

IMPERIAL TARIFF POLICY.

To the Editor of the Canada Lumberman.

DEAR SIR,—At present the movement in favor of Imperial Federation seems to be in the stage of a general policy, the cultivation of a sentiment for unity, and opposition to the adoption of anything leading to disintegration, rather than of a definite proposal of any immediate practical measure. As to the exact shape any modification of the present status of the different portions of the Empire shall take, it seems to be at present undetermined and left an open question even for members of the Imperial Federation League. A suggestion, not yet officially adopted, has however been made by the Canadian branch that all portions of the empire should agree to discriminate in favour of importations from each other and against foreign imports, an idea which has also found some acceptance among the members in Great Britain. The proposal is not to form an Imperial Zollverein with free trade, or a similar tariff for all parts; neither the principal Colonies nor the mother country are at all inclined to such a step, which indeed would be contrary to the constitution of the League reserving as it does to the self-governing colonies their right to frame their local tariffs. The idea briefly sketched is that the different portions of the Empire whether their tariff calls for high duties, low duties or no duties at all, should maintain them unchanged as against each other, but that they should all add a discriminating duty of a certain amount against foreign importations, thus whether protectionists or freetrade, favoring their fellow subjects against foreigners.

Though this idea is still undeveloped, and has not become a practical question, it may be of interest to your readers in these times of lively discussion of our fiscal policy and proposed amendments of it, to consider how such a policy of Imperial discrimination against the rest of the world would effect the Canadian timber trades. Our two great markets apart from home consumption are the United States and the United Kingdom. It would be impossible to estimate the effect of the change as regards the trade with the States, because it would depend greatly upon the action taken at Washington in consequence of it, and thus is an unknown factor in the problem. As to the trade with the United Kingdom it would undoubtedly give it an impetus for it would give our timber a preference as compared with that from Northern Europe and the Southern States of the Union, both strong competitors with Canada for the custom of Great Britain. In the British West Indies it would secure us almost a monopoly of the market, for a very moderate discriminating duty would transfer from the United States to Canada this valuable business of which the former has so far had the lion's share. The same would be true of Australia, which has hitherto drawn largely from Norway and Sweden and from the Pacific Coast States of the Union, neither of which in the face of any adverse discrimination should be able to hold their own against the splendid timber of British Columbia. It would be useless to extend this view to the markets of smaller or more distant portions of the Empire, though their aggregate trade might be worthy of consideration.

Though as I have said this is not at present a practical question of the day, it is not without interest for our lumbermen and others connected with the trade, who may watch, as I shall, to see what progress is made with this movement. It is a matter of curiosity now, but some day, perhaps in a modified shape, it may become a live issue. Events march rapidly in these times, and there is change in the air.

Yours truly,
I. F. L.

LOGGING ON THE OTTAWA.

OTTAWA, CAN., July 7.—This, the beautiful seat of the Dominion Government, is also the great entrepot of the Ottawa River. Draining a heavily wooded district containing 100,000 square miles, the Ottawa is the greatest logging river of Canada, and its timber industry is the most important in the Dominion. Each year the lumbermen work their way further back into the interior, logs now travelling as far as 200 miles before reaching the mills. The number of saw mills in the Province of Quebec is stated at 1,729, employing 12,461 hands. The estimated value of the rough products of the forest annually exported from the province is about \$10,000,000. The number of logs that will be brought down this year will be about 2,500,000.

In former years great confusion and loss resulted from the mixing up of the logs, as well as their being left along the banks after the subsidence of high water. These annoyances are now reduced to a minimum, under the marvellous system adopted and carried on by the Upper Ottawa Improvement Co., popularly known as the "boom company." Extensive booms have been constructed, distributing stations established, and with the powerful steam tugs, and large body of experienced men at work, the losses amount to comparatively nothing.

The most important distributing station is near the town of Quyon, about forty miles above Ottawa. Here the logs are sorted with reference to the side of the river on which they are to be delivered, as well as by certain groups of mills, a further sorting taking place below. The logs are brought down into a narrow passage called the gap, and are distributed according to their axe marks. The principal sawmill men on the north side of the river are known. Eddy, Conroy and Hamilton; and those on the south side as Booth, Perley, Mason, Young and Bronson. The logs take the names of owners as they are pushed through the "gap" by the stalwart loggers, who sing out the particular pocket into which they are to be floated, by very singular, and to the uninitiated, incomprehensible terms. Here are a few of the calls:

CALL.	MEANING.
"Eddy, I roll!"	A log belonging to Eddy is rolled over in the water so as to bring the private mark to the surface, and is sent down the gap, being seized by the proper man and pushed into the appropriate pocket.
"Eddy, 3 times!"	Three logs for the Eddy pocket.
"Perley, I see!"	A log for the Perley pocket.
"Conroy, I shove."	A Conroy log is shoved down the gap.
"Bronson at the hustings!"	A playful tribute to the greenness of a former employee who described the platform or dock on which the company's quarters are located as "the hustings" having reference to the Canadian or English term for what is known in American politics as the speaking platform at a political meeting.

Thus the monotony of work is greatly relieved and the natural witty exuberance of the French and Irish loggers finds expression.

On the piling grounds around the Chaudiere Falls at Ottawa, there is always a stock of lumber estimated at 125,000,000 feet. To keep these filled to their utmost capacity, a large number of mills cluster around the falls, some of them employing over a thousand men. They are supplied with the finest machinery and lighted with the most powerful electric light, by the aid of which work during the season is maintained without ceasing both day and night.—*Cleveland Iron Trade Review.*

U. S. LUMBER TRADE.

THE White Pine lumber market is generally fairly active. Prices continue firm. Since our last report about one and a half million feet has gone forward to the West Indies. Trade with Cuba is very quiet. For the River Plate several small lots have gone forward and two cargoes are loading. The demand seems to keep up in moderate degree. For Rio Janiero, 500,000 feet have been shipped recently. This will no doubt meet immediate demands. Small lots are being shipped to Australia to complete vessels landing on berth. For Africa and the West Coast of South America, there is nothing being shipped to speak of. Inquiries for North Carolina Pine continue in excess of the available supply, particularly kiln-dried boards, both rough and worked. Prices are firm and with a decided tendency to advance. Mills are so overrun with orders that they refuse point blank to bid on time bills which call for delivery by a specified date. Air-dried lumber is in good supply, but for many purposes this cannot be used to advantage. The scarcity and high price of Spruce has induced an increased demand for timber and large quantities are being placed. The trade in Yellow Pine continues fairly active, the yards reporting a good business, which is becoming restricted for forward delivery, the lumber for most of the buildings to be erected having been contracted for. Boards are still dull, with an over supply. There is an improvement in the export trade, especially for the River Plate, and for Europe, especially for continental ports; but Brazil seems to be suffering from over-importation of Pitch Pine, and the only orders received from there now are to postpone deliveries. There is a very moderate inquiry from the West Indies, the Windward Islands and Central America. Prices for Spruce continue firm and without change. Arrivals have been comparatively heavy, but not sufficient to cause any weakness in values. Yard stocks had been so badly broken that holders can afford to be stiff in their askings. There is considerable now on the way and it is possible, but not probable, that a slight shading in figures may occur within the next two weeks. Laths continue without change and with light receipts. The Hemlock mills are mostly busy with orders, and the retail yards are complaining that they cannot get stock as fast as the air. There seems to be a feeling among them that they will soon have to pay an advanced price. A number of mills report that they are behind from two to three weeks in filling orders that they are usually able to ship in from a week to ten days. Should the present demand continue there must be an advance of from 30 cents to \$1 per M., before September. Business in Hardwoods at the yards has been a little quieter. The demand has not been so steady

and the moderate activity has not been kept up. Trade fully up to what it generally is at this particular season of the year. Arrivals are slightly on the increase and while prices are fairly firm, buyers are not as anxious as they were a few weeks ago. Manufacturers are offering lumber more freely and assortments, that were broken, have been sufficiently replenished for present needs. Quotations from first hands are unchanged, but there is apparently more eagerness to place stocks. Rough edge Eastern Second Growth Ash and Hickory are in steady demand. It would be difficult to secure first rate lot of either in large quantity. The usual midsummer quiet prevails in the Mahogany and Cedar market, as well as stocks, remain very much as at last report. Coopers stocks are firm and unchanged. There is now a demand for export, more particularly for the light grades such as light pipes, West India light hogshells and light barrel staves. There is ready sale for these. Manufacturers of staves should watch the market closely, as the demand fluctuates a great deal. To-day an accumulation of heavy stock with no demand make it undesirable, while light stock is wanted next week the reverse is just as likely as not to be the case.

DISAPPEARANCE OF OAK TIMBER.

It is stated that oak timber especially is rapidly disappearing from Europe, although half of the area of Sweden, one-fourth of Norway, one sixth that of Switzerland, and 780,000 square miles in Russia are said to be yet in forest. The consumption of oak in France has doubled during the last fifty years; she requires 15,000,000 cubic feet yearly for wine casks alone, 72,000 for building purposes, 600,000 cubic feet for her fleet, and 150,000 cubic feet for railway carriages; £800,000 worth of staves were imported in 1882; £5,900,000 worth are now needed. Since losing Alsace and Lorraine, France contains 150,000,000 acres, 20,000,000 of this surface is covered with forest. Holland and Belgium are nearly denuded of timber, and are large importers. North Germany is rich in forest, but within half a century has commenced to cut down young trees. Austria has sold her forests since railroads have been introduced. In Italy no forests remain. Spain and Greece are almost woodless. The southern coast of the Mediterranean is almost forestless.—*Ex.*

BUFFALO AND TONAWANDA, N. Y.

BUFFALO, July 19.—With all due respect to dealers in pine lumber here, says *The Lumberman* correspondent, I am inclined to suspect a slight dullness in the trade, notwithstanding the assurance of the majority of them that business is good. There are several reasons why the demand is not as good as during the past three or four weeks. The principal cause of complaint is that smaller markets are being drummed to death by a few representative houses here and particularly at Tonawanda. That small lumber hamlet, judging from reports received, contains a large number of very weak-kneed sellers. One from there with a heavy stock of dry lumber on hand, has by his over-anxiety to dispose of it, created a widespread feeling of distrust and weakness in future prices. The trail left by one of them has furnished a large sized wedge to split prices in every town struck by him. It is also said that drummers are more numerous this year than last, and "tally a round dozen" or "fifteen for this morning," seems to be the greeting most agents meet on the road. The best bids are taken by agents outside, and in most cases the price is lower than would be accepted for the same stock here. There is no real change in the market at present, but the outlook for future trade, in my opinion, is very favorable.

Shingles and lath are in the same condition as reported heretofore, viz., demand good, supply light and prices strong.

OUR esteemed contemporary, *Timber*, of London, Eng., recently devoted considerable space to a criticism of Prof. John Macoun's article on "The Value of Canadian Woods for Export," which appeared in these columns some months ago. Owing to Prof. Macoun's absence in British Columbia at the present time we have not been favored with his views on the subject, but we can at least conjecture that he will have something to say in substantiation of his statements at no very distant date.

FOR the next issue of *THE LUMBERMAN* we would like to secure as many reports from individual lumbermen in all parts of Canada as possible, concerning the state of trade; how the cut is progressing; the condition of the drives; the probable output, and any other information concerning their business that can be furnished. It is these items of news which go to make up an interesting paper, and as a post card will furnish all the necessary information, we trust that the request herewith may bring in hundreds of replies. Let each of our readers consider this a personal invitation, intended in the interest of the trade. Replies should reach this office by August 15th if possible.