

Practically Shut Out.

So that the Georgian Bay lumbermen are practically shut out of the American markets by the competition of the Michigan lumbermen, who own limits on this side, can cut their logs and float them out to the Georgian Bay, raft them and take them over to their mills and manufacture them there. Now the effect of this, Mr. Speaker, is to very certainly and effectively shut up the operations of the mills on the Georgian Bay, and I do not mean by that that only Canadians are affected, because a considerable number of Americans who have bought limits that are tributary to the Georgian Bay have their mills and are in the habit of cutting their logs into lumber on this side of the line, and they are affected precisely in the same way as Canadians who own their mills and are hampered and shut out

by the provisions of the Dingley bill. It may be said, and it is said and it is urged and the people as a rule believe, that it is all important that logs shall be manufactured into lumber on this side—(hear, hear)—that the main part of the industry is in the sawing of logs. That is not the case. Since taking charge of my department, the duties of which have necessarily brought me in contact with these questions, I have been surprised to find how small the proportion of the labor engaged in the conversion of sawlogs into lumber was to the whole cost of the production of lumber, from the cutting of the material as it stands in the tree. I have here a calculation showing pretty conclusively that four-fifths of the total cost of labor is expended in the cutting of the trees in the woods, piling them, hauling them out to the streams, running them down the streams to the lake, and putting them into rafts for towing. I have a statement from a lumberman of great experience, one whose testimony on such matters would, I am sure, not be gainsaid for a moment in this House, as to the actual cost of milling. It is as follows:—

Cost of sawing lumber at Peter's mill, including repairs, breakages, breakdowns, oil, fitting up in the spring, labor, and everything else—17,000,000 feet being shipped—\$1 14 1-2 per M.

Cost of shipping, freight and loading on ship, \$1 12 1-2 per M., the shippers themselves loading it from the front rows of piles.

In years when we did the loading ourselves the entire cost was about 17 cents per M.

So that the moving of the rear piles to the front would be from 8 cents to 10 cents, or in all:

Sawing \$1 14 1-2
Loading (if all done) 17

\$1 31 1-2

If in loading, the shippers as part of freight load the front piles, the moving to the front would not cost more than 10 cents, thus, deducting from above 7

\$1 24 1-2

If freight is per Canadian vessels, then there is to be added freight 1 12 1-2

\$2 37

Attitude of Michigan Lumbermen.

Now, the transfer from the Georgian Bay region to Michigan of the saw-mill industry is, no doubt, a matter which is regarded by our people with

great concern, and is most distasteful. One of the questions which has arisen in connection with the discussion of this matter is, how far the Michigan lumbermen themselves have contributed to bringing about this unsatisfactory state of things. There is reason to believe that some of those interested in lumbering matters were not only approving of the action which was taken by Congress, but took a very active part in organizing and working up the change of the tariff which was made. On the other hand, it is said, and I have no hesitation in stating it as my belief, that many of those lumbermen on the shores of Michigan who are interested in Canadian limits exerted themselves to the utmost in the endeavor to influence the action of Congress in such a way that if a duty were to be imposed at all it should be simply a one dollar a thousand duty on lumber, and that nothing like an automatic arrangement or device by which, on the imposition of an export duty in this country on logs, a penalty should be imposed on us by the act of Congress, should be thought of. We have had the strongest assurances on this subject from some of those lumbermen who have visited us and have laid their views before us. Ex-Governor Rich, who was one of the deputation that came to interview the Government, was very pronounced upon the attitude which he and his colleagues took in regard to the proceedings at Washington in connection with the raising of the tariff, and the conclusion which was arrived at, so far as it affected the lumbermen.

That Interview.

That leads me to say a word or two in reference to the so-called secret meeting which has been already referred to in this House. I want to say that when deputations come to the Government they, as a rule, are heard in the absence of the press; certainly the Government have never felt any obligation or responsibility imposed upon them to see that the press is present on all occasions to report interviews. I have a very distinct recollection of large deputations, perhaps consisting of one or two score of individuals, having appeared and being heard by the Government, and no representative of the press being present. It is a mere matter of chance whether they are there or not. So far as I or any member of the Government was aware, there was no idea whether the press was to be present or not. I do not suppose I thought of the matter in advance of the interview. I say in all seriousness, and with all the emphasis that I am capable of, that I was not aware that there was a single representative of the press in this building upon that occasion or during that day. I did not know that any representative of the press wanted to be present, and I have no hesitation in saying that I do not believe a single member of the Government had any other feeling or motive or knowledge regarding the