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THE RIVER, STREAM AND CREEK ACT.

Whatever view the reader may take of the bill now before the Ontario Legislature for the purpose of "Protecting the Public Interest in Rivers, Streams and Creeks," everyone will concede that it affects interests of vital importance to those engaged in lumbering operations and deserves the fullest consideration and discussion at their hands. The following are the provisions of the bill as introduced by the Commissioner of Crown Lands,—the Hon. Mr. Pardee:—

1. So far as the Legislature of Ontario has authority so to enact, all persons shall, subject to the provisions in this Act contained, have, and are hereby declared always to have had, during the spring, summer and autumn freshets, the right to, and may float and transmit saw-logs and all other timber of every kind, and all rafts and crafts, down all rivers, creeks and streams in respect of which the Legislature of Ontario has authority to give this power; and in case it may be necessary to remove any obstruction from such river, creek or stream, or construct any apron, dam, slide, gate-lock, boom, or other work therein or thereon, necessary to facilitate the floating and transmitting such saw-logs and other timber, rafts or crafts, down the same, then it shall be lawful for the person requiring so to float and transmit such saw-logs and other timber, rafts and crafts, and it is hereby declared always to have been lawful, to remove such obstructions, and to construct such apron, dam, slide, gate-lock, boom, or other work necessary for the purposes aforesaid, doing no unnecessary damage to the said river, creek or stream, or to the banks thereof.

2. In case any person shall construct in or upon such river, creek or stream, any apron, dam, slide, gate-lock, boom or other work, necessary to facilitate the floating or transmission of saw-logs or other timber, rafts or crafts, down any such river, creek or stream, which was not navigable or floatable before such improvements were made, or shall blast rocks, or remove shoals or other impediments, or otherwise improve the floatability of such river, creek, or stream, such person shall not have the exclusive right to the use or control of such river, creek or stream, or to such constructions and improvements; but all persons shall have, during the spring, summer and autumn freshets, the right to float and transmit saw-logs and other timber, rafts and crafts, down all such rivers, creeks or streams, and through and over such constructions and improvements, doing no unnecessary damage to the said constructions and improvements, or to the banks of the said rivers, creeks or streams, subject to the payment to the person who has made such constructions and improvements, of reasonable tolls.

3. The foregoing sections, and all the rights therein given, and all the provisions therein

made and contained, shall extend and apply to all rivers, creeks and streams, mentioned in the first section of this Act, and to all constructions and improvements made therein or thereon, whether the bed of such river, creek or stream, or the land through which the same runs, has been granted by the Crown or not, and if granted by the Crown, shall be binding upon such grantees, their executors and assigns.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may fix the amounts which any person entitled to tolls under this Act shall be at liberty to charge on the saw-logs and different kinds of timber, rafts or crafts, and may from time to time vary the same; and the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, in fixing such tolls shall have regard to, and take into consideration, the original cost of such constructions and improvements, as well as the amount required to maintain the same, and to cover interest upon the original cost.

5. The foregoing provisions of this Act shall apply to all such constructions and improvements as may hitherto have been made, as well as to such as may be in course of construction, or shall hereafter be constructed.

6. All persons driving saw-logs, or other timber, rafts or crafts, down any such river, creek or stream, shall have the right to go along the banks of any such river, creek or stream, and to assist the passage of the timber over the same by all means usual amongst lumbermen, doing no unnecessary damage to the banks of the said river, creek or stream.

7. If any suit is now pending, the result of which will be changed by the passage of this Act, the court or any judge of such court, having authority over such suit, or over the costs, may order the costs of the suit, or any part thereof, to be paid by the party who would have been required to pay such costs if this Act had not been passed.

Mr. Pardee subsequently moved the House into Committee of the Whole and moved that the following clause be added to the bill.

"That every person owning such improvements may make rules and regulations governing the transmission of logs and timber, but no such regulations shall have any force until approved of by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, who may cancel such regulations and from time to time approve of new ones."

The motion was carried. Mr. Pardee, still later, added another new clause, providing that the tolls imposed should be a lien on the lumber, recoverable before a magistrate, who, in default of payment, could order the sale of the lumber to secure the tolls. The period during which the lumber is liable to seizure was limited to one month.

The bill was read a third time and passed.

Not less than 75,000,000 feet of Canadian lumber was imported in Burlington, Vt., last season—a great gain over 1879.

TIMBER ON ROAD ALLOWANCES.

TORONTO, Feb. 24. In the Legislative Assembly on the motion of Mr. PARDEE, the House went into committee on the following resolutions:—1. In case the Council of any township organized as a separate municipality, or the Council of any united townships, have passed or hereafter pass any by-law for preserving or selling the timber or trees on the Government road allowances within such township or united townships, and included in any such license, the corporation of such township or united townships shall be entitled to be paid, out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of this province, a sum equal to two per centum of the dues received by Her Majesty for or in respect of the timber or saw logs which, during the existence of such a by-law, were cut within the said township or united townships, under the authority of such license; but no corporation shall be entitled to such percentage of the dues received for timber or saw logs cut during the times or seasons when any timber or trees on any such road allowances were cut or removed, for which cutting or removal such corporation had, before the fifteenth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one, obtained a verdict against any such license or nominee. All money to be paid, as aforesaid, to any municipal corporation shall be expended in the improvement of the highways situated within the township or within the senior or junior township in respect of which such moneys were paid. 2. The percentage to which the junior township or townships of such united townships may be entitled shall only be in respect of the dues received upon timber or trees which shall be cut after the thirteenth day of April, 1881.

The resolutions were carried without amendments.

PINE CULTURE ON WASTE LANDS.

Hitherto the abundance of natural timber in this country has made it easy to dispense with timber culture, and for the most part our land owners have taken little interest in such slow growing crops. This state of things, however, is rapidly passing away. The demand for special woods for manufacturing purposes is steadily and rapidly increasing, while the natural supply is diminishing and must ultimately become quite inadequate. Meanwhile there are millions of acres of land suitable for timber culture and for nothing else, except poor pasturage, that our land owners are allowing to lie waste and idle for lack of a little forethought, and too frequently our would-be thrifty farmers will risk their surplus means in wild-cat speculations, promising but never yielding large and speedy returns, when the same money spent in planting timber would convert their worthless swamps and stony places into very valuable properties. A correspondent tells of a piece of land that

was planted with walnut 23 years ago. This land was flooded every spring and summer, and was unfit for ordinary cultivation. The trees are now from 16 to 20 inches through, and have been sold for \$27,000. No particulars are given as to the cost of planting the grove or the amount of attention it has had during the years of growth. There can be little doubt, however, that the investment was small in comparison with the return, and the land would otherwise have remained entirely unproductive; to the contrary, the timber crop was so much clear gain. It is clear that our national resources might be enormously increased by a similar utilization by timber culture of lands which are now unused and unproductive; and the planters will find their groves a surer investment for the security of their family possessions than any savings bank deposit.—*Scientific American.*

LUMBER ON HAND.

The *Lumberman's Gazette* of the 23rd Feb., estimates the amount of lumber on hand in the Mississippi River and tributaries, the Lake Michigan, and the Eastern Michigan and Lake Erie districts, and at miscellaneous points in the same neighborhood as follows:—

	1881.	1880.	1879.
Miss. Valley	873,397,523	704,807,250	585,001,707
Lake Michigan	821,440,973	727,267,181	694,570,721
E. Mich. L. Erie	628,610,768	548,740,000	518,745,000
Misc's points	110,500,000	78,500,000	89,500,000
Total	2,509,054,900	2,059,323,437	1,887,823,518

The *Gazette* thinks these figures are probably accurate enough for purposes of computation, if due allowance is made for what has been sold since the reports were made and for that which is not available for immediate use. So far as its being green or dry, that can only be of consequence at points where rail shipments are to be made, for lumber cut last fall will be considered fit to go on the market as dry by the time navigation is open.

MIDLAND TIMBER SUPPLY.

The following is the estimate of the timber tributary to the Midland Railway for 1881

Smith & Macdougall	150,000
Maxwell	100,000
H. H. Cook	100,000
Burton Bros	200,000
Nagle	150,000
Stennett	25,000
B. C. L. & T. Co	100,000
Coalson	50,000
Irwin & Boyd	250,000
Strickland Bros	130,000
M. Boyd	20,000
Thompson	40,000
	1,375,000

It is estimated that two-thirds of this amount will consist of board timber.

TORONTO is estimated to have consumed 40,000,000 feet of lumber, 15,000,000 of laths and 10,000,000 shingles during 1880.