

EXPORT OF SAWLOGS.

Manifestly it is not to the advantage of either the lumberman or the people of Canada that sawlogs should be cut in our forests and then be conveyed to the United States to be there manufactured into timber. It is not fair to our mill owners, workmen and others who thus lose the profit of this business, and the competition is especially unequal as our neighbors impose an import duty upon our lumber. Our remarks apply more especially to the pine of the Muskoka and Algoma districts, as it is here that there are symptoms of an intention to carry on these operations on a large scale; here they are especially obnoxious and here they ought to be capable of being checked. On our south east frontiers, where logs, especially spruce, are taken down small rivers to mills across the border, there may be more difficulty in checking the practice and in some cases it may be less objectionable, so that it might even be tacitly permitted.

The Dominion authorities moved in the right direction last session when they raised the export duty on sawlogs. Having provided the remedy every effort should be made to see that it is applied.

It is quite as much the affair of the Provincial Government to see that the local industries are not starved and ruined by unfair foreign competition, that the resources of the country are not used to enrich foreigners in preference to our own people. It is time that the Province, as such, has nothing to do with export duties but it has jurisdiction in another way, for it is the property of the Province that is in question. Our timber limits are held by lumbermen who are licensed to cut the timber on certain conditions. There should be no insuperable difficulty in the way of dividing an agreement of which one condition should be that the sawlogs should be manufactured into lumber in this country and not abroad. Of course it would have to be drawn carefully so as not on the one hand to restrict the export of square timber, spars, &c., nor on the other hand to leave a loophole open for the evasion of the prohibition to export sawlogs. The penalty for non-compliance might be either the exaction of increased duties if the logs were manufactured abroad, or even the forfeiture of the limit. The officials who now see to ascertaining and collecting the duties, might without additional cost see to the observance of this condition.

The only objection that could be raised to such action on the part of the Province, is that it might be prejudicial to the Provincial revenue by preventing the competition of foreign millowners for the limits, and so having a tendency to lower their value when put up to auction. But this would not be a sufficient reason, since the increased bonus would be dearly purchased, for the benefit of the home manufacture would far outweigh any gain from this source. The Province when disposing of its property would clearly have both the power and the moral right to make such a stipulation, so no objection could be raised under that head.

It is obvious from the official returns that the export duties previously imposed have not been very rigorously collected. Now that the necessity for action is recognized, as is manifest from the step taken last year of increasing the duty, there is less likelihood of neglect in this respect. It has been said that the great extent of our lake shores and the sparse habitation of the timbered districts would render the collection of the export duty almost impossible and very costly. In this opinion we cannot agree; both governments have various officials who might be instructed to protect the common interests in this respect. Any limit holder breaking the law would run the risk or rather would face the certainty of incurring the penalty, for his limit would be there as security for the payment. Then to convey the logs across the lake a tug would be necessary. If it were rendered liable to forfeiture for towing logs from our territory without reporting to the proper authority, its first trip would have to be its last.

It is only right that our forests should not be depleted for the benefit of foreigners at the cost of our own people, and if a little energy is displayed such an injurious practice can be checked.

"PLEASE MENTION THIS PAPER."

A recent issue of our sprightly exchange, *The Builder and Woodworker*, contains some excellent advice to advertisers bearing the significant title given above. It is so good that we present it in full below:

"Please mention this paper." This line starts the reader in the face in many advertisements, in all classes of papers and periodicals, and the request is, in the majority of cases, not complied with. Why should it be? Many advertisers get the idea that no better scheme was ever devised to test the real value of any paper as an advertising medium than this apparently simple request, and yet as an index of value it is practically valueless. Why? Well, think back and see how often you have neglected compliance with similar requests, and tell us why you neglected them. That will be an excuse.

lent reason. There is no obligation resting upon the reader to comply with such requests and as time, which to the busy man is money, may be saved by neglecting them, why, they go unnoticed. Business is like a river with many tributaries, and in which it is impossible to trace every individual drop of water to the spring from whence it came. But if a journal is selected for advertising purposes that reaches time and again the persons most likely to be interested in the solicitation, that paper is certainly a sure fountain-head of profitable trade in the stream of patronage far below. Temporary advertising in a small way will not produce an immediate or permanent increase of business any more than a slight shower will affect the depth of water in a well, but by persistency in the use of printer's ink in the right direction the results sought will be gained in the end with interest.

FREE ENTRY OF FOREIGN-SAWED LUMBER.

(Bangor Whig.)

Memorials setting forth that great frauds upon the revenue have been committed under the guise of the laws granting free entry of lumber manufactured in the British provinces by American citizens from logs cut in the State of Maine, have been numerous signed by the principal lumbermen of the Penobscot and Kennebec Rivers and forwarded to the Secretary of the Treasury through our members of Congress, with request that the department set in motion effective agencies for the prevention of the violations of law complained of. Representative Boutelle recently received a number of these memorials signed by the most prominent lumber manufacturers of Bangor, Old Town, Orono, Milford and the vicinity representing the business on the Penobscot River, forwarded to him by Messrs. W. T. Pearson & Co., and on Tuesday he called personally on Secretary Fairchild with the papers, and had an interview with him in regard to this important matter.

The secretary expressed a very earnest desire to do anything in the power of the department to remedy the evils represented, but stated some of the difficulties encountered, and the importance of having the co-operation of American lumber manufacturers with the revenue authorities in the matter of discovering and punishing fraudulent importation. The interview resulted in the following correspondence:—

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

FEBRUARY 15th, 1887.

Hon. C. A. Boutelle, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

SIR:—Referring to the petition of Messrs. Wm. T. Pearson & Co., Adams & Co., and others of Bangor, Maine, submitted by you to the Department, concerning alleged frauds in the importation of sawed lumber from New Brunswick, claimed to be the productions of the forests of the State of Maine, I transmit herewith a letter this day addressed to the said parties, which I will thank you, after perusal, to cause to be forwarded to the proper address.

Respectfully yours,
C. S. FAIRCHILD,
Acting Secretary.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 15th, 1887.

Messrs. Wm. T. Pearson & Co., Adams & Co., and others,
Bangor, Maine:

GENTLEMEN:—The department is in receipt through the Hon. C. A. Boutelle, of your petition without date, concerning alleged frauds in the importation of sawed lumber from New Brunswick, which is claimed to be the production of logs cut in the State of Maine, and sawn in the Province of New Brunswick by American citizens, and to be entitled to free entry under the provisions of section 2,505 and 2,506 of the Revised Statutes, as contained in the Act of March 3rd, 1883.

The petition represents that great frauds exist in such importation in that a comparatively small amount of Maine timber is mingled with the great drives of the St. John River in New Brunswick, which are floated to the mills in that Province and there manufactured, and that the product, consisting principally of foreign lumber, is then imported into the United States, and admitted to free entry as of the productions of the State of Maine, manufactured in New Brunswick by American citizens.

The department is unable to take any definite action upon the general statement made in said petition. If you will, however, forward particulars concerning any transactions of which you have knowledge, specifying the names of importers, and importing vessels, dates of importations, and other data, the department will cause careful investigation to be made with a view to detect such frauds, and to prevent their recurrence in the future.

Respectfully yours,
C. S. FAIRCHILD,
Acting Secretary.

FOREST FIRES.

The annual report of the Ontario Commissioner of Crown Lands will be found to contain much that is of interest to our readers. It is very satisfactory to find that the wise measures taken by the Mowat Administration with the view of preventing or checking forest fires have been so successful in attaining the desired end. It has been repeatedly said that fire has done more than the axe to deplete our forests, and any mitigation of this evil is therefore a most important consideration alike for the lumbermen, the public treasury and

the country at large. From the departmental report it will be seen that fires last year were less frequent, less destructive and that when they occurred their speed was checked. This was largely due to the precautionary regulations that have been enacted and still more to the employment of officials whose special duty it is to see them enforced. How valuable has been the service rendered by these fire preventive officials is proved beyond cavil by the fact that the lumbermen have shown their appreciation in the very practical way of cheerfully bearing half the expense. In answer to a departmental circular the leading lumbermen have urged the continuance of the service, have expressed their willingness to continue to bear half the expense, and even advocate an extension of the system. Thus encouraged the Government has arranged to increase the number of these officials and to extend the area under their protective care. Even better results may there-

be expected in the future than those which have already proved so gratifying. It appears from the Commissioner's report that he has some natural hesitation to incur the expense of doing all that is asked or all that he thinks advisable. While economy is of course desirable and even necessary, parsimony in such a matter would be as economical as insufficient insurance of property exposed to risk of a conflagration.

The prevention or even the keeping within narrow bounds of these forest fires will save from destruction an enormous amount of property belonging not only to the lumbermen interested but also to the public treasury which has no less at stake. And besides the question of revenue, the whole community has an interest in the preservation of such valuable resources which form a large part of the national wealth.

Apart from the actual destruction of the forests by fire the mere dread of such devastation has an injurious effect. It often happens that limit owners hasten the cut of certain portions of their territory though it may be neither convenient nor expedient thus to hasten their operations, because they would rather submit to some loss and inconvenience than run the risk of the total destruction of property which for some reason they believe to be particularly exposed to danger. When a fire has run through the forest this urgency becomes an imperative necessity, for their cutting within a very limited period is absolutely necessary to prevent extensive deterioration and soon total loss, from the ravages of boring insects.

So too with the public treasury, there is not only the risk of loss by fire, but the very dread of that risk acts prejudicially. Thus Provincial authorities have sometimes placed limits on the market in excess of requirements, and when circumstances were not altogether propitious, for the avowed reason that it was better to do so even at some sacrifice than to lose all by fire, of which there was danger through advancing settlement, explorations for minerals, hunting and trapping, &c. Such forced sales are clearly not to the advantage of the Province, and are not always convenient for lumbermen, who may not care thus to add to their limits in advance of their requirements. With a reduction of the fire risk, these evils would be diminished.

In view of the mischief wrought by forest fires, the regulations for guarding against them should be maintained and even made more strict if necessary, they should be rigidly enforced, and an efficient staff should be employed not only to see them carried out, but also to prevent the spread of such fires as may occur.

OUR New Brunswick correspondents have repeatedly complained of the injustice being done the trade of that province by the government allowing American lumbermen to make free use of their timber resources, and the question is certainly worthy of careful and immediate attention. The geographical position of the province of New Brunswick is such that unless the most stringent protective measures are adopted a continuation of forest destruction by Americans will not only be practiced as in the past but will be pushed with increased vigor. The principal support of the people of this province comes directly or indirectly from its extensive timber operations, and now that this revenue is being cut off, the people are led to enquire "What are we going to do?" Some positive move should be made, and that at once, to impress upon the Government the importance of restricting Americans from engaging in such a wholesale slaughter. If United States lumbermen desire to operate in Canada, let them open out their mills on the Canadian side, and enter into fair competition with our own people. No one will object to this, as American enterprise and capital will always be found acceptable in this country, but when they cross the lines for the express purpose of cutting and carrying away our timber to be manufactured in their mills across the border, it is quite time we should call a halt. The export duty seems to be a dead letter in this province, and no time should be lost in drawing the attention of the local members of parliament to the robbery now going on. The question is of too serious a nature to allow of delay.