

CANADIAN LUMBER TRADE.

From the Ottawa Weekly Citizen, July 17.

Messrs. Boyd & Campbell, of Peterboro, arrived at Ottawa Monday, to confer with the mill owners for the purpose of deciding on a day on which to hold a general conference of lumbermen of Ontario and Quebec to adopt measures to reduce the production of lumber. The meeting is to be held some time on or after the 22nd inst., and there is every probability that all the large saw-mills of the two provinces will shut down for the season early in August. We are pleased to see that the lumbermen are at length awakening to a sense of the danger that threatens their trade, and the loss they are causing the country. The mill-yards everywhere are crowded with lumber, the Quebec and United States markets are glutted. The English market is low, and the rate of production of lumber is fully double the demand. Mill owners are running their establishments on their credit alone, and not on the proceeds of their sales, many of them paying out from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per week for working expenses. It is not to be wondered at, that the banks are becoming uneasy, and that accommodation is more difficult to be obtained. The course of the lumbermen hitherto has been simply suicidal. The pineries have been cut down, and the timber has been cleared out of the country at an alarming rate. If the lumbermen do not see fit to adopt a wiser course, they need not be surprised if the government should interfere, and by placing an export duty on lumber, check the operations that are ruining the trade. We hope that the mistaken "enterprise" of a few will not prevent the lumbermen from arriving at a wise decision. If the mills are shut down there will still be plenty of employment for the hands in saving the harvest, and in carrying on the public works of the country.

From the Bobcaygon "Independent."

The accounts that arrive from the chief points of consumption are all in the same strain, and represent the current prices for lumber as exceedingly low and with a weak demand. It is now quite clear that Canadian lumber, during the present season, sold in the American market, will not realize prices that will cover expenses. Very heavy losses will be sustained by some firms, and it will be well if no commercial disaster ensue. The square timber trade is in a very bad state, and is quite unproductive. The proposal has been made, and we understand, has been seriously entertained, that the Canadian lumbermen should not get out any logs whatever during the coming season, and there is a rumor that the Canadian banks, (only five in number,) who chiefly supply the funds for carrying on the lumbering operations, will decline to advance any funds for operating in the woods next winter. This would be a great advantage to the trade, and would place it on a sound footing for several years to come. Whatever may be the result of the proposed cessation of labor, it may be accepted as certain that next year the lumbering in the back country will be very limited in extent, and the settlers should make their arrangements accordingly.

From the Monetary Times.

Now, it is notorious that the lumber interest is entirely dependent on the market of the United States, and this has seldom been in a more thoroughly unsatisfactory condition than at present. Lower grades of lumber comprise three-fourths of our total production, and these grades cannot be sold to cover cost. The market is glutted with lumber, which has been sent forward on low freights, and there is no prospect of better prices for the remainder of the season. The saw-mill interest, therefore, and all that depends on it, is becoming depressed. Many of our towns are almost supported by the

saw mills of the adjacent country, and already feel the depression, though not seriously yet. It is when mills begin to be closed up, hands discharged, time cut down, and demand for all kind of supplies shortened, that the towns will begin to feel the burden. Things have not come to this pass as yet; but another season such as we have had will render it inevitable. Production must be shortened. This is the only possible remedy and the only possible way to a better state of things.

All that we have said respecting the sawed lumber interest applies with equal force to the square timber business. This production finds a market in England and Scotland. But that market is flat. Labor strikes and over production have brought about a great reaction in the prosperity which England has been enjoying for some years back. Consequently the building interest is not buoyant. It has suffered a check. The demand for timber is slack. The timber merchants of Quebec, have, therefore, large stocks on hand, and they are rather likely to loose money on them than otherwise. Quebec is full of timber that ought to have been in England by this time, and the money that should have been drawn against timber shipped is locked up in advances.

This must reach generally on the interior districts, from whence supplies of timber are sent. The vast regions of the Ottawa, the Trent Valley district, and its tributaries, the region bordering Lake Simcoe, and also, to some extent, the western peninsular, where such large supplies of hardwood are still to be found, all are likely to pass through a period of depression. For here also, nothing can bring matters round but largely diminished production.

Lumbermen and lumber dealers will find the WISCONSIN LUMBERMAN just the thing for latest information.

ALONG THE LINE OF THE CENTRAL.

The Steven's Point *Pinery* says a side track will be put in by the Central Company, running along through the city to the saw mills and lumber yards, that will be of great benefit to the business interests of the place.

A correspondent from Sand's mills says: "There is a constant run of land lookers, mostly a very fine class of men, looking for homes, and the Wisconsin Central Railroad Co., are the most accommodating company we ever saw, or ever did business with, which has a very good effect in making everything pleasant, and the rates and passenger tariff are such that none can complain. Any one riding with Conductor Mitchell will have everything done to make the trip pleasant."

A large and commodious hotel is being built at Colby.

A store is being built at Sand's mills on section 78.

The Steven's Point *Journal* reports a serious fire on section 29, which destroyed a new mill being put up by Clark & Co. All their supplies, material, &c., were burned, causing a loss of \$2,500.

The fires along the road have been quite serious and considerable timber has been injured. The company lost 2,000 ties by fire, near Chelsea.

CONCERNING the reciprocity treaty the Green Bay *State Gazette* says:

We do not imagine our lumber interests would be materially effected, certainly, the Wisconsin lumber market would have little to fear. Distance, and freights would be more than overbalance the lower cost of production which it is assumed is the case in Canada. Lumber is now as low as it can be and the steady increase of demand and supply affords an ample protection.