

be forgotten that American lumber dealers have as free access to our markets as Canadian merchants have to the markets of the United States. As a Michigan lumberman in a trade circular sent to Ontario merchants says, "the removal of duties works both ways," and Western Ontario is no longer the exclusive territory of Canadian dealers.

As to the extent of this winter's operations in the woods of northern Ontario, different opinions have been expressed. Some lumbermen say that the cut will be a large one, while others claim that even less than the usual amount of logs will be taken out of the woods. The forests of Minnesota, Wisconsin and of northern Michigan have suffered severely through recent forest fires. It is estimated that during the recent fires 62,000,000 feet of lumber and from 8,000,000 to 10,000,000 feet of logs were destroyed. This, added to the quantity burned previously during the year, brings the amount permanently removed up to the enormous total of 350,000,000 feet. It seems but reasonable that in the consideration of market conditions this loss should figure as a bull argument.

Rumor has it that one of the Canadian railway corporations proposes to increase its tariff on the carriage of lumber. If true this will be an unfortunate discrimination against the inland mills. The railway officials probably think that they should secure "a share of the dollar a thousand." But lumbermen claim that the price of lumber has not advanced, nor is it likely to do so as a result of the tariff changes. The only advantage gained by the free lumber clause is a more extended market for our products; as the duty previously stood it prohibited the export of the lower grades of Canadian lumber. The Canadian Pacific Railway in Manitoba, on the other hand, has yielded to the demands of traders and settlers, and lumber carriage charges have been materially reduced.

THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

The North-West Assembly met at Regina, Assiniboia, on the 31st August, when the estimates for the fiscal year ending with August next were presented, and Mr. Haultain moved the House into committee on supply. He explained that the fiscal year had been last year changed from June 30 to Aug. 31, so that when the session met they would not have run a month or two into the next fiscal year. The expenditure of the Territories for the ensuing twelve months is estimated at \$271,657. Of this sum about 42 per cent. is for schools and more than 28 per cent. for roads, bridges and miscellaneous expenditure. Aid to statute labor districts, 36 in number, and to agricultural societies, is put down at \$4,000 each. This, said the Premier, is a new departure. "We propose to allow these people in proportion to the work (road work, &c.) they do for themselves. This vote will be expended by order-in-council as a grant to each district as their work shall show." With respect to agricultural societies, of the value of whose efforts the Premier spoke none too highly, the purpose is, that instead of leaving aid to legal societies as a claim on the distinct vote, a specific part be made for them. The amount asked for a territorial exhibition is \$5,000, and does not agree with the statement from the *Winnipeg Free Press* of Sept. 3, printed elsewhere, that \$25,000 had been allotted for an exhibition in the Territories in 1895. Respecting the item of \$5,250 for the Executive Committee, Mr. Haultain explained that this body was constituted with a view to system and economy, and that it had effected a substantial reduction (\$3,570) in clerical assistance and the cost of government.

No vote is asked for immigration, it being thought not advisable in present circumstances to supplement the

Dominion Government vote for that purpose. The vote of \$20,000 for Legislative Assembly elections is justified in view of the fact that the present Assembly's term expires on 22nd November coming, and a general election will have to be held.

It is stated by the leader of the Assembly that the sum allotted by the Federal Government, some \$200,000 a year, is insufficient for the government of the Territories. Indeed a memorial sent to Ottawa in 1891 claimed that no less than \$400,000 is absolutely necessary for the proper carrying on of the government of the North-West. The language of Mr. Haultain on this matter is as follows: "We are contributing a large amount to the Federal revenue and are not receiving back a fair share according to population. While we are granted certain self-governing institutions, we have not any of the ordinary revenues enjoyed by the provinces. Everything of a revenue producing nature is controlled by the Dominion Government." Discussing the grant and the method under which it is administered, the speaker further desired the assembly to consider whether the machinery in vogue is necessary or desirable, whether it is the best under the circumstances, whether the provincial system is the best? He added his own opinion that the territorial system is not desirable. Here we are given, he said, in effect, certain duties to perform, and are not given the proper amount of money to carry them out. Should we not therefore press our claim for a larger grant?

Dr. Brett, in congratulating the leader of the executive committee on his speech, and on the departure, although small, in the manner of dealing with public moneys, regretted that the departure was so small. For the past five or six years he was aware that the present system was not a good one and was prejudicial to our interests in Ottawa.

The estimates for the twelve months ending 31st Aug., 1895, as laid on the table, was as follows:

RECEIPTS.	
Balance federal vote for 1894 and 1895	\$190,095 68
Estimated receipts, local sources	30,000 00
Estimated proportion of federal vote for 1894 and 1896 for months of July and August, 1895	37,500 00
Estimated balance on Aug. 31, 1894	14,061 82
Total	\$271,657 50
EXPENDITURE.	
Executive Committee	\$ 5,250 00
Clerical assistance	11,160 00
Expenditure under "the liquor license ordinance"	6,000 00
Executive Committee	5,250 00
Schools	114,000 00
Stationery, telegrams, postage and telephone	2,500 00
Newspapers and periodicals	250 00
Printing and advertising	6,000 00
Contingencies	1,000 00
Light and fuel	1,000 00
Roads, bridges and miscellaneous district expenditure	78,000 00
Elections for Legislative Assembly	20,000 00
Aid to statute labor districts and municipalities	4,000 00
Expenditure under "the agricultural societies ordinance"	4,000 00
Territorial Exhibition	5,000 00
Hospitals	4,000 00
Sundries	8,997 50
Total expenditure	\$271,657 50

CANADIAN POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

When Canadians grumble because our Government does not give us a universal rate of two cents per half ounce letter, such as the Americans have, or when they find fault, as most of us do, because a two-cent letter rate instead of one is charged on city letters, we do not, perhaps, make adequate allowance for the burthen of expense our Post Office Department has to bear. From Cape Breton across the widest part of the continent to Vancouver Island is a long way, and from York Factory on Hudson's Bay to Pelee Island in Lake Erie is a far cry. Yet, over distances so enormous as these, for the most part sparsely