

### THE LUMBERMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO.

The annual meeting of the Lumbermen's Association of Ontario took place at McConkey's Restaurant, Toronto, on Tuesday, February 17th. After a splendid luncheon, provided by the Board of Management, had been partaken of, the President, Mr. John Walde, announced that there would be no toast list, but that the association would be glad, before commencing the business meeting, to hear some remarks from Hon. G. W. Ross, Premier of Ontario.

The Premier was very brief, simply acknowledging the invitation and complimenting the association upon its success. The association had been found very useful in assisting the Government in the adoption of the manufacturing clause, which had proved of great advantage to the province.

The minutes of the previous meeting and the financial and statistical reports were read by the Secretary. The President submitted his annual address, as follows:

#### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

At this our annual meeting, we must recognize that for the industry we represent the times are exceedingly kind, and never in the history of Ontario has lumber reached a higher figure than prevails to-day. Never before have bills for lumber been more promptly met.

All through the past year prices have steadily advanced, and the demand for all kinds of sawmill products has been good, and we enter the present year with a moderate stock of sawn lumber to meet the ever-increasing local and foreign demand, and holders of lumber need fear no drop in prices for the next six months.

Although the prices are very high, in view of the advance in stumpage and labor, the percentage of profit is not excessive. Wages for work in the woods, with board, in the year 1897 averaged \$16.00 per month, and since that time there has been a steady increase, so that wages have just doubled in five years. Thus, the advance in wages has kept pace with the advance in lumber. The same advance has taken place in many of the items of supply, especially in the price of horses. In 1897 the average price per horse was \$65, and in 1902 \$175. It will therefore be seen that the high price and advance on lumber has been proportionately distributed between labor and capital.

The only irritant and drawback to a state of complete satisfaction on the part of the lumbermen is the scarcity of cars for transportation. The transportation conditions of this country have not kept pace with the growth of the country. The railway management have within recent years frequently advanced rates, but in no case have they increased the facilities so that the traffic supplied could be promptly handled. A very largely increased tonnage would give a greater profit to the road, and bear less heavily upon the industries of the country. The Directorate of the Canadian Pacific Railway are to be commended for their recent decision to expend a large amount on the betterment of the road and increase of their equipment, seeing that a 5 per cent. dividend on common stock to the original subscribers is a liberal one. We also congratulate the Grand Trunk management on their decision to improve their line by the use of new capital, rather than increasing their rates and lessening the facilities for the local business on their road.

This Association was organized with a view to bringing legislation into force that logs taken from territory under license, the property of the Crown or People, should be manufactured in this country. The Ontario Government has since added to that the condition that pulpwood and hemlock (both the tree and the bark) when taken from the Crown lands, shall be manufactured or used in Canada. This Association has never desired, nor does it desire in any way, to interfere with the freedom of the owner of timber on deeded lands, and in view of the prosperity that has been attained through the Provincial Act, we desire to express our

regret that any appeal has been made by the paper makers of this country to place an export duty on pulpwood when our Provincial legislation gives all the protection necessary. It only remains for the other Provinces to follow the example of Ontario, and put in force regulations so that the timber wealth of this country, belonging to the Crown, shall be disposed of for the benefit of Canadians.

We are quite willing to emphasize the motto "Canada for the Canadians," and this can be done most efficiently by Provincial control over Provincial property, rather than by interference through the Dominion Government by placing an export duty on the property of the Crown belonging to a Province.

We desire to repeat a statement made some years ago that this Association has made no concerted effort with a view to raising prices, nor is there any encouragement offered to combines or monopolies, but we have contented ourselves with the market prices given by the ordinary working of the law of supply and demand.

We desire to again express the conviction of this Association, that the time has arrived when both the Dominion and Provincial Governments should stop granting subsidies to promoters for the purpose of building railroads to open the country. Where roads are requisite let the Governments of the Dominion and Provinces join hands in the building and owning of the road, and let the transportation companies operate on terms so as to give a fair return for the work performed. This might be accomplished by the Dominion constructing a trunk line from ocean to ocean, and the Provinces building the branch lines.

In view of the advantages already derived by joint action, and for the purpose of objecting to any legislation prejudicial to the interests we represent, this Association has fully justified its formation, and its continued activity along the same lines we trust will make for the development of the country.

The reports above mentioned and the President's address were unanimously adopted.

The President, referring to the requisition of the pulp and paper manufacturers for an export duty on pulpwood, said that the moment it was applied the lumber interests of the United States would clamour for an increased duty on lumber, as provided for by the Dinghy bill. The question of controlling the timber lands should be left entirely in the hands of the provincial governments. It was unfair that conditions applying only to Quebec and New Brunswick should be permitted to affect the whole Dominion. Ontario and British Columbia had met the situation by enforcing a home manufacturing clause, and the other provinces should have sufficient courage to do likewise. There was a probability of another session of the Joint High Commission in the near future, and he thought it should be distinctly understood that the lumbermen of Ontario are not willing to waive the manufacturing clause under any consideration.

Mr. John Bertram made some forcible remarks against any interference with the prevailing timber regulations. As many Americans had, as a result of the saw-log legislation, established mills in Ontario, it was doubly, he thought, the duty of Canadians and the Governments of the country to protect their investments. Under no consideration would the association agree to an export duty on pulpwood or logs of any kind.

Messrs. Robert Watt, W. D. Lummis, H. S. Brennan, Robert Laidlaw, John Conlon and others announced their sympathy with the sentiments expressed in the President's address, whereupon Mr. Bertram moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. James Playfair and carried unanimously:

"That the address of the President of the Ontario Lumbermen's Association be adopted, and that a memorial be presented to the Dominion Government that in view of the serious international questions which may arise by the Government of Ottawa acceding to the request recently made to them by some of the pulp men of Canada that an export duty should be placed on pulpwood, it is the opinion of this Association that no export duty should be placed on any product of the forest, but that the timber, being the property of the Provinces, the policy of dealing with it should be left in their hands."

It was also resolved that the meeting heartily endorse the resolution passed at the last annual meeting of the Canadian Forestry Association, as follows:

"In view of the enormous loss of timber by fire, this Association, embracing a membership from all parts of the Dominion, having at this its annual meeting had under consideration the great mistake that has been made in the past by opening up for settlement land unsuitable for agricultural purposes but adapted for the growth and production of timber, would respectfully urge on the Governments of the Country both Federal and Provincial the necessity of greater attention in future to this important subject. The Association would further urge in order that this may be intelligently done that the newer and unsettled portions of the country should be explored in advance of settlement."

Referring to the above resolution, Mr. Bertram urged that every lumberman should endeavor to adopt such methods of cutting and preservation as would perpetuate his timber supply. The state of Michigan, he said, had appointed a special commission to endeavor to buy back about 4,000,000 acres of deforested land with a view to the cultivation of trees thereon.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of a board of management for the ensuing year resulted as follows: President, W. D. Lummis, Toronto; first Vice-President, R. Laidlaw, Toronto; second Vice-President, George Thomson, Goderich; Secretary-Treasurer, W. B. Tindall, Toronto. Board of Management—J. B. Miller, W. B. McLean, W. P. Bull, Toronto; R. H. Roys, Sandwich; J. S. Playfair, D. L. White, Midland; C. Beck, Penetang; W. J. Ard, South River; W. J. Sheppard, Waubesa.

Officials of the Quebec Government who have completed a survey of the vast territory, state that there are fully 65,000,000 acres of good spruce and pine lands lying between Lake St. John and the James Bay. This is all in the hands of the government, but will be placed at auction in parcels of 10, 15 and 25 miles upon request. Heretofore the territory lying on the Ontario side of the boundary has received most attention, and it is well bought up. The tide of investment is turning towards Quebec, however, and in the past few years limits have greatly increased in value. The territory is, according to the government reports, well watered and marked by several good water powers. Thus everything facilitates the promotion of the pulp industry.