

# THE Canada Lumberman

MONTHLY AND WEEKLY EDITIONS

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ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION.

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interests of the lumber trade and 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 in which it can rely in its operations.

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 15 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.

## THE PROSPERITY OF CANADA.

The publication of figures showing the value of imports and exports for the fiscal year ending June 30th last has drawn attention with renewed emphasis to the wonderful prosperity now prevailing throughout the Dominion of Canada. The total value of the import and export trade of the country amounted to \$414,517,358, exceeding the previous year by \$36,827,673. The value of imports was \$202,791,595, and of exports \$211,639,286. The statistics show a remarkable growth of Canadian manufactures during the past six years, the iron and steel production alone increasing from \$10,000,000 in 1896 to over \$28,000,000 last year. The cement industry expanded from \$252,882 to \$784,747 during the period mentioned.

The commercial and industrial development of the country is expanding at a rapid rate. Manufacturing industries of all kinds are taxed to their utmost capacity to meet the demand for goods, and notwithstanding large extensions during the past few years, orders are now on the books of manufacturers which will keep the mills and factories running for months to come.

The abundant harvest in Manitoba and the Territories assures a continuance of this prosperity throughout Western Canada for another year at least. Returns for their crops will enable the farmers of the west to erect needed buildings and to carry out the many improvements which are required in the development of new territory. The mining and timber resources of Canada are being developed in a manner as never before. The railways have this year found their supply of rolling stock more inadequate than ever to move the mer-

chandise of the country, and are building new equipment as speedily as possible.

The question suggests itself, are the prosperous conditions of the present near an end, and we are reminded that periods of prosperity and depression have occurred in the past at regular cycles. But Canadians need little fear anything in the nature of serious depression, particularly for the reason that the development of Canada is yet in its infancy. With a territory large enough to accommodate ten times as many people, and with an abundance of natural resources, all predictions of a yet wonderful nation seem warranted. We may have a temporary lull in trade, but the future of Canada is likely to be gradual growth and expansion. With the greater development of the country ample scope will be provided for the labors of our young men, many of whom now migrate to the United States in search of a larger field.

Indicative of future development are the investments that are now being made by United States capitalists in Canadian timber limits. The International Paper Company own an immense area of timber land in Canada and are constantly adding to their resources. More recently C. P. Easton & Company, of Albany, have invaded Canadian territory by the purchase of timber limits in the Province of Quebec estimated to contain over 300,000,000 feet of pine and spruce. A similar step has been taken by Stetson, Cutler & Company, of Boston. Capitalists such as these are not concerned about tariff questions, but recognize that the country in which the raw material is located holds the whip hand.

## COST OF LABOR AND SUPPLIES.

The extraordinary wave of prosperity referred to in the above article is responsible in part for an increased demand for human labor. From all parts of the Dominion an urgent call for laborers is heard. This condition has affected lumbermen seriously, for it has been impossible to secure all the men required for work in the woods this winter. When work is plentiful, as at present, the laborer who in other times has been compelled to be idle in the summer months while working in the woods in winter, gives up the charm of the woods and seeks steady employment in other branches of industry. It has been found necessary, as a result thereof, to employ many inexperienced men who, until they become accustomed to methods of lumbering, do not render very efficient service.

In British Columbia, where logging operations are carried on to some extent throughout the year, the scarcity of men for logging operations has handicapped the mills all summer, some of them being obliged to close down for lack of a supply of timber. The wages offered there to white men range from \$2.50 to \$3.50 a day, but even the maximum figure has failed to command the services of a sufficient number. The wages offered in Ontario and the eastern provinces are unusually high—for some classes of workmen higher than they have ever been in the past.

The supplies required by lumbermen for logging operations are relatively higher than last year. Canned goods, especially tomatoes

and corn, and raisins are higher, whereas sugar, cucumbers and apples are cheaper. There has been a considerable advance in beef and pork, the former being \$2 and the latter \$3 per barrel higher than last year. Taking lumbering supplies as a whole, the advance in prices is probably equal to ten per cent.

The scarcity of labor and cost of logging operations is certain to affect the log production of the coming winter. Of course, when the mills cease operations and the harvest in the North-West is gathered, the supply of labor will be more abundant, but it will not be possible to make up entirely for the decreased operations consequent upon the present stringency in the labor market. Although the lumber market is proverbially strong and likely to continue so for some time, we do not anticipate that the cut this winter will be unusually large.

## DISPOSAL OF WASTE PRODUCT.

What is known as the waste product of saw and shingle mills has always been a source of expense to lumbermen. In steam mills it is possible to utilize a portion of the sawdust and other waste as fuel, but the balance must be disposed of in some other manner. With water power mills the refuse is not required for fuel and is usually consumed by large burners erected for the purpose at a considerable cost. To find some method of profitably utilizing the waste product is a question to which much consideration has been given, but which has not as yet been satisfactorily solved.

Some progress has been made in the direction of reducing the quantity of waste material. The saws used to-day are much thinner than those used ten years ago. Caution is exercised in sawing the logs, making the lumber not thicker than is actually required; and the sawyer who knows how to handle a log so as to get the most out of it is always in demand.

Occasionally is heard the complaint of the theorist as to the wasteful methods of lumbering. A little investigation would convince such persons that the waste around saw mills has been reduced to the minimum, and that as far as is commercially practicable all material is utilized. It should not be forgotten that the material can only be worked up to the extent that the returns therefrom are equal to or greater than the expenditure for machinery and labor. Unless there is a profit as a result of the work the lumberman is not likely to devote his time to working up by-products. The he disposes of his refuse at some expense means of a burner is a condition over which he has no control, as the amount of sawdust and other waste material around a mill is so great as to render its disposal in some manner an absolute necessity.

Lumbermen are not entirely hopeless if some method will yet be found of profitably working up the waste of their mills. Gradually they seem to be getting nearer to solution of the problem. A few years ago Messrs. Edwards, Booth and Egan, Ottawa, started a manufactory for this purpose under the auspices of Mr. Emerson, chemist, and while it was not altogether successful, enough was accomplished to show