

A POWERFUL ALLY WON OVER.

THE *Globe* was the last of the great dailies to express itself upon the question, and, from the position which it occupies as the recognized organ of the Government, greater importance is attached to any deliverance it may make than would otherwise be the case. Apart altogether from this feature of the case, the adhesion of *The Globe* to the proposal is perhaps the strongest testimony of the absolute justice of the demand for an export duty that has yet been given. In its issue of the 16th inst. *The Globe* published a map showing the respective timber areas of Canada and the United States, and although the spruce area of the Dominion is not shown upon it, for the simple reason that the entire northern portions of Ontario and Quebec are covered with the heavier shading, which indicates the pine-bearing lands, yet the few small, scattered areas of spruce lands which indicate the total spruce supply of the northern states, shows that their supply is practically exhausted. After reviewing the history of the lumber industry and the influences which to a large extent govern that industry at present, *The Globe* says: "White pine occupies an exceptional position. What stood in New York and the eastern states has all been cut long ago, and the extensive pineries in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota have been reduced to a few scattered patches in Michigan and to a fringe on the northern end of the other two states. How long this supply will last is a question of great interest to Canadians. Expert opinion goes to show that within ten years at furthest the great bulk of the white pine forests in the United States will be laid low." * * * * * "The yellow pine, the cyprus and the white-wood of the south, the Douglas fir of the Pacific Coast and the redwood of California are all pushing for recognition in the lumber markets, but so long as white pine can be obtained it will keep its place for general building purposes, as no wood is equal to it for lightness and strength for manipulation in wood-working machines or for the tool of the workman.

"While this is the condition of things in the United States, it would be a more difficult task to estimate the quantity of timber still standing in Canada, as, apart from the Ottawa Valley and the Georgian Bay regions, where active operations are being carried on, Ontario has still a large area north of the Canadian Pacific Railway in which white and red pine are indigenous. A great impetus has been given of late years to the cutting of logs in Canada by reason of the mill-owners in eastern Michigan looking to the Georgian Bay for supplies. The towing of logs has been greatly increased, first, because the Michigan men have cut all they had in their own state, and then since 1890 there has been no export duty on logs. All the timber on the streams flowing into the Georgian Bay is easily accessible to Michigan mills, and the attempt is now being made through the operation of the Dingley tariff to corner all the pine tributary to the bay for Michigan mill owners: they have a decided advantage even now by reason of their excellent local market and the utilization of their mill refuse, and if they obtain the further advantage of a \$2 duty on lumber while logs remain free, it would have the effect of transferring the entire sawmill business of the Georgian Bay and Lake Huron waters to Michigan. The United States have, of course, the undoubted right to place any duty they please on sawn lumber, but we must insist on fair play for our own people, and meet their import duty with an export duty on logs and pulp wood of a like amount. Even our forest resources are limited; they

come under a different category from anything else, and we do not think it advisable in this instance to follow the example of the United States in sweeping their prodigious forest wealth out of existence as fast as possible."

PREVENT THE WASTE.

THE rate at which the good timber lands of America have been denuded in the last few years has been a subject for grave thought to the pulp and lumber men who take some care for the country, and for the future interests of the trade, as well as for their own immediate gain. It is a recognized fact that in Michigan, where, a few years ago, Canadians went every year in large numbers to the mining camps, pine is now exceedingly scarce, and, if the present system holds, a few years more will find the celebrated pine of that district a thing of the past.

Nor is the situation much better in Canada. Our own lumbermen, and the mill owners from the United States, are doing much to bring about the same state of affairs here, when, with a reasonable amount of care, our forest wealth might be preserved intact for many generations.

Germany has already for some time recognized such a fact in regard to its forests, and suitable legislation is enforced there, which prevents the wholesale destruction of good forest land. The law sets a limit to the amount of timber which can be removed from one acre, and provides that this shall not be cut from one spot, but shall be distributed over the acre. Further, it is required that the brush be cleared away, giving the young sprouts a fair chance for vigorous growth. By precautions such as these the German forests, while yielding of their wealth to the present generation, are constantly storing up treasures for posterity. At present, too, in the state of New York the Government are not unmindful of such lessons, and are considering measures for the proper protection of their forests.

Canada, with her great wealth of timber, should not be dilatory in attending to such an important matter. Considering the pulp industry, this is especially the case. Canada is the great producer of pulpwood of the world. Norway and Sweden are beginning to feel the effects of unrestrained cutting in their spruce forests, and already European capital is casting about for fresh claims. Now is Canada's chance. Properly protect our forests by legislation; have foresters to enforce the laws, and the bulk of the pulpwood trade is hers, and will remain hers so long as the law does not allow a needless waste of her vast spruce forests.

Senator Chahoon has had forwarded to the forest commissioners the stump of the largest spruce tree ever found in northern New York, and the commissioners think it is larger than any ever found in the spruce belt, which includes Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York and Canada. The stump is a portion of a tree which was 121 feet 5 inches in height and stood very near Adirondack Lodge, in the town of North Elba, Essex county, 6 miles south of Lake Placid. The trunk of this tree was 88 feet high. The stump is 41 inches in height, its circumference at the top is 10 feet 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches, its largest diameter is 41 inches, the smallest 36 inches. The rings which appear in the grain of the wood indicate that the tree was about 350 years old and of rapid growth. It stood in a dense growth of hard maples, beeches and yellow birches, the latter of remarkable size, springing from dry soil on a dirt ground, at an altitude of 2,100 feet.