

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN.

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THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

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

Special correspondents in localities of importance present accurate reports not only of prices and the condition of the market but, also of other matters specially interesting to our readers. But correspondence is not only welcome but is invited from all who have any information to communicate or subjects to discuss relating to the trade or in any way effecting it. Even when we may not be able to agree with the writers we will give them a fair opportunity for free discussion as the best means of eliciting the truth. Any items of interest are particularly requested for even if not of great importance individually they contribute to a fund of information from which general results are obtained.

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 three 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.

MR. William Westly, writing from Portland, Me., to a Canadian exchange says, many of the Canadian mill men might do well this year if prices keep up, in sawing New York orders instead of South American orders, as the price is \$2 per thousand better than last year. Any one could run a random order for New York that had timber suitable for the South American trader.

THE Canadian Rubber Co. has secured the sole right for the Dominion to manufacture the celebrated Forsyth Patent Seamless Belting. This belting, which is now being introduced for the first time in this country, is intended to obviate all the criticisms and present possible defects to which the hitherto established methods are subject. Mr. J. H. Walker is the efficient manager of the Toronto Branch of the Canadian Rubber Co.

THE legislature of Newfoundland has just passed a bill authorizing grants of land from five to 150 miles in extent for a term of 99 years, the timber on which may be used for making wood pulp. There are enormous areas of stunted timber, chiefly spruce and fir, of from six to nine inches in diameter which can be used in this manufacture. A company has been formed, some of whom are English capitalists, who propose to go into this business on a large scale, at St. Johns. A large number of applications for these timber lands have been received and probably several companies will be formed.

THE United States tariff bill has passed the House with some trifling amendments. There is no change in the lumber schedule beyond the reduction of 50 cents per thousand on pine boards and half of one cent per foot on square timber. The proviso which adds the

export duty laid upon logs to manufactured lumber imported from any country levying such export duty does not take effect till March 1st, 1891. Chemical and wood pulp are given a specific duty equivalent to the present rate. The present intention of the Senate Finance Committee is to have the bill reported back to the Senate in three weeks. It is possible that some changes may be made.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD'S announcement in the House of Commons that the Government was ready to remove the export duty of \$2 a thousand on pine and spruce logs, whenever the United States are ready to reduce the duty on sawn lumber to \$1 a thousand, and that the Washington Government would be duly notified to that effect, does not, so far, appear to have had any salutary effect on the rabid retaliationists on the other side of the line. The announcement, however, is in line with the policy advocated by the LUMBERMAN, that if our American friends are really desirous of getting our logs free of duty, they must first remove the duty on sawn lumber, and failing to do this, we favor the levying of an export duty on logs equal to the duty imposed on sawn lumber.

THERE are seven saw mills in the Lake of the Woods, and the lumber cut this season will be unprecedentedly large. Some 40,000,000 feet of Canadian logs as well as about 25,000,000 feet of American logs will be cut at these mills. Hitherto the lumbermen had no bona fide right to cut the timber, but now the Ontario Government, having control, have given the lumbermen what they require, which amounts to a great extent for the increased activity in the business. The Ontario Government purposes, at an distant day, holding a sale of timber to meet the requirements of those now in the industry and others who may desire to purchase. It is currently reported that there will be quite a number of small limits put up to suit purchasers of limited means.

THE editor had the pleasure during the past month of visiting a number of the representative lumber firms of Buffalo and Tonawanda. His brief sojourn was made pleasant by the courtesy shown him by each member of the trade with whom he came in contact, and on his return he had fully arrived at the conclusion that although we cannot always agree on the tariff and other questions, that the Yankee lumberman understands the secret of hospitality. As years pass by and new ones come the mutual interests of the Canadian and American lumbermen are becoming more closely allied, and it is only a matter of time before the one barrier between the lumber trade of the two countries the tariff on logs and lumber will be removed, and our interests will be mutual. We have taken pains to carefully discuss the tariff question with a number of the leading lumbermen at the points visited, and we find that there is an almost universal feeling in favor of abolishing both the export and import duties. Our trip will be continued during the present month as far east as New York, and we hope to glean sufficient information in the different cities visited to fill an interesting page in a future issue of THE LUMBERMAN. In the meantime we will withhold our notes and combine them with those yet to be put on paper.

THE announcement that Smith, Wade & Co., the well known lumber merchants of Quebec, are in financial difficulties has been received with much regret by the prominent lumbermen of that province. The trouble is attributed to speculation in timber and a decline in prices in England. The liabilities are

placed at about two millions, and if no settlement can be arrived at between the firm and its creditors, the failure will have a very depressing effect on the timber trade in the Ancient Capital, as millions of dollars worth of timber in rafts purchased by the firm will be thrown on the market. This would undoubtedly occasion a great depression in prices, and might be the means of bringing about other failures in the timber trade. Some sixty vessels are expected at Quebec on charters made by the firm. The principal creditors are Bryant, Powis & Bryant, of London, \$300,000; Quebec Bank, \$175,000; Bank of Montreal, \$130,000; Merchant's Bank, \$125,000; Bank of British North America, \$75,000; Union Bank, \$25,000, and western lumbermen \$700,000. Later advices assure us that their assets are largely in excess of their liabilities and the principal creditors have agreed to give the time and extension required to realize on the large stock of lumber now held by the firm. It is to be hoped that they will be enabled to carry on their extensive business without the necessity of going into liquidation.

IN a recent interview ex-Congressman Henry C. Burleigh criticised the provisions of the McKinley tariff bill, in which he claimed that the reduction of the duty on pine lumber from \$2 to \$1.50, while the duty on spruce remained at the first named price, laid an additional tax on the poor man's lumber, and also adds an extra twenty-five per cent. per thousand on dressed lumber, practically giving the Canadian planing mills a bonus of fifteen cents, since the difference in freightage between planed and unplaned lumber is forty cents. The American *Economist*, the organ of the American protective tariff league, replying to Mr. Burleigh says, "Supposing it to be true for Mr. Burleigh's particular locality that the difference in the freight on dressed and undressed lumber is fifteen cents more than the difference in duty, yet he must see that it is purely a question of distance from the Canadian border. If the difference in duty were fifty cents or seventy cents or ninety cents, the same objection could be made against the tariff by persons living further from the importing country. If twenty-five cents extra on dressed lumber is not sufficient to overcome the difference in freight, what redress did Mr. Burleigh expect through the Albany *Argus*, which is assiduously working for free lumber? Obviously, if the twenty-five cent duty pays a bonus of fifteen cents per one thousand, to the Canadian planing mills, and if, as Mr. Burleigh says, the difference in freight on dressed and on undressed lumber is forty cents per one thousand, then by precisely the same logic, free lumber, which Mr. Burleigh's friend the *Argus*, demands, would pay a forty cent bonus to the Canadian planing mills. But as a matter of fact, the new tariff bill makes no such provision as Mr. Burleigh attributes to it. Unplaned pine and spruce alike now pay a duty of two dollars per thousand, if planed or finished on one side, two dollars and fifty cents, if planed and finished on two sides three dollars, if planed on one side and tongued and grooved, three dollars, and if planed on two sides and tongued and grooved, three dollars and fifty cents. Now the only change made in the above rates is that unplaned pine is reduced from two dollars to one dollar and fifty cents per thousand. This gives the Whitehall planing mills the same protection that they now receive for all other kinds of lumber, and an additional fifty cents per thousand for dressed pine; that is, one dollar if planed on one side, a dollar and fifty cents if planed and finished on two sides, or tongued and grooved, and two dollars per thousand if planed on two sides and tongued and grooved.