

**FORESTRY PRESERVATION.**

The London Times in an article on the late movement of the Ontario Government in this direction, says: "At the instance of the Ontario government an exhaustive report upon the necessity of preserving and replanting forests has just been compiled by Mr. R. W. Phipps of Toronto. The subject is one in which increasing interest is being felt in the dominion, and the report in question deals with it very comprehensively." The Times gives a critique of the whole report, and concludes by saying: "What action the Ontario government may take on the strength of the recommendations is not yet known, but their appreciation of the importance of the subject is shown by their authorizing the gratuitous distribution of a large number of copies of the report among the farmers of the province."

Mr. Phipps, who has been given charge of the affairs, is going on with this important work with that systematic thoroughness which characterizes his management of whatever he takes in hand. Large numbers of circulars have been issued and numerous replies obtained. Many places in the settled portions of Ontario will be visited before winter, and when the lately issued report is laid before parliament at the coming session it will be supplemented by another, giving the experience of many individuals in different parts of Ontario in raising trees, stating the soils most suitable to the different varieties, the method of planting most suitable, the relative merits of raising from the seed, from seedlings transplanted from nurseries, and from those taken from the forest; and results gained in each case, with much other information calculated to assist those intending to plant, and to prevent the losses and disappointments which have often resulted from mistakes in commencing or want of after care.

With earliest spring Mr. Phipps will make a tour through the great forest region in the northeast portion of Ontario, passing from the front near Kingston back towards and past Lake Nipissing, obtaining from lumbermen, farmers and other practical men their opinions as to the best methods of continuing in productive forest such portions of territory as it may be advisable to preserve in woodland, and of preventing the ravages of brush fires in all portions of the country. In the report which will deal with this matter we may expect from Mr. Phipps' well-known powers of description many vivid pictures of the scenery presented, and much valuable information concerning the resources of a large portion of our country not as yet well known to our population, while the report also will, judging from the last, be most useful to the general purpose of forestry—its principal aim.—*Toronto World.*

**Timber and Houses in Sky.**

Throughout the isles timber is a rare and precious article, most frequently the gift of ocean. The man who secures a good log of driftwood has obtained a prize worth having. It may have been a brave old tree, tempest-torn from its home in some distant forest, carried to the sea by rushing torrents, and perchance tossed by the waves and wafted to and fro by many a current, ere it drifted to its rest on these far isles. Or it may be the masts and spars, or perchance the cargo of some wrecked vessel—whatever its story it is treasure trove, and most deeply valued. Though encrusted with barnacles or riddled by pholades it can all be turned to good account; the same last piece will make a stool or a settle, or a box or a part of a door; while large timbers become rafters—precious heirlooms, for a young couple cannot wed till they have accumulated enough rafters to support their thatch, and should they have occasion to "fit," the only part of their booty that commands any pecuniary compensation is the roof, not the work only, but also the heavy thatch saturated with thick greasy peat-reek, (in other words with a thick coating of soot). This, when broken up, forms a valuable manure for the unfertile crofts.—*Temple Bar.*

**SAND POWER.**

The Virginia City Enterprise says:—"Jim Townsend has six of his arastras running to their full capacity. From a millwright who assisted in putting up the machinery we have

some particulars regarding the novel apparatus, which is Mr. Townsend's own invention. The arastras are placed in a little sandy flat, where only sufficient water for drinking purposes and to moisten the ore operated upon is to be obtained. The arastras are actually operated by sand, which drives a large overshot wheel. On this wheel sand takes the place of water. It was at first Mr. Townsend's intention to run the arastras by means of a large windmill or windwheel, but as this wheel would run too slow at times, at other times so fast as to be liable to tear everything to pieces, and again would not run at all, he hit upon a regulator. This regulator is sand, a great pile of which has been raked up to the works. The windmill runs a belt containing a great number of buckets, and these carry the sand up to a big tank, just as grain elevators carry wheat in a flouring mill. A stream of sand being let out upon the overshot wheel, it revolves just as it would under the weight of a stream of water, and the arastras move steadily on at their work. When there is much wind, sand is stored up for use when calm prevails, so that the arastras are never idle. After a sufficient quantity of sand has once been accumulated, there is no more trouble on that score, the same sand being used over and over again."

**THE CHEHALIS REGION.**

The Chehalis Valley *Vidette*, in descending upon the lumber facilities of Washington Territory, states that the timber of the Chehalis river and Gray's Harbor basin will yield from 2,000,000 to 10,000,000 feet to the quarter section, the forests being yet comparatively untouched. This lumber, of which there are said to be millions of acres lining the shores of the Chehalis, the Black, the Satsop, the Hoquim, the Humtlips, the Johns and Elk rivers, and their scores of tributaries, embracing nearly 2,000 miles of waterway, down any and all of which logs can be run, in nearly all seasons, and most cases to the great central reservoir of Gray's Harbor. To this is added an entrance from the Pacific Ocean, "the great highway of lumber fleets—straight, short, broad—upon the bar of which there is over 20 feet of water at the lowest tides, and which for smoothness, safety and general good qualities and characteristics is far superior to any entrance north of San Francisco." Mill sites, with admirable advantages, are numerous. Logs are worth \$5, the cost of saying is about \$3, and the lumber sells at from \$20 to \$50.



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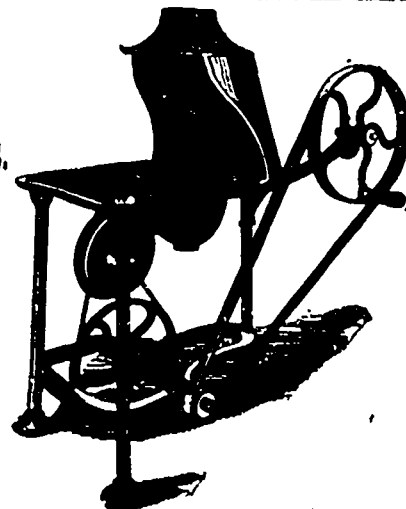
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