Lavington.....	8	3,300
Cameron & Kennedy.....	43	25,325
S. F. McKinnon.....	28	62,250
M. H. Ford.....	22	42,500
Peter Ryan.....	19½	7,800
Sadler, Dunbar & Co.....	37½	20,625
McArthur Bros.....	18½	48,562 50

AVERAGES AND TOTALS.		
Total area.....		485½
Withdrawn.....		141½
Total amount of bonus.....	\$321,862	50
Average per square mile sold.....		935
Area sold.....		343½

The immediate object of the sale was to furnish timber for the mills in the northwestern part of the province, yet the result in a financial aspect was eminently satisfactory. The average of \$935 per mile is a much higher figure than the average of previous sales, which was \$658, and is higher than the price obtained at any previous sale, except the famous sale of 1887, which yielded the enormous return of \$2,859 per mile. The best sales were made in the districts near Port Arthur and Sault Ste. Marie. The prices obtained at the sale exceeded the expectations of the officers of the department, as the timber in these regions is rather light and sparse, and some of the country, particularly the region tributary to Rainy Lake and Rainy River, has not been as thoroughly explored as some other parts of Ontario.

IN conversation with a Michigan lumberman on the tariff and the action of the Canadian authorities in abolishing the export duties, says an exchange, he remarked that "there is now no reason for any howling of tariff shriekers about protected lumber barons. Practically, we have free trade in lumber. The supply of lumber for the entire east is derived chiefly from Canada, Michigan, and points further in the north-west. The duty of \$1 a thousand now levied on Canadian lumber will simply equalize freight, as Canada is nearer the eastern market to that extent than is Michigan, Wisconsin or Minnesota. The \$1 a thousand is no protection beyond simply equalizing freights, and thus affording a fair field of competition. The Canadian people so regard it and are perfectly satisfied as to the action of the American Congress on the lumber schedule. It will also have the effect of enhancing the price of Canadian stumpage. I was reading last week that one Canadian timber owner said the passage of the bill would put \$100,000 into his pocket in appreciation of prices of timber. I do not doubt it. Then, too, the repeal of the log export duty means more to the Michigan lumbermen than many suppose. Several hundred million feet of pine have been purchased in Canada within the past 90 days in the expectation that this tariff bill would pass and the export duty come off. This timber is destined for Michigan mills. It is to the advantage of Michigan men to raft logs across the lake to be manufactured, for the simple reason that it has long been recognized that there is no better lumber market in the world than eastern Michigan. It will also prolong the life of Michigan mills by adding to the source of supply. I predict that 250,000,000 to 300,000,000 feet of logs will be rafted across the lake from Canada to eastern Michigan next season. This helps the manufacturing industries, which in turn help the entire people of the state."

SINCE the removal of the export duties upon spruce and pine logs, and also upon shingle bolts of pine and cedar and cedar bolts capable of being made into shingle bolts, there has been quite a revival in the shipments of lumber to the States. In view of the assurances given by Sir John Macdonald in the House last session, this action upon the part of the federal authorities, of removing the export duties, cannot be said to be altogether unexpected. A careful scrutiny of the lumber and timber schedule of the McKinley Act shows that only upon one class of lumber, viz., cedar paving posts, railroad ties and telegraph and telephone poles of cedar, has the duty been increased, such increase of duty taking place on March 1st, 1891. In other classes, notably in regard to spruce lumber, the duties are maintained at the same rates as laid down in the old tariff, but in almost every other case the import duty is lower than the tariff which previously existed. The reduction in duties extends from ten and fifteen per cent. upon the coarser and small grades of lumber to \$1 per thousand feet, or fifty per cent. upon pine. The value of our total export of lumber to the United States last year was in the neighborhood of \$10,000,000, and of this large sum about \$7,000,000 would be directly affected by the tariff, provided the export duty on logs were not removed, as in that case the old schedule of duties would stand. In regard to spruce logs, the export duty was imposed by ourselves to favor the sawing of spruce lumber on the Canadian side of the line, and it remains to be seen to what extent the mills and the labor employed in them may suffer, in consequence of Congress excluding spruce lumber from the lower rate of duty. The difference of \$1 per thousand feet upon "sawed boards, plank, deals and other lumber, of hemlock, whitewood, sycamore, white pine and basswood," and of a lessened percentage of duties upon minor qualities, will, without doubt, enable our exporters to find a large market for the coarser grades of lumber.

TIMBER limits to the extent of 127 square miles, on the Quebec side of the Ottawa river near Mattawa, were put up at auction at Ottawa on Oct. 28th. The bidding was far from being spirited, and when \$400 per square mile had been offered the limits were withdrawn.