

NEW BRUNSWICK INTERESTED.

To the Editor of the Canada Lumberman.

Sir,—I took notice in your valuable paper of the 15th Dec. two very sensible written letters, —one by Manufacturer, and the other by Hon. H. G. Joly. Manufacturer shows in plain language our lumber manufacturers are in danger of being drifted on lee shore, by allowing the Americans to take the wind out of our sails; allowing them to cross the boundary and float away our lumber unmanufactured to their own shores to be manufactured, encouraging labor and capital to help build up their country out of our material, and charging us \$2 per M feet duty if we attempt to compete with them.

I trust not only manufacturers, but farmers, laborers, mechanics, and men of all classes will put their shoulder to the wheel and cry out against the unfairness of the Dominion to allow Americans yearly to rob us of our staple article, with no restriction or recompense, for one and all are interested in the matter, and if we allow Americans to follow up with impunity a few years more, to cross the lines and slaughter our forests, one-half of our manufacturers of lumber will be driven into bankruptcy, and their fine costly establishments closed and decaying. Labor is the wealth of any country, and so long as we allow our forest to be snatched from us to go on the American side to be manufactured, just so long we are giving Americans a premium to oppose our lumber industry, and unless our manufacturers' advice is at once taken by our Dominion to put on the same export duty on our raw material going out of the country to the American side to be manufactured, that they charge for our manufactured article going into the United States, we may expect to be left on the lee shore, and our lumber trade stranded in a very few years.

I may remark that its not only Ontario that is in danger now, all above the Grand Falls, is New Brunswick, American and English capitalists have, and are contemplating building mills to cut our cedar and what few spruce we have left. Inside of five years there will be but little if any worth cutting if they go on at the rate they are now cutting. And in Nova Scotia they strip it of its lumber by building immense large rafts and tow them with powerful tugs to the United States ports to be manufactured.

The Hon. Mr. Joly's remarks on forestry are worthy of particular attention, and every man owning an acre of land should plant more or less of some sort of trees, and report for the benefit of humanity, and try to cultivate a taste to improve tree growing and forest protection, and demand of our Governments to put a stop American capital coming over to slaughter our forest as we want it all for Canadians. And we cannot wonder at the American press saying our Dominion politics does more to drive emigration to their shores than all their own politicians and emigration scholars yet been tried.

It has been customary with our politicians to lock the door after the horse has been stolen, and likely the same old groove will be followed for the future.

Most respectfully yours,

P. O. Byrom.

Madawaska, N. B., Dec. 1885.

THE FORESTS OF SIBERIA.

The Russian Journal of Finance Minister has published a long article on the forests of Eastern Siberia, of which the following are the principal passages:—"The immense forests of pines, larches, cedars, birches, aspens and limes which form almost the exclusive wealth of this region; belong for the greater part to the State. During a great number of years this source of wealth was almost entirely unproductive. It is only since 1869 that a more or less regular administration of forests has been established, and at the present time the extent of the forests in Eastern Siberia are estimated at 72,335,230 deciatines (about 11 square yards each.) These are divided between Tobolsk, Tomsk, Semipalatinsk, and Akmolinsk. Of these forests, 21,355,760 deciatines have been accurately surveyed, and 50,979,570 have been valued very approximately. One hundred and five forests have been conceded to the peasants, and they have an extent of 7,068,240 deciatines. In com-

parison with their enormous extent the forests of Eastern Siberia give at the present time but an insignificant revenue. The want of means of communication, and an insufficient population, greatly hinder its development. Still, the revenue is increasing, for in 1870 it was only 40,000 roubles, and in 1884 it was more than 111,000. The chief centre of the trade is in the town of Tomsk, and then Tumen, which is point of departure for the river traffic."

QUARTERED OAK.

For the past two years quarter-sawn white oak has gradually been grown in favor, and the present demand is largely in excess of any previous demand for years. The thickness most used is inch, and it is worked into flooring and general house finishing. The furniture manufacturers are using quite an amount for dining tables and sideboards, and the manufacturers of desks and chamber sets use limited amounts. The beauty and value of quarter-sawn oak is in the figure, and takes more than ordinary sawyer to cut the log to the best advantage. Only the largest and best logs should ever be quartered, as a most desirable feature in such stock is to secure clearness and width. The eastern market will take quartered oak, five inches and up wide, but the buyers also place the value on a car load by the amount of lumber that is over 12 in. in width.

The best length to cut quartered oak is 14 feet, although there is a demand for more or less 16 feet, and for such a good price is easily obtained. The demand for thick oak is limited, and the price is usually from \$3 to \$4 per M. more than for boards.

Quartered oak should always be square-edged, and piled in such a manner as to dry out perfectly straight. An eighth of an inch should always be allowed in the sawing, so that the boards will dry out to full thickness.—Timber.

QUEBEC TIMBER AND LUMBER EXPORT.

"The past season has been one depression in all branches of commerce, and the lumber business of this port forms no exception." Such is the opening sentence of Messrs. J. Bell Forsyth & Co.'s lumber report for 1885. The circular states that the arrivals from sea of both steamships and sailing vessels show a slight increase over last year, while the tonnage from the lower ports is also in excess. The total supply of timber measured, by the returns from the supervisor of cullers, was as under:—

SUPPLY.	
Year 1885.....	9,000,000 feet.
" 1884.....	8,250,000 "
EXPORT.	
Year 1885.....	10,500,000 feet.
" 1884.....	9,000,000 "
STOCK WINTERING.	
Year 1885.....	11,750,000 feet.
" 1884.....	12,250,000 "

These figures show a great falling-off during the past ten years when the average export of white pine alone was over 12 million feet. In deals, taking pine and spruce together, the export has been slightly under that of the previous year and the stock wintering rather more.

The accounts from Great Britain show a considerable reduction in the consumption of Canadian timber, and the imports, though light, have been more than ample for the requirements; from all quarters a dull market is reported.

WHITE PINE.—Waney board.—The quantity measured, some of which has been in the coves for a year or more, show a heavier supply than last year, and the stock on hand slightly in excess of that wintering a year ago. Fresh timber of choice quality has been in good demand all season at our highest quotations while old or inferior has been entirely neglected. The stock comprises some choice girthy wood, also a larger proportion than usual of old, small and inferior.

DITTO SQUARE.—The supply has been the lightest since 1879, when it was reduced to 23 million feet, the export light, and the quantity wintering, though less than last year, about an average of the past five. A fair demand existed during the early part of the season especially for choice or new rafts, some of which were

placed at high figures, while for old and inferior wood there were no buyers except at greatly reduced rates. Towards the autumn enquiry almost ceased, the shipping houses manifesting no disposition to add to their light stocks. The rafts on hand are to a greater extent than usual held on manufacturers' account, though only three or four new lots are comprised in this list.

When we issued our last circular a number of rafts, the production of 1883 and 1884, were laid up on the Ottawa in readiness for the spring market; these have reached the coves, as well as the manufacture of the past winter, so that the stock now wintering—which includes much inferior wood—is all that can be counted on as available for the spring fleet. From latest advices the production will be extremely light this winter.

	Supply. 1885.	Export. 1885.	Stock. 1885.
Square.....	2,820,045		6,651,604
Waney....	2,576,753	6,758,240	2,588,603
	Supply. 1884.	Export. 1884.	Stock. 1884.
Square.....	3,707,169		7,501,520
Waney.....	2,199,857	6,047,680	2,399,001

RED PINE.—The supply has been almost nil, owing to the scant demand and low prices of past years, the export fair and the quantity on hand less than one-third of the usual average with a good deal of old and inferior wood in stock.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1885.....	73,766	64,160	473,136
1884.....	327,738	614,280	1,012,426

OAK.—The supply has been double that of 1884, the export greater and the quantity wintering more than sufficient for all early requirements. Prices opened steadily, with a downward tendency and a weak market towards the close of the season. The only wood now readily sold in this market is choice in quality and make, and manufacturers cannot be too particular in this respect. The quantity wintering at Garden Island is small. Sawed oak exported from the United States to Great Britain is in many ways now taking the place of square timber.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1885.....	1,566,968	1,626,400	1,078,051
1884.....	772,250	1,212,520	837,715

ELM.—Notwithstanding the difficulty in securing standing timber the production last winter was heavier than usual, the export larger and the stock on hand greater than for some years. The demand has been fair but the closing prices easier, owing in a great measure to the heavy stock. It is estimated the manufacture this winter will be greatly curtailed.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1885.....	1,018,932	884,160	560,453
1884.....	657,919	658,090	114,961

ASH.—The receipts and exports have been light and the wintering stock heavy. It contains a large amount of old timber unsuitable for shipment and useful only for sawing up for local consumption. Good wood is held at our highest rates, while inferior is unsalable and neglected.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1885.....	287,595	262,480	428,635
1884.....	451,984	360,080	389,358

BIRCH.—The shipment has been large, the quantity wintering very light. Prices have been fairly maintained, and for parcels of good average there has been a fair demand.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1885.....	379,059	457,160	22,138
1884.....	194,346	241,120	23,038

STAVES.—This branch of the Quebec business which once formed so important an item of export will disappear from our stock list altogether if the decrease continues in the same ratio for the next few years.

The present stock of pipe is equal to the export of the last two seasons, while that of puncheon is considerably less.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1885—Pipe.....	144	152	349
1885—Puncheon....	189	469	310
1884—Pipe.....	98	183	379
1884—Puncheon....	261	700	474

DEALS.—Pine has been in good request, especially for specifications containing fair proportions of first quality and broads, which have been scarce all season, and have commanded

extreme rates. The enhanced quotations for all the higher grades of lumber in the United States will not only curtail the shipments of Michigan deals to the St. Lawrence, but must also attract a larger proportion than usual of choice Canadian lumber suitable for deals to that market. From all appearances prices are likely to be well maintained, and may rule even higher for next year's delivery. The export has been slightly under that of last year, the stock wintering rather heavier; including, however, a larger proportion than usual of culls and odd sizes. We learn that the shipments from Montreal have increased considerably this season.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1885.....	2,668,240	2,370,737	965,648
1884.....	2,247,240	2,442,946	847,653

SPRUCE.—For some weeks in the early spring a brisk demand existed, attributable, however, more to the fact that the fleet arrived almost simultaneously and that the mills, owing to the lowness of water, were unusually late in getting to work. As the season advanced prices dropped, but towards the close of navigation considerable sales were made at fair figures. We would, however, urge our mill men to curtail the supply, as we are convinced that if the manufacture be excessive the present healthy tone will not be maintained.

	Supply.	Export.	Stock.
1885.....	2,635,324	2,473,629	822,632
1884.....	2,222,557	2,636,465	838,817

Freights have ruled low all season, opening at 20s. to 22s. 6d. Timber, 47s. 6d. to 50s. Deals to Liverpool, 20s. to 22s. 6d. Timber, 50s. to 52s. 6d. Deals to London, 17s. 6d. to 19s. Timber, 45s. to 47s. 6d. Deals to Greenock closing at 18s. Timber, 45s. Deals to Liverpool, 20s. Timber, 45s. to 47s. 6d. Deals to London, 18s. 6d. to 17s. timber, and 45s. deals to Clyde.

THE BAND MILL.

The interest in band saws does not abate. Owners of good timber see the necessity of making the most of it. Good pine is too valuable to throw away in sawdust. The time was when the thickest circulars were thought to be the best saws. They were durable, easily run, and the wide kerf was no objection. Gangs were not introduced as timber savers particularly; the saving they made was a consideration with some, but the fact of superior manufacture was the prime object.

The oldest operators in the field are the ones who are now giving the most thought to band saws. Years of experience have taught them that by the older methods of manufacture what would otherwise bring to them many dollars goes into the refuse heaps. They plainly, and forcibly see that this is poor policy. They are also aware that their pine possessions are growing smaller year by year. They want to make the most of the last of it. It is often said—and we all know it by experience—that a person never fully appreciates a friend until that friend is gone. So it is with pine. When it was plentiful, and could be had at \$1.25 an acre of government for asking, it was not appreciated. Its value was underrated. In a strictly commercial sense it was worth only what it would bring, but its prospective value was much greater. The latter value was what was considered by the cautious and far sighted, as is proved by the fortunes at which several holders have recently disposed of their timber.

That band saws, almost without number, will be put in as soon as possible, admits of no question. It can be said that there is a craze for them, but it is backed by common sense, and strictly business principles. The machine that will pay for itself in a few months is considered a good investment, and we believe a good band saw will do that. The man who can change his methods of business and make \$1.25 when before he made but \$1, will naturally, as soon as possible, place himself in a position to secure the extra 25 per cent. If he can do this by using a band saw, instead of a circular, he is certainly excusable for being an enthusiast.

The men who do not wish to adopt band saws are those who cut coarse stock mainly, and who are obliged to turn out large quantities of it, in order that their business may be profitable. A small output of lumber of low grades rarely pays. There is but small profit on a thousand