

THE GREATEST FOREST IN THE WORLD.

WHERE is the greatest forest in the world?

The question was asked in the Forestry section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at its recent annual meeting. The importance of forests for equalizing the climate and the rainfall of the globe was under discussion, and the purpose of the question was to show where the great forest tracts of the world are situated.

One member replying offhand, was inclined to maintain that the greatest continuous tract of the forest lies north of the St. Lawrence river, in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, extending northward to Hudson's Bay and Labrador; a region measuring about 1,700 miles in length from east to west, and 1,000 miles in width north and south.

A professor from the Smithsonian Institute rejoined that a much larger continuous area of timber lands was to be found, reckoning from those in the State of Washington, northward through British Columbia and Alaska. But he limited his statement to North America, for he added, that, in his opinion, the largest forest in the world

occupied the valley of the Amazon, embracing much of Northern Brazil, Eastern Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Columbia and Guiana; a region at least 2,100 miles in length by 1,300 in breadth.

Exceptions were immediately taken to this statement by several members who, in the light of recent explorations, have computed the forest of Central Africa in the valley of the Congo, including the headwaters of the Nile to the northeast and those of Zambesi on the south. According to their estimates Central America contains a forest region not less than 3,000 miles in length from north to south, and of vast, although not fully known, width from east to west. Discussion, in which the evidence afforded by travels and surveys was freely cited, seemed favorable to the defender of the Amazonian forests.

Later in the day the entire question was placed in another light by a member who was so fortunate as to be able to speak from some knowledge of still another great forest region of the globe. This gentleman gave a vivid picture of the vast, solemn taigas and urmans, the pine, larch and cedar forests of Siberia.

It appears that Siberia, from the plain of the Obi river on the west to the valley of the Indighirka on the east, embracing the great plains, or river valleys, of the Yenisei, Olenek, Lena and Yana rivers, is one great timber belt, averaging more than 1,000 miles in breadth from north to south—being full 1,700 miles wide in the Yenisei district—and having a length from east to west of not less than 4,600 versts, about 3,000 miles. Unlike equatorial forests, the trees of the Siberian taigas are mainly conifers, comprising pines of several varieties, firs and larches. In the Yenisei, Lena and Olenek regions there are thousands of square miles where no human being has ever been. The long stemmed conifers rise to a height of 150 feet or more and stand so closely together that walking among them is difficult.

The dense, lofty tops exclude the pale Arctic sunshine, and the straight pale trunks, all looking exactly alike, so bewilder the eye in the obscurity that all sense of direction is lost. Even the most experienced trappers of sable dare not venture into the dense taigas without taking the precaution of "blazing" the trees constantly with hatchets as they walk forward. If lost there the hunter rarely finds his way out, but perishes miserably from starvation and cold. The natives avoid the taigas, and have a name for them which signifies "places where the mind is lost."

BEST MAIN DRIVE. REGISTERED TRADE MARK. GUARANTEED.

Sole Canadian Agents: Prices Reduced.
WATERLOO, BRANTFORD, CANADA.

THE CANADIAN PHOTO ENGRAVING BUREAU

TELEPHONE 2135
ADELAIDE ST. TORONTO
ENGRAVING
FOR ALL KINDS OF ILLUSTRATIONS
AND TYPING

The E. B. RICH Famous Adjustable Roller

... OR ...
BAND SAW STRETCHER

125 Now in Use in the United States

In Use By

J. W. HOWRY, Fenelon Falls, Ont.
JAMES PLAYFAIR, Midland, Ont.
C. BECK, Penetanguishene, Ont.

ADDRESS ORDERS TO

E. B. RICH & SON - Preston, Ont.

Manufacturers of Automatic Saw Sharpeners, Swages and Scarfing Machines—Original Rich Machines of Chicago, Illinois.

Please mention the CANADA LUMBERMAN when corresponding
... with advertisers ...

ROBIN, SADLER & HAWORTH

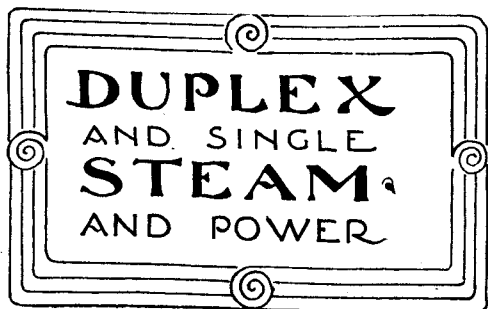
MANUFACTURERS OF

OAK TANNED LEATHER BELTING

MONTREAL AND TORONTO

Pumps

& HYDRAULIC MACHINERY



THE NORTHEY MFG. CO., Ltd.
TORONTO

THE LAURIE ENGINE CO. - MONTREAL
SOLE AGENTS FOR PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.