

which sweep over the plains, the force of which would prevent any other description from taking root. It would also be necessary to guard those planted in every stage of their growth from the ravages of the yearly recurring prairie fires which have hitherto kept the country in its treeless state. No provision, however, of the kind indicated, for the supply of our future wants, appears to be yet thought of, and, even if it was at once commenced, the country would be totally stripped of its present stock of timber long before those plantations would be able to afford any appreciable supply of even the softest and most valueless description of wood. And now if, in addition to the course I have pointed out, of saving even to that extent our scanty stock, any information given in this exposition of the supply question, should have the effect of inducing our license holders and lumbermen to husband their resources and not throw them away, as has hitherto been too much the case, I shall feel that my labor in that respect has been of some service to them and the country.

I have now given the only course left us for eking out the time of the total exhaustion of our forest, and when that time is reached—when, instead of our receiving twenty-five millions of dollars annually from our forest, we will be required to send double that amount out of the country for supplies, I will not venture to express an opinion of its effects on our industries but will merely remark that it would be well for every business man to be prepared to, as our neighbors across the line expressively phrase it, “stand from under.”

JAMES LITTLE.

Montreal, July 1st, 1876.

NOTE.—White pine in Canada is known in Great Britain as yellow pine.

Since the first edition was published I have had several communications from Michigan and Wisconsin, in which it is stated that I have largely over-estimated the amount of supply in those States; I have not, however, made any alteration in the figures.