

General Business.

Miramichi Advance,

CHATHAM, N. B., JANUARY 10, 1889.

THE STAMPAGE QUESTION.

The Committee representing North Shore lumber interests had a conference with a Committee of the local Government at Fredericton and the Stumpage Question was quite fully discussed.

Without taking up any more of the time of the meeting, I shall call upon the Secretary to read the Memorial.

Mr. D. G. Smith, Secretary to the Committee, then read the following—

Memorial on the subject of the Stumpage Tax on Crown Lands in New Brunswick and its adverse effects on the Lumbering interest of the Northern Counties of the Province, submitted at a conference between members of the Government and a committee representing said interest, at Fredericton on Thursday, January 3rd, 1889.

In the interest of the North Shore of New Brunswick, the prosperity of whose people, generally, depends mainly on that of the lumber trade, the facts and conclusions set forth in the following memorial are respectfully submitted for the consideration of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor and the Hon. the members of the Government.

The unprofitable and discouraging condition of the lumber business on the North Shore, which was the subject of a conference between members of the Government and representatives of the trade, at Fredericton early in 1886; of a resolution of the Municipal Council of Northumberland, in Council in January of the same year, and subsequently of a memorial appealing for relief in the form of a rebate in the Stumpage charges imposed under the Crown Lands Regulations, still continues, and imperatively urges another call upon the Government for the consideration of which has, up to the present, been withheld.

must be evident to all that the lumber business is a waning industry with us on the North Shore and we trust the representations we are going to make in the shape of a memorial to the Government will be considered favorably and liberally towards those interested in it.

Even if it were not true that the Crown Lands of the Central and Southern portions of the Province had been transferred as stated, and that the government parted with the greater portion of them avowedly for the purpose of the trade, the fact that the northern ports are closed to navigation for seven months of the year, while the great Atlantic port at the mouth of the St. John is open all the year round, ought to excite the northern counties to compensating consideration at the hands of the Government.

These actively engaged in the business submit, that for the past six or seven years, they have continued their operations in the face of the discouragements and reverses which have been marked features of the trade during that period. They have been impelled to this course by the fact that many of them had every dollar they were worth, and even more, invested in mills and other property, to prevent which from lying idle, going to decay and becoming valueless, they had no choice but to continue business, even at a loss.

They were, however, not without hope from year to year that the business would regain some of its former activity, but in this they have been disappointed, the result being that although the greatest economy has been practiced in all departments of their operations, the outlook affords no hope of the trade continuing in this section of the province, to exist in even its present condition, unless such reductions are made in the stumpage charges as will place the North Shore operators on Crown Lands nearer on an equality than they are with their Quebec and Nova Scotia competitors in the British and continental markets.

The statistics of the lumber trade between Great Britain and the countries from which she draws her wood supplies, show a steady and just growth of the trade, and suggest that the excessive stumpage impost of the New Brunswick Government is having a very damaging effect on this the most important industry of the Province. They show that while the Baltic ports are increasing their output for the British market and Nova Scotia and Quebec are about holding their own, the imports from New Brunswick are sharply declining, the relative decrease of trade from the North Shore being much greater than from St. John and other Bay of Fundy ports.

The fact that the shipments of the Miramichi have steadily declined since 1883, when they were 149,000,000 superficial feet, until they were only 68,000,000—less than one-half last year, and that a corresponding decline has taken place in Pictou, Bathurst, Dalhousie, Richibucto and other North Shore ports, is proof of the startling wane of this important industry, and of the necessity for special effort to avert its gradual extinction.

depending on our provincial Crown Lands for their logs, can be reasonably expected.

We beg, in conclusion, to appeal for relief because the excessive stumpage rates of the Crown Lands Department are more than double those in competing provinces. We urge the claims of the large capital invested in mills and other property connected with the working of the lumber industry at the North Shore—representing, in many cases, the results of years of industry and self-denial on the part of the investors, many of whom, we regret to know, have been forced to go out of the trade, having lost all they had in it, while others are engaged in a constant struggle to avoid being driven into actual bankruptcy, and others are obliged to introduce new branches of business in connection with their lumber operations to make up for the losses they sustain in the lumber trade.

As an illustration of the trend of governmental policy by which the North Shore lumber interest has been most unfairly and unjustly treated, we submit you that when the Export Duty of 20 cents per M was levied, that impost bore equally upon the trade throughout the Province, the four Northern Counties containing one-third of the total revenue under that head, and by pleading the interests of the lumbermen of the Province at Ottawa the Dominion Government—largely with a view of relieving the trade—was induced by the Government to grant an additional subsidy of \$150,000 a year in perpetuity, in lieu of the export duty; and the local Government of that day is on record as having claimed the abolition of the impost on the ground that it was a burden, obtained by their efforts. Subsequent events, however, have proved that only the corporate and private holders of provincial lands outside of the North Shore were benefited, and that the Government had to receive the export subsidy, it has laid upon the North Shore trade alone a new burden in the form of the stumpage-tax greater in amount than that of which the whole lumber interest of the Province was relieved by the implied understanding that it would never be re-imposed in any form.

We also beg to direct attention to the fact that while nearly \$2,000,000 of provincial money has been given in aid of merely local railways in other sections of the Province, and that at least \$1,000,000 of the same money has been given in aid of the Eastern Extension, Western Extension and New Brunswick and Canada Railways—only about one quarter of the sum has been expended in the North Shore, and that the Counties. If interest on the enormous cash subsidies, and stock subscriptions paid by the province in aid of many of the roads named, and stumpage derivable from the land grant of over 1,700,000 acres of Crown Land to the New Brunswick Railway—in the benefits of which works the Northern Counties in no way participate—were available for the public services of the whole Province, the revenue derived from the stumpage tax on the lumber industry of the North Shore would not now be threatened with extinction by reason of the excessive taxation placed upon it under the plea of the revenue necessities of the Government, and we respectfully but firmly state our conviction that so long as the relative positions of the two sections of the province, in this regard, are ignored, and the injustice of the treatment accorded to the North Shore, as we have pointed out, will feel that the central and southern counties—because they are numerically the stronger, and against right and equity—are abusing their constitutional privileges by working wrong and oppression upon the people of the North.

We recognize the fact that the revenue of the province is not as large or elastic as full justice to all the public services requires, but we claim that it is unjust to impose upon one industry alone the burden of making up for all the deficiencies in the various sources of income. Moreover, may we not fairly suggest that, in view of the new and extraordinary expenditures recommended and authorized by the Legislature at the last session of the Legislature, the revenue of the Province is sufficient to maintain its ordinary services, without the excessive stumpage-tax being continued.

In view of the experiences of our operators and mill-owners, and shippers during the last six or seven years, we are impressed with the conviction that the question of the continued existence of the lumber business on the North Shore must be decided by the inexorable laws of demand and supply, and that the deficiencies in the various sources of income. Moreover, may we not fairly suggest that, in view of the new and extraordinary expenditures recommended and authorized by the Legislature at the last session of the Legislature, the revenue of the Province is sufficient to maintain its ordinary services, without the excessive stumpage-tax being continued.

medium between the New Brunswick and the Ontario scale, which latter is still more favorable to the operator.

Mr. McLeLlan: Do you say that they only call a log of that description 83 feet?

Mr. Burns: Yes, that is correct.

Mr. McLeLlan: I was talking with their head foreman yesterday and he made it out that their scale was greater than ours.

Mr. Burns: You must have misunderstood him. As I say, under the Quebec scale a log 11 inches by 20 feet long is 83 feet, while by our scale it is 100 feet. I will make some other comparisons. Take a log 10 inches by 20 feet. By the Quebec scale it is 73 feet; our scale does not give it the ten-inch log.

Mr. McLeLlan: No, but they are used as 80 feet.

Mr. Burns: I can answer you as regards my own county that of late years—say within the last 10 or 12 years, since the completion of the Intercolonial Railway, the building of which took away many people from their farms, the people have gone back to their farms and it is very, very rare indeed that anything in the way of supplies such as I think you mean, hay and oats, as I understand you.

Mr. Burns: Yes, and so on all through especially in the small-sized logs; when you come to the larger sized logs there is not the same difference. But as you know our spruce logs are a small average. Perhaps the average diameter of our spruce logs would not exceed now 13 inches. I think I am safe in saying that.

Mr. Burns: I wish to be within the mark. Perhaps 16 feet by 12 inches would be an average sized log with us.

Mr. Burns: Yes, as low as six inches.

Mr. Burns: Well, we would call it 60; that would be a difference of 20%. I understood from Mr. Paray, who I think is the head cruiser for the Quebec Government that their scale was less favorable than ours. I cannot imagine now they can make up those measurements from a board scale.

Mr. Burns: I rather think not. If you keep your population in the country, the business of the country is increasing and your farmers will have more incentive to till their lands and raise larger crops and save us the necessity of going abroad.

Mr. Burns: I rather think there is. The general principle is dependent—

Mr. Burns: I say our people are going away; the young men are attracted by the high wages they get abroad; instead of settling down as farmers they go away and get better wages elsewhere.

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condition, getting higher wages there than they can at home.

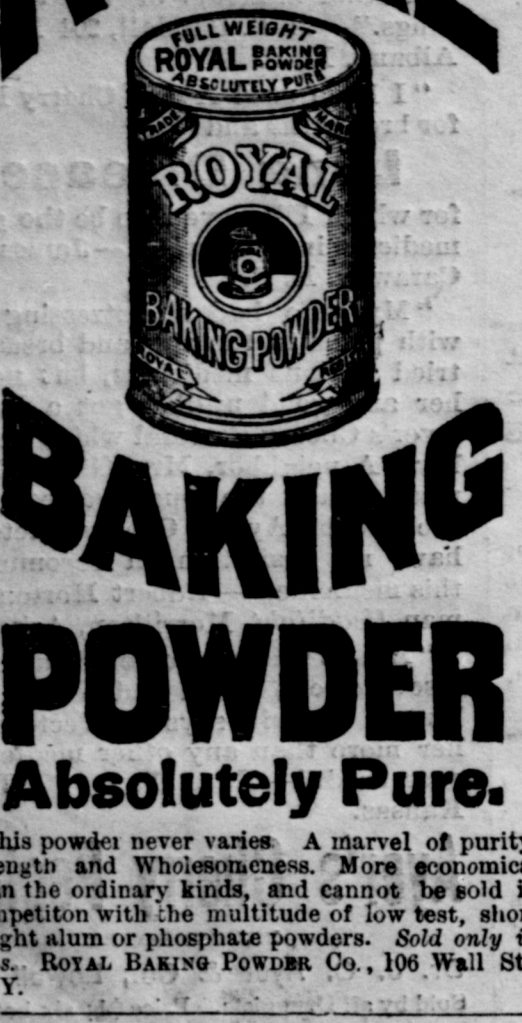
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Attested as follows: "We do hereby certify that we supervise the arrangements for all the Monthly and Semi-Annual Drawings of the Louisiana State Lottery Company, and we manage and control the Drawings themselves, and that the same are conducted with honesty, fairness, and in good faith towards all parties, and we endorse the company to use this certificate, with facsimiles of our signatures attached, in its advertisements."

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Grand Monthly Drawing at the Academy of Music, New Orleans, Tuesday, January 15, 1889. Capital Prize, \$300,000. 100,000 Tickets at Twenty Dollars each. Halves \$10; Quarters \$5; Tenths \$2; Fifths \$1.

REMEMBER that the payment of PRIZES IS GUARANTEED BY FOUR NATIONAL BANKS OF NEW BRUNSWICK. The Tickets are signed by the President of an Institution whose charters rights are recognized in the highest Courts of the Province, and are all limitations or anonymous schemes.

ONE DOLLAR is the price of the small size part or fraction thereof, and is paid in Cash on any Drawing. Anything in our name offered for less than a Dollar is a swindle.

CAUTION! The subscriber would caution persons about purchasing SPECTACLES, to come or send direct to The Medical Hall, as he keeps the only Diamond Cut Spectacles in Canada. Every pair is plainly stamped, MACKENZIE, CHATHAM.

The Assembly representatives of Northumberland, viz. Messrs. L. J. Tweedie, E. Hutchison, John Burchill and John Morrissey were also amongst those present. Mr. F. H. Risteen, stenographer, accompanied the Committee in his professional capacity.

Before the business of the meeting was entered upon, Hon. Mr. Blair made a statement, explaining that his failure to meet the Committee on two previous occasions had not been from any lack of desire on his part to confer with the lumbermen of the North, but was owing to storms which had taken place on both occasions, making it difficult, if not impossible for him to attend.

Mr. Allan Ritchie, as to the first occasion, corroborated what Mr. Blair said.

Mr. George Burchill, Chairman of the Committee then said: The Attorney General's explanation I think is quite satisfactory to the meeting. At the meeting he speaks of certain resolutions were passed and representatives were named on behalf of the lumbering interests of the North Shore to present their claims before the Government in the shape of a Memorial, for some relief from the burdens at present imposed upon the lumber interest of the Northern section of the Province.

A number of the representatives at that meeting are here and as Chairman of the Committee appointed at that Meeting it devolves upon me to introduce the subject under consideration. It

LOCKET LOST. A GOLD LOCKET with the monogram initials W. C. W. in relief, and containing a picture of a lady, was lost on the streets of Chatham about three months since. A reward will be paid to the finder for returning it to the ADVANCE Office.

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