

EDITORIAL NOTES

PRESIDENT HARRISON issued his proclamation last week reserving from settlement 1,750,000 acres of timber land in the northwestern portion of Wyoming adjoining the Yellowstone National Park.

THE rag picker no longer holds the key to the situation in the manufacture of paper. Wood pulp has worked a solution in paper making. Rags are still used for the finer grades of paper, but for print papers and the cheaper grades of writing wood pulp has the field.

BEHOLD what a great fire a little matter kindleth—and one would expect many such taking the average daily out-put of matches in the Eddy Company factories at Hull, Que., as a criterion. No less than 22,000,000 matches, or four for every man, woman and child in the Dominion, are turned out daily in this establishment.

THEY are using more walnut in Europe at this time than is usual, and considerable quantities are now going forward from eastern points to meet the foreign trade. Operators are disposed to think that the trade is about at its highest pitch however, but Europeans are disposed to take all they can get of a quality that suits them, at prices prevalent in the seaport markets.

BLACK birch is rapidly coming into favor in building circles. When properly stained it is almost impossible to tell the difference between it and cherry or walnut. In the forests throughout Ontario birch grows in abundance, especially if the land is not too boggy. There is a great difference in the wood of different sections. Where the land is high and dry the wood is firm and clear, but if the land is low and wet, the wood has a tendency to be soft and of a bluish color.

THE forestry exhibit at the Columbian Exposition at Chicago will embrace wood in its natural state from every section of this and other countries, thus affording a most excellent opportunity for comparing the same varieties growing in different latitudes and the climatic effect on forest growth. Worked timber in all of its many commercial forms will be shown by beautiful specimens selected from the wood-working establishments of the world, including the various ornamental woods used in furniture, veneers, and interior decorations.

THE owner of a planing-mill in Chicago has been sued for \$10,000 damages because a six-year-old boy, who was bringing beer to the mill for some of the workmen, accidentally got caught in the machinery and was injured.—*Ex.*

Beer is bad stuff to get inside a planing mill or inside workingmen. The amount claimed for the boy's injuries is a good round sum. But if it results in prohibition being made the law not only of the mill, but individually of the men employed both in and out of the mill there will in the end be full return received for the \$10,000.

THE Winnipeg assessment rolls for 1891, which have just been completed, show the total assessment to be \$19,995,370, an increase of about a million and a third over last year's return. This increase is accounted for, partly by the large number of buildings erected during the past year, as well as improvements and repairs made to premises generally throughout the city and partly to the advance that has taken place in the value of outside property, a large proportion of which has changed hands at prices far in excess of former assessments, and something approaching a valuation has at last been imparted to all that kind of property. The exemptions remain at \$4,000,000 and the personal property assessment of \$2,375,000 show a slight decrease from that of last year. The population is 27,000.

AGENTS of the General Land Office, appointed in June last by Secretary Noble to investigate alleged large timber depredations in the Rainy Lake and Rainy River country, in Northern Minnesota, by both American and Canadian parties, have made their official reports. It is stated in the reports that such definite information of large depredations has been obtained as will enable the government to sustain actions at law against the trespassers. The yearly average of logs passing through the Rainy River is said to be between forty-five and fifty million feet.

WE have all heard of the well known Forth bridge of England, which it is claimed has more steel in it than any bridge that is or ever was. Canada is a "wooden country," so our old country friends say, and can claim the greatest wooden bridge extant. We refer to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's new bridge at Milford, Manitoba. It is 3,300 feet long and 75 feet high. There were used in the work 1,300,000 board measure, 1,300 piles for supporting the trestle, and 150 piles for the abutments of the Howe truss of the great span. And it was all completed in five weeks.

THERE are from 30,000 to 100,000 olive trees along the confines of the Province of Gilan in Persia, which yield on an average 6 pounds to 90 pounds of olives per tree per annum or roughly a gross annual produce of 750,000 pounds. The value of the oil after a good harvest is from 1s. 2d. per bottle of two pounds at Resht or Teheran, whereas the maximum price paid after a bad harvest is about 3s. Rudbar, the centre of the production, is situated on the Safeed Rud, which from that point is navigable down to the exit into the Caspian Sea, during the greater part of the year, for strongly built barges or rafts and for flat-bottom boats. Every olive tree is subjected to a Government tax of about 1½d.

IN Buffalo, N.Y., complaint is made that mill men are cutting prices, and that every effort to remedy the evil has so far failed. Here as in almost every department of trade comes that bane of all trade—"cutting." Probably nothing that we can say will be half as effective as the efforts of their own people. We do say, however, in most emphatic terms that history has yet to record an instance where "cutting" in any branch of business ended in other than disaster. The rope may be longer in some hands than others, but there is an end to even the longest rope. The funny part is that men who are shrewd in every other way, and who put on the brakes to stop the leakages everywhere else do nothing to dam the greatest of all leaks—too often constantly widen the channel to give greater flow to the losses.

A CONTEMPORARY writes of the "coming timber," as we might expect a dry goods man to talk of the coming fashion in bonnets. It is the case however, that fashion changes in woods as it does, in a greater or less degree, in almost all other mundane things. Just now with our American friends the warmest appreciation is going out to the yellow pines of the southern States. The output is already nearly three-fourths that of white pine, and there are sanguine ones who predict that it will yet double that of its northern rival. Yellow pine is claimed to be susceptible of as high and beautiful finish as the white pines of the higher latitudes. Hitherto it has been regarded as too full of resinous gum and too coarse grained for fine wood working finish. The same idea is also prevalent in England. But this prejudice is quickly disappearing. It is said to be harder than white pine and more enduring.

IN another column we publish, along with a portrait of Hon. A. S. Hardy, a very complete summary of the report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands for 1890. It deals at considerable length with the marked development that has taken place in the mineral wealth of the province. To applicants in the districts of Algoma, Nipissing, Rainy River and Thunder Bay, who have filed plans, an area of mineral lands of up-

wards of 14,000 acres have been sold, for which upwards of \$28,000 has been received. The total collections for the year from woods and forests amounted to \$916,155.67, which includes \$135,479.53 on account of bonuses leaving the revenue from timber dues, ground rents, etc., to be \$780,676.14. The report will bear a careful reading by all engaged in lumber industries.

VANKLEEK HILL, a thriving village in the county of Prescott, is in high glee over the news that the Central counties railway company expect to have the line from Glen Robertson to the village completed by November next. The population is now about 2,000, and which it is anticipated will increase rapidly. Lumbering is carried on extensively in this region, and it is expected that the new railway line which is to connect at Coteau with the American system will enable the large dealers and holders of lumber to ship at any season of the year to Boston, New York and other cities in the United States. The railway company have a bonus of \$15,000 from the municipality of West Hawkesbury, and a number of small bonuses from farmers along the line. THE LUMBERMAN trusts that all the good things that our friends along the Ottawa anticipate from the increased railway facilities will be realized. Just see to it that you have got the railway solid—if such a thing is possible—on all its promises, so that some day when you most need its service, it will not kick back on you. Railway corporations, and heavily bonused ones too, have done that kind of thing before.

"SPEARING" for timber is a new industry, says a London paper, which has been developing for the past few years in Ireland, and is a form of timber prospecting never dreamed of some years ago, not even by "American pine hunters." Geologists know that immense tracts of what are now bog lands in Ireland were formerly covered with forests of oak and pine, and that in cutting peak immense trees of both these varieties are found embedded in the earth, at depths of 10, 20 and 30 feet. In some cases, whole groves are found standing just as they grew hundreds of years ago. A visitor to the wild region of Donegal thus describes the way in which the seekers after buried forests operate. Two men armed with long steel rods 30 or 40 feet long, traverse the bog, and by running the rods into the ground are able to find where the trees are to be found. They fix on a patch of land 20 or 30 feet square and cross it with their searchers north, south, east and west. Having searched across each way stabbing every foot of the inclosed space, they quickly learn whether it contains what they are looking for. The timber when obtained is, we learn, generally found to be perfectly sound, and the oak, which is as black as ebony, is used extensively for ornaments of jewelry and fancy cabinet work, and sells at high prices.

ONE of the best known lumbermen in the Dominion is Mr. J. W. Phillips, a resident of this city. He is the owner of extensive timber limits in Newfoundland, situated on the Gander river, near the island of Fogo, on the north-east coast. He is owner also of a large mill at Point Limington, and is now engaged erecting a second mill, docks, etc., at a cost of about \$125,000. Though a resident of Toronto for upwards of thirty-two years, as a native of Newfoundland he takes a warm interest in all its affairs, practically shown in his large material interests in this colony. He has recently returned from a visit of some weeks to his native place, and to an ubiquitous interviewer has unbosomed himself on the possibilities of this colony that to-day is attracting world-wide attention because of her fishery affairs. He considers her agricultural capabilities second to those of no province in Canada. She is rich in minerals and timber resources. Combatting an idea, quite general, that the "extreme weather" is a drawback to the cultivation of the soil, he gives the official figures to show that when the mean temperature in Toronto marked 44.3, at St. George's Bay, Newfoundland it was 43.8, while at Winnipeg, Man., on same day it stood 30.8. It was at Bonavista, now a large harbor, distant from St. John, Newfoundland, about 100 miles, that Christopher Columbus, it is said, first set foot on land.