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FOREST GROWTH ON COAL FORMATION OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

(BY EDWARD JACK.)

Dr. Bell in the report of the progress of the geological survey of Canada, for 1879-80, states that hemlock "is scarce near the eastern sea coast of New Brunswick." The doctor is mistaken; some of the very best hemlock lands in New Brunswick are to be found on the east side of the Intercolonial, between Newcastle station and the crossing at the Richibucto river, indeed, so far from being scarce, hemlock is very abundant on both sides of this railway in the location above mentioned.

The eastern sea coast of New Brunswick is largely embraced within the bounds of the carboniferous rocks, and where these occur in that Province hemlock is usually in great abundance; where it is usually of large size with rough and coarse bark, the wood being commonly shaly and of infirm quality; on the immediate sea coast hemlock is not usually found, the growth there being most always white birch and poplar or stunted spruce. The rocks of the coal formation underlie about a third part of New Brunswick; the country where they occur is usually level, ridges where they occur being generally low and of gradual elevation. On the heads of the streams there are extensive heaths and bogs, some of these have evidently been at one time lakes over which vegetation has spread and which has acquired such consistency as to allow persons to walk over it. This is especially noticeable on the head of the Canaan river where there are ponds of great depth in the middle of the bays, the water in these being bright and pure. The original growth upon the coal formation consisted largely of spruce, pine, hemlock and Tamarac, hardwoods being less abundant and of inferior quality. As the carboniferous formation was largely in the track of the Saxby gale, the timber which once stood upon it has been for the greater part blown down and burnt, but a young growth, especially of white pine, is springing up in many places, which if protected will be of very great value.

Large quantities of second growth white birch are also making their appearance, and, as this is a wood of quick growth, it will not be many years before it will be of value. Very much of the soil on the coal measures is nearly worthless for agricultural purposes, but very well adapted to the growth of the white and red pine. The streams by which the carboniferous area are intersected are free from stone and easily driven, in many cases logs could be rafted immediately to the sea from the place where they have been cut, so that we have here just the country for the purpose of experimenting in forest cultivation. About the only thing to dread is fire, to which the plains of this district are much subject. Not only could pine and birch be grown to advantage, but also tamarack,

which is a wood of rapid growth springing up around swamps and places where the ground is low and damp.

PROTECTION WHICH DOESN'T PROTECT

WILLIAMSTOWN, January 27, 1883.—The following letter has been published:—Our revenue for the present fiscal year is estimated at \$400,000,000, a sum altogether beyond our needs in a time of peace, an unreasonable burden upon the people, and a temptation to extravagance and recklessness in expenditure on the part of the government. The people are asking for a diminution of this excessive revenue by the lessening or the removal of some of the taxes imposed upon them directly or indirectly, and by means of which the revenue is secured. And now that Congress is considering how to re-adjust the burdens of taxation, what duties or taxes may be lessened or remitted altogether, we venture to suggest that one important article which should go upon the free list is lumber. If there is one thing in which all are interested, from the boy who wants a stick suitable for the exercise of his propensity to whittle to the man who wishes to build a house or a factory, it is lumber, and especially that which is the product of our white pine trees, the noblest trees of the forest. So valuable is this lumber, because it is adapted to so many uses, and so great is the consequent demand for it that the domestic sources of supply are being rapidly exhausted. Formerly we derived large quantities of pine lumber from Maine, from the banks of the Kennebec and Penobscot. Now our chief source of supply is the region comprising the states of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. And so rapidly are we stripping this region that it is estimated in the returns of the recent census, that the supply from this source will be exhausted in less than ten years. As a consequence the price of pine timber land and of lumber is rapidly advancing, enriching a few land-holders and lumber dealers at the expense of the public at large. Meantime Canada stretches along our northern border a broad belt of pine timber which she is ready to send to our markets, but which we seek to exclude by imposing upon its introduction a duty of two dollars for every thousand feet. The protection which this duty affords to our forests is, to use the words of another applied to a different subject, "such protection as wolves give to lambs, covering and devouring them." The duty amounts to a premium offered for the destruction of our forests. Our lumbermen are stimulated by the additional price of two dollars a thousand feet, which this duty enables them to charge, to cut off our forests as rapidly as possible and hurry them to market, and the people of Canada instead of cutting their lumber and giving us the benefit of it, are coming over the borders as an army with axes to hasten the destruction of our forests. It was recently stated

before the committee on the revision of the tariff that as many as ten thousand Canadian wood-choppers come into the Michigan pineries in the winter and find ready employment in cutting lumber, at wages ranging from two dollars to two dollars and a half per day. Thus our precious pine forests are not only exterminated the more rapidly and the cost of lumber to all of us enhanced, but we are putting into the pockets of our Canadian neighbors \$25,000 a day for the aid which they give us in destroying one of our most valuable possessions. For it is to be remembered that every pine into which the lumberman strikes his axe represents the growth of a century, and that those pine forests of Michigan and Minnesota are not to be reproduced in a hundred years if at all. It will be a great loss when those northwestern pineries are no more. We have other forests indeed. We have other pine forests; but none of the quality of these. It is very desirable to prolong their existence as much as possible, and if, in any reasonable and practicable way we can lessen the demand upon them so that instead of being swept utterly away a remnant may be spared, and so treated that successive growths may be secured upon the same ground, nothing more advantageous for the country in all respects could be wished for.

May we not well, therefore, relinquish all duties upon pine lumber, and welcome freely all that Canada or any other country is ready to give? We need to protect our precious forests. The lumbermen will protect themselves. They have done so already. A prominent organ of theirs, published in the northwest, proclaims that the ownership of a pine forest and a saw mill is better than that of a mine of gold or silver. The mass of the people want cheap lumber and the interests of the few lumbermen ought not to prevent their having it.

N. H. EGLESTON.

PINE STILL GROWING

The Huron County News, of Michigan, said in a recent issue:—

It is a matter of surprise to see how large a number of saw logs continue to be taken from tracts of land supposed to be thoroughly lumbered over which the fires have swept. From such sources the custom mills—of which every township has one or more—are again this winter being fully stocked, some having already all they can saw during the coming season.

Such a state of things is by no means new. Many tracts of pine lands are denuded time and time again. A few years ago a firm of extensive operators on the upper Mississippi gave out that all the pine was cut on lands which they owned on a tributary, and their forces were sent elsewhere. Two or three years ago, however, the same operators established their camps on this same denuded land again, and went right

on logging, as if nothing had ever happened. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that one of the members of this firm helped to make the census figures which so innocently assure the people that there are but 5,000,000,000 feet of standing pine in the state of Minnesota. Possibly there are people of an inquiring turn of mind who will ask, if this man know so little about the pine standing on his own land, how did it come about that he know enough about the pine all over the state to be considered an authority? but, of course, the census figures-makers would at once raise the point that the question is irrelevant.—Northwestern Lumberman.

SOLID PIANO CASES.

The piano manufacturers of this city are discarding, in a great degree, rosewood veneered cases, and making oblong cherry cases instead. The name of rosewood, when pronounced, is a very pleasing word to some, but that does not prevent the wood, when laid on a piano case from splitting and blistering, which it almost invariably does, sooner or later. A rosewood case, a few years old, that looks decently, is difficult to find. The manufacturer is often cursed for it, but he is not to blame. It is the nature of the wood. A Chicago manufacturer had a large number lot of cherry sawed by Muskegon, Mich., parties, and will use it in many of the instruments turned out by him. There is no reason why a solid cherry case should not hold its good appearance until the piano is worn out. A certain class of purchasers—and much the larger class—have some regard for durability as well as style, and these are learning to let a rosewood veneered piano alone. Should the use of cherry become very general in this industry, it will open up a demand for it that has not heretofore existed.—Northwestern Lumberman.

MIDLAND.

The Free Press says:—While taking a stroll around our little village, I observed a structure being placed on the mill dock at Dollar's mill. On enquiry from our Mr. Fraser what it meant he gave me the very pleasant information that Mr. G. A. Greer, a Montreal lumber merchant, has purchased the entire stock, (with the exception of the mill culls, which were sold previously to Mr. Kennedy, of Toronto,) with the intention of shipping it to the Northwest in the spring. Mr. Priest, Mr. Greer's agent, is placing three planing mills on the mill dock, and a rip-saw to be driven by the engine belonging to the mill, to prepare the lumber for immediate use when it reaches its destination. We wish Mr. Priest success in his undertaking. It is a new thing in these parts and it is already doing good, as many of our noble lumbermen will get employment instead of walking around with faces on them as if they were going to their father's funeral.