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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 2 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.

## TO VISITING LUMBERMEN.

Lumbermen visiting Toronto are invited to use the office of the CANADA LUMBERMAN as their own. We shall take pleasure in supplying them with every convenience for receiving and answering their correspondence, and hold ourselves at their service in any other way they may desire.

## LUMBER IN ONTARIO.

Just at the present time there is considerable speculation indulged in as to what extent improvement will come to the lumber trade of Ontario in the near future. There are to be found those who freely assert their belief that the bottom has been reached, and that from this time on an upward tendency will pervade the trade. The more pessimistic can see nothing that is encouraging in the future. It would seem strange that opinions entirely at variance with each other should be held by persons actively engaged in the trade, yet the cause thereof is not far to seek.

The course which the market for lumber in Ontario will take is largely dependent upon the result of the financial questions at issue in the United States, the extent of operations in the woods during the approaching season, and the attitude assumed by lumbermen themselves.

More than any of the other provinces is Ontario affected by the conditions which prevail in the lumber trade of the United States. The revival of business activity across the line, in which lumber would share, would bring to the Ontario lumber trade

at least some proportion of relief. But on the result of the Presidential election this will to some extent depend, and at the present time the situation is one of uncertainty.

There are some features of the United States trade, however, which are indicative of improvement. In view of the accumulation of stocks and the limited demand for lumber, many of the mills are closing down much earlier than usual. In some cases this has been rendered necessary by lack of piling ground. Thus it is hoped that before the next winter's cut is placed upon the market the stocks will have been well cleared out, and manufacturers will have sufficient confidence in the future to advance prices to a point which would leave a fair margin of profit. The announcement is further made that there will be a general restriction in the input of logs next winter of twenty-five per cent. as compared with late years.

In Ontario the situation is much the same with respect to the quantity of lumber in the hands of manufacturers, particularly of white pine. During the present season manufacturing has been carried on to a much greater extent than the demand would warrant. The extent of operations in the woods during the season of 1896-97 cannot be fairly estimated as yet, but from reports received at this office it is evident that a curtailment will be made. We learn that several firms who have heretofore been heavy operators have decided to abandon operations next winter, in the hope of disposing of their present supply of lumber. It is quite probable that the smaller manufacturers will operate upon much the same scale as last year, the restriction in the input being with the larger concerns, which will prove the most inducive to an improvement in the market. Very little is heard of the contemplated movements of Michigan dealers who obtain their log supply from the Georgian Bay district, but the recent financial troubles of several of these firms will undoubtedly be followed by a limitation of their business.

Never was there a time, perhaps, in the history of the trade when an indication of confidence on the part of lumbermen was of greater necessity. The situation is to some extent in their hands, and one of the chief requirements in order to secure an improvement is a restriction in the output. It must be expected that revival will not be immediate, but we predict that the spring of 1897 will bring to the lumber trade of Ontario some extent of renewed activity.

## THE FORESTRY PROBLEM.

ELSEWHERE in this number will be found extracts from the annual report of the Clerk of Forestry for Ontario. In dealing with the question of forestry, Mr. Southworth has presented strong arguments in favor of the systematic preservation of our timber lands, and has earned the thanks of all who have the welfare of the country at heart. The position of the science of forestry to-day as compared with that of a few years ago, and the increased attention which has been given the subject by the governments throughout the whole world, are strong indications of advancement. Yet so far as the United States and Canada are concerned, the problem is yet in its infancy, as no well-defined policy has been adopted.

The timber resources of Canada being a source

of great wealth to the country, it behooves both the Dominion and Provincial governments to take steps to preserve, if possible, the forest lands. As pointed out in Mr. Southworth's report, here is no reason why this form of capital, like others, should not perpetually reproduce itself and yield ample interest from year to year. The cost of protection is small compared with the extent of damage done by forest fires, which is the main cause of destruction. Reports from forty-nine timber limits in Ontario where fire rangers were employed show that the quantity of timber destroyed in a certain year was valued at \$41,600, which is a very small amount, especially as the season was an unusually dry one. Ninety-three fires were reported, and it is safe to say that had there been no system of protection in vogue, millions of dollars worth of property would have been destroyed. The employment of these rangers necessitated an expenditure of \$26,253, half of which was borne by the Ontario Government and half by the limit-holders.

In the United States a Government Forestry Commission has been appointed to make an investigation of various forestry problems and outline an administrative policy on the subject. This commission will present a report in the autumn which will, no doubt, contain much valuable information. Two bills have also been introduced in the House of Representatives at Washington looking to the conservation of the forests. One provides that the Secretary of the Interior shall have avenues, about 1,000 feet in width, surveyed and marked through the forests on the public domain which are liable to destruction by fire, at intervals of from five to ten miles apart, in such directions as, when cleared, may be deemed most effective to prevent the spreading of fire, and that the timber thus parceled may be offered for sale at public auction, with the condition that the purchaser shall clear the entire width of that timber which he has purchased; and for those parts of the way which may not be so cleared, bids may be asked for the clearing of same. The other bill provides that any person who wilfully sets fire any timber, underbrush or grass, or shall allow or suffer fire to burn upon the public domain, shall be liable to a fine of \$5,000, or imprisonment for two years. The former bill has been approved by the American Forestry Association, and will probably be passed by Congress. While the clearing of wide avenues through the forests would no doubt largely prevent the spread of fires, the permanent sacrifice of such a large portion of forest land is of considerable moment, and we doubt if the system would prove satisfactory in Canada.

In the New Forest, in England, which contains seventy-six thousand acres, we are told the land is kept free from underbrush, which is frequently the cause of fires, by simply authorizing the people who live in the forest to help themselves to the brushwood. Of course this system could not be put in successful operation in Canada, as large tracts of timber lands are entirely uninhabited.

In some parts of Europe the methods of lumbering are entirely different from those in vogue in this country. In Germany and France the trees are felled in such a manner as to protect as far as possible the growing crop of young trees, while in some instances the trees to be