



SAWMILLING SECTION.

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Editor: Mr. W. T. IRVINE.

A Few Words by the President of the Sawmillers' Association, Mr. W. J. Butler

"We are made for co-operation, like feet, like hands, like eyelids, like the rows of the upper and lower teeth. To act against one another, then, is contrary to nature, and it is acting against one another to be vexed and turn away."

Marcus Aurelius.

It is with considerable pleasure that the Executive of "The Dominion Federated Sawmillers' Association (Incorporated)" presents this first issue of our trade "Journal" to the sawmillers comprising that federation, and to the trade generally. Mingled with that feeling of pleasure is one of earnest hope that our "Journal" may prove as beneficial to our members as we desire, and as we have every reason to believe it will be.

The need of some official organ has been felt ever since, during the process of our evolution from discordant individuals to a more harmonious body, we became incorporated in our present Federation. Unfortunately, however, something more than the recognition of such a need is required in order to fill the void; and though the Executive's attention has been engaged on this question for several months, we have only recently been able to complete all necessary arrangements.

Not the least of the difficulties met with was the appointment of an editor. After numerous futile efforts in other directions the Executive returned to their first choice—the secretary of the Federation, Mr. W. T. Irvine—who, with many misgivings on his part as to his being able to devote to it the attention which he felt it needed, consented to fill the editorial chair upon the assurance of every member of the Executive being given that their individual assistance would be bent towards easing the load. The qualifications called for, i.e., technical knowledge of the sawmilling industry, an inherent interest in the welfare of that industry and literary ability, are abundantly possessed by our Editor; and members are to be congratulated in having secured his interest in that capacity.

To those readers who may not be acquainted with the constitution of The Dominion Federated Sawmillers' Association it would be well to point out that its objects are not confined to the protection and advancement of sawmilling interests, but specifically embrace the improvement of labour conditions within the industry, and also the improvement of facilities for cheapening the supply of timber to the community—consistently with a due regard to a fair return for the capital and labour involved.

Amongst other benefits that the Federation has bestowed on sawmillers generally, is the fact that

it has been largely instrumental in obtaining an adjustment of income tax assessment, whereby the proceeds derived from the conversion of standing timber are recognised as the realisation of a capital asset, and not as a taxable income as heretofore.

On the other hand, when the dairying and other industries within the Dominion became nervous respecting supplies of white pine and other requisite timbers, and when those industries became so excited in their demands as to insist on the necessity of prohibiting the exportation of all New Zealand timbers, the Federation requested the Premier to convene a conference between the sawmillers and representatives of those industries needing white pine. It was then shown that much of the clamour was due to a lack of consideration for all interests involved. Following that conference the Federation submitted to the Government a scheme for the control of white pine, which, while ensuring supplies to domestic requirements, would not unnecessarily hamper the exportation of any surplus, or of such classes or grades of timber as could not be absorbed in New Zealand. The new timber regulations, which have for their object the protection of supplies of timber to our primary industries, are essentially the outcome of the Federation's labours.

Apart from assisting the continuation of such beneficial work as outlined above, it is felt that only good can result from a wider recognition of the Federation and a fuller appreciation of its aims.

Through the medium of this "Journal" it is thought that sawmillers will be induced to exchange ideas for the purpose of improving their methods of production, and of effecting economies in the distribution, or marketing, of their products. Therein lies industrial and commercial efficiency.

Articles bearing on the above subjects as applied to sawmilling will be welcomed by the Editor; and any discussion thereon that may be evoked cannot but be beneficial to "our readers" and, incidentally, to all who are dependent in any degree upon a supply of timber.

A subject that may well come within the province of this "Journal" is "Forestry"—seeing that the continuity of our industry depends directly upon some scientific control of the sources of our raw material. In this connection it is felt that if a keener interest were taken in forestry by sawmillers the danger of forestry operations becoming too conservative may be avoided. It is, indeed, probable that the practical views of sawmillers, which may find expression in this "Journal," will lead some of our forestry enthusiasts to recognise that any "Conservation or Preservation" which does not aim for utilisation fails to keep step with National Efficiency.