

## THE ENGLISH TRADE.

Robert Coltart & Co.'s Liverpool wood circular, dated April 3rd, says:—There has been a quiet feeling in the wood trade during the past month, although the deliveries compare favorably with the same period last year, and the stocks, with the exception of pitch pine, are very light. Prices generally have been maintained, excepting for Norway flooring boards and pitch pine, both of which have been offered too freely in this market. The fine open weather which has so long prevailed has been very favorable to building operations, which have also been assisted by the easier state of the money market since the late reductions in the bank rate.

**COLONIAL WOODS.**—Yellow pine.—The stock of square timber consists of only 119,000 feet, against 723,000 feet at the same time last year, and 362,000 in 1890; the consumption of 60,000 feet during the month must be considered satisfactory at the present advanced prices, and with such a very small stock in the yards. Of waney board timber the consumption has also been good, and the stock is light; sales have been by retail only. For red pine the demand is dull, and the present stock of 27,000 feet is sufficient for present requirements. The stock of oak logs consists of 264,000 feet, against 444,000 at the same time last year; the demand, however, continues limited, amounting to only 32,000 feet during the month. Waggon oak scantlings, however, continue to be enquired for, the present stock having been reduced to 53,000 feet, and the consumption during the month amounted to 37,000 feet, prices of prime quality rule from 2s 7d to 2s 9d per foot, according to specification. Elm and ash are in dull demand. The stock of birch timber is reduced to 81,000 feet; against 140,000 at the same time last year; prices have improved, and 501 logs, ex *Elta Stewart*, from St. John, N.B., realized at auction an average of 20d per foot. The demand for Quebec pine has been quiet during the month, and the stock consists of 5,648 standards, against 9,151 standards at the same time last year. The consumption of N. B. and N. S. spruce deals continues slightly in excess of that of last year, but although the stock is very small, and the arrivals for some time are likely to be light, prices do not show any improvement, the latest sales being by private of St. John at £7 12s 6d per standard, and by auction St. John cargoes realized an average of £7 10s and £7 14s per standard. The present stock consists of only 10,464 standards, against 22,895 standards at the same time last year, and the consumption during the month amounted to 3,659 standards, against 3,541 standards. Quebec merchantable pine and punkleaves continue to be enquired for. Palings are in fair request, and have been sold at 82s 6d per mille, for 5 feet 3 1, and 62s 6d per mille for 4 feet 3 x 1.

The arrivals since our last have been 19 vessels, 13,605 tons, against 17 vessels, 12,765 tons, during the corresponding period of last year, and 29 vessels, 14,632 tons, in 1890.

FROM 26TH JANUARY TO 31ST MARCH, 1892.

	Vessels.	Tons.
Quebec.....	Nil	Nil
St. John, N. B., &c.....	7	6,929
United States.....	23	19,260
Baltic.....	16	7,097
Total.....	46	32,286

FROM 26TH JANUARY TO 31ST MARCH, 1891.

	Vessels.	Tons.
Quebec.....	1	921
St. John, N. B., &c.....	4	3,374
United States.....	25	18,696
Baltic.....	7	2,711
Total.....	37	25,692

FROM 26TH JANUARY TO 31ST MARCH, 1890.

	Vessels.	Tons.
Quebec.....	Nil	Nil
St. John, N. B., &c.....	9	9,816
United States.....	7	5,643
Baltic.....	25	9,053
Total.....	41	24,411

## A WASTE IN VALUABLE TIMBER.

The people of Leelenaw county, Mich., are becoming awakened to the demands for railroad facilities to develop the timber lands in the county, and are interested in the project for establishing a road from Traverse City to Carp Lake, Maple City, Burdick and the lake shore. The timber wealth of the county is represented as being enormous, and there is said to be enough in the townships through which the road would pass, if made available, to pay the

entire expense of constructing the road, and to pay for handsome improvements on every farm, besides placing money in the pocket of every farmer and land owner along the route. The timber is largely hardwood. There are large quantities of cedar, hemlock, basswood, birds-eye maple, cherry, beech, birch, and a dozen other varieties. Some of these woods are highly valuable, on account of the demand and the excellent quality. Immense quantities of the choicest basswood are now destroyed in fallows because the settler must remove it in clearing his land for crops, and the same is true of the elm—of which there are some very monarchs—the birds-eye maple, etc. With regard to the latter wood about 10 per cent. of it is said to be of the most valuable quality, while it is instances regarding the cherry that, recently, six 12-foot logs were sawed, which scaled over 500 feet each, and were almost entirely clear. These kinds of timber the farmers of Leelenaw are compelled to burn in log heaps while making room for the advances of agriculture, which action seems little less than a wasteful sacrifice. It is hoped that the railroad contemplated will go through, and that ample opportunities will be opened up for utilizing these extensive and valuable forests.—*Northwestern Lumberman.*

## TREE CULTURE ON THE PRAIRIE.

With the advent of spring there is no question of more importance to city or country than the cultivation of trees on our prairie domains. The desirability of the great western prairies for homes, and their value as farming lands very largely depend on the successful cultivation of trees. The papers should urge this matter earnestly and persistently. It is not enough that it is the highest interest of the settlers upon prairie lands to begin at once the cultivation of trees around their houses and barns. They are not only inexcusably careless about this matter, but a very large population do not seem to understand the proper method of proceeding. I have known the same piece of land to be planted with seeds of various kinds of timber over and over again, and there is not to-day a solitary shrub or twig upon the land to indicate that a seed had been sown there. Yet the successful cultivation of trees upon our prairies is no longer in the hazy domain of theory or experiment, but has long since been demonstrated beyond all doubt, yet every season men expend large amounts of money and labor in attempting to start trees and fail, and become discouraged and give it up.

I have had considerable experience in this line, and will in a few words give directions, which, if faithfully observed, will invariably give results of the most satisfactory character. Prepare your ground thoroughly; don't waste your time putting in trees on ground that is not thoroughly prepared. Do not put in seeds, nor trust to cuttings. Get cottonwood rootlets a year old. Plant the depth of an ordinary spade. Don't plow them in nor throw them in. Put in by hand. Press the earth well around them, so as to exclude air and sunlight. Get them in as early in the spring as possible. Cultivate them thoroughly during the summer and in nine cases out of ten you have got trees so thrifty and strong that they will stand the severest winter. All this is so simple that the most inexperienced man should find no difficulty in carrying it out. In a very few years a man can have ten or fifteen acres of timber around his house, and the winter weather will be as changed as though he had moved hundreds of miles further south. Then, and not till then, can the farmers in our northern regions raise stock successfully. If every prairie farmer would commence this spring and faithfully carry out the simple instructions above given for the next five years we should see such a revolution in the climate and conditions of the great Northwest as no man to-day dreams of.—*St. Paul, Minn., Pioneer Press.*

## READY MADE DWELLINGS.

The *Northwestern Lumberman* says:—"We know of no enterprise in which a small amount of ready capital could be invested, by parties having a practical knowledge of building, to better advantage than in the preparation of ready made houses, prepared upon improved and acceptable plans, ready for shipment to points

where they are to be set up. The enterprise would demand the preparation of a set of plans and elevations reduced by the skill of the engraver so as to be fully illustrated by wood cuts, or the cheap blue process, so as to enable the purchaser to form a correct idea of what he was ordering, and as well enabling him to suggest such changes as his personal taste or requirements might demand.

It is no infrequent thing for inquiries to be addressed to the editor of the *Lumberman* from parties desirous of obtaining such buildings, one such inquiry in the fall of last year embracing a desire to obtain no less than 100 cottages. Recent inquiries were for cottages to be shipped to Winnipeg, one to Dakota, and one to Minnesota, and were it once known that parties held themselves in readiness to prepare them, we believe that an immense trade could speedily be built up. The enterprise would, of course, require a reasonable amount of capital, but probably not so large an amount as many might imagine, as orders would, in a majority of cases, be accompanied with at least a portion of the cost. It is a project which we are aware has been undertaken before, without resulting as advantageously as was hoped, but we are convinced that the present time is much more auspicious, and that the venture would prove a paying one to the wise experimenter.

## FOREST PLANTING.

Between 1769 and 1830 the Dukes of Athol planted 10,000 acres with larch alone, and on their Blair and Dunkeld property the total number planted was 14,096,719, calculated at the time of planting to produce at the age of 70 years £6,660,000 as timber for naval purposes. An instance of indirectly remunerative fir planting is shown at Bournemouth, where some years ago plants of *Pinus maritima* were introduced in marshy land between Christchurch and Poole, which, spreading in all directions, partly by its own seed and partly by planting, soon gave the country the appearance of an American pine barren. The shelter and presence of these trees has been found so beneficial to invalids that one of the largest watering-places on the south coast has sprung up with almost unexampled rapidity, and sites which were formerly worthless have recently become extremely valuable. Similar plantations have been made elsewhere. M. Javal has planted 80,000 acres of the barren Landes of Gascony with seedlings of *Pinus maritima*. Others have planted lesser areas. In Madeira the same *Pinus* has been introduced, and now covers all the southern slopes above 2,000 feet, the inhabitants being almost entirely dependent on it for fuel.

## IMMIGRATION AND LUMBER.

The Chicago *Northwestern Lumberman* has the following, which applies as appositely to Canada:—"An important indication of the prospective demand for lumber is the tide of immigration that is setting toward our shores and promises to exceed even the heavy volume of last year. A large proportion of the emigrants go forward to the new territories, and open up new farms, and require lumber for houses and improvements. As long as this emigration continues, lumber will be in extraordinary demand. And, besides, as long as a rush of settlers is developing new improvements, so long will railroad extensions keep pace with such development, causing another extraordinary demand for lumber, besides quickening all kinds of business. It is a volume that acquires a momentum that a slight obstacle cannot arrest, and that's what's the matter with the lumber trade of the present epoch.

## AUSTRALIAN FORESTS.

The London *Timber Trades Journal* says:—"We have to hand the report of the Royal Commissioners for the Australian International Exhibition, which largely relates to the wood trade, and our connection with these distant colonies. Being the work of English commissioners, it does not enter so deeply into the subject of timber as it would if the work of Colonial commissioners. It is well known that these dependencies of the English Crown are not celebrated for their natural growth of timber, and that the colonists are importers of wood from Canada

and the Baltic. The country from this must not be accounted treeless; the explanation is to be found in the fact that the native timber, with small exception, is of the hardwood class, the imports consisting of softwoods. Bearing on this point we find that the colony of Victoria possesses State forests to the extent of 243,000 acres; beyond this there is an area of forest lands, classed as "timber reserves," estimated at 395,600 acres. Two-fifths of the colony is set down as mallee scrub, unavailable mountain ranges, lakes, lagoons, &c., in connection with which there is a considerable growth of timber.

In 1879 we find that New South Wales imported timber to the value of £318,189, and furniture and upholstery to the value of £30,141, and in the same time exported bark to the value of £14,399.

## River Improvements.

Messrs. Pond and Humphrey and Governor Washburn, of Wisconsin, have been before the committee having in charge the river and harbor bill, pressing appropriations for the improvement of the Chippewa and St. Croix rivers, and the building of breakwaters in Lake Pepin. The amounts desired for improvements were \$30,000 for the Chippewa, \$25,000 for the St. Croix, and \$10,000 for each of the breakwaters. The latter are designed to be 500 feet in length, and located, one at Stockholm and the other at Lake City on Lake Pepin. The amount desired for the Chippewa is to be expended in applying the revetment system to the protection of the yellow banks, near Durand, Wis. The St. Croix improvements are to be made between Hudson and Osceola, as the engineer may direct.—*Northwestern Lumberman.*

## The Timber Trade in New Zealand.

It is satisfactory to learn, says the *Farmer*, that New Zealand is doing a "roaring trade" in timber. The quantity annually supplied from the forests of that colony is estimated to be about 400,000,000 superficial feet, the market value of which is about £2,000,000. The New Zealand timber merchants, who believe that their trade would be greatly increased if the manufacturers in the Old World were only acquainted with the strength and cheapness of their woods, have petitioned the Government, and we believe with success, to make experiments in Paris, under the supervision of eminent foresters. The result will be looked for with interest.

## Preventing Bush Fires.

The Brock, Ontario, Township council have passed a by-law for regulating the burning of brush, stumps, etc. It provides that no stumps, wood, logs, trees, brush, straw, shavings or refuse shall be set on fire by any person or persons in the open air within the municipality in or during the months of July or August in any year; nor at other time or times during the year until after eight days' notice has been given to the owner or occupant of the adjoining property. Any person contravening the provisions of this by-law shall, in addition to any damages which may occur, be liable to a fine of not less than \$2 or more than \$50 upon conviction before a Justice of the Peace.

A WRITER from Elizabeth, N. C., says that there are hundreds of thousands of acres of what are called swamp lands in the coast region of that state, a large portion of which is thickly set with cypress and juniper timber. The latter is said to be the same as northern cedar. North Carolina cedar is used chiefly for cooperage, and is being extensively shipped north in the log for that purpose. Elizabeth City has a population of 3,500 and contains four saw mills.

THE St. John *News* says that McLaughlin & Wilson have already commenced their spring sawing at Anagauco. They have sufficient logs in their pond and vicinity for nearly two million feet of lumber, and will soon be in a position to fill all orders. James Mills, Esq., is placing a large quantity of pine deals at the station, ready for early shipment. These have to be hauled a distance of some three miles, which can be done more easily on snow.