

GIANTS OF THE FOREST.

WE publish a letter from Mr. G. C. Hinton, of the Royal City Saw and Planing Mills, New Westminster, B. C.:

Mr. Hinton was raised in Ottawa and from experience is fitted to make a just comparison between eastern Canada's timber and the Pacific coast's.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C., Dec. 20.—The lumber industry of British Columbia is advancing so rapidly that it is only a matter of a few years when the Douglas fir and cedar will be introduced into the principal commercial centres of the world.

Already the mills of this province have the sawing capacity taxed to its utmost in supplying the rapidly and ever increasing demand for the celebrated Douglas fir, which is exported to Australia, China and South America. The great superiority of the fir in building structures where strength is required is simply proven by the admiralty test which places this wood second only to oak, where immense strength or breaking strain are desired, and in some places where lasting and weatherproof qualities are required, fully on a par with that valuable wood. It will thus be seen that the fir will naturally command an extensive market, and owing to the inexhaustible supply to be procured and its being much cheaper than hardwood, it will supplant hardwood in many industries where that is at present being used. The fir is already used extensively by the leading railway and car builders of both the United States and Canada for the construction of freight and passenger coaches and in the erection of pier, wharf and bridge structures. Its great length commends it to ship builders for masts, deck-planking and general work. It has to some extent been used by both the British and American governments in the construction of vessels for their service.

THE SIZE OF THE TIMBER.

A general idea may be formed of the immense size of the timber when sticks upwards of 100 feet in length and from 18 to 24 inches square are frequently seen around the saw mills. Probably the two largest sticks ever transported through Canada by rail were the two sawn on Burrard Inlet and used on the Montreal harbor improvements last season. The sticks were alike, 60 feet in length and 3 feet square, containing 6,480 feet, b.m. each, their combined weight being a fraction over 25½ tons.

Owing to the necessarily high cost of transporting such huge timber across the continent by rail it is expected that cargoes from here for the Eastern States and Canada will go by vessel via Cape Horn considerably cheaper, and we have on record an instance in which this way of shipping was highly successful, in the case of a cargo taken from Washington Territory to the United States navy yards, on the Atlantic, during the last season.

IMMENSE RED CEDAR.

The red cedar, which is a valuable commercial wood is noted for its immense size and not altogether unlike the far famed California redwood. Trees are frequently met with upwards of 200 feet in height and over 20 feet in diameter at the trunk. The supply is, practically speaking, unlimited. Owing to the beautiful grain and fine polish this wood is susceptible of, it is invaluable for all kinds of finish and fittings for residences and public and commercial buildings. Recently quite a demand has sprung up for sash and doors made from this wood as it is superior to any other for this class of work. We have a record of not a few shipments that have gone east as far as Nova Scotia. It is also used extensively in the building of steam launches, for which it is second to none, owing to its weight and ability to withstand decay against the sun and water.

SPRUCE, PINE, ETC.

The spruce found in this province, while not so valuable commercially as fir and cedar, is used very extensively in the manufacture of fruit boxes and cases for the great salmon industry.

White pine is found to some extent but owing to the scarcity and the purposes for which it is used commands better prices at home than either cedar or fir does in the log. It is not, however, exported to any

great extent as it does not differ much from the eastern article of the same name.

Alder, maple, yew, cottonwood and cypress are to be found in considerable quantities in places and are principally used in all kinds of factory work, such as fancy panelling for doors, stairs, furniture and turned work, the two former having the preference owing to the superior finish they are capable of taking.

NEW MILLS BUILDING.

The great natural advantages the province offers the lumber industry have attracted the attention of quite a few eastern lumbermen and capitalists of late years and several new mills are now under construction on Burrard Inlet and the Fraser river, which is the fresh water port of the province and possesses a fine harbor for the accommodation of the largest ships engaged in trade with foreign countries. The mills are being constructed on the most improved pattern and on a sufficiently large scale to facilitate the sawing of the gigantic timbers of these forests.

GEORGE C. HINTON.

CALIFORNIA FORESTS.

WILLIAM S. Lyon, chief forester of the State Board of Forestry, arrived in San Francisco last month from the State nurseries near Santa Monica, Los Angeles county. "It is not generally known," said he to a *Wood and Iron* reporter, "that the common black oak used for tanning purposes, is becoming scarcer each year, and to take its place we have been looking around for a suitable tree, and have found it in the black wattle. Since we made the discovery of which tree was best adapted to the State and for the purpose wanted, the State Board has been hard at work introducing into California the black wattle from Victoria, Australia. As long ago as 1872 the University of California imported red wattle and golden wattle from South Australia, and a species known as the black wattle. This last has turned out to be a spurious tree, absolutely worthless for the purpose for which it was designed. We have at last found the genuine article, the black wattle of Victoria, and we propose to plant these seeds throughout the State as soon as possible. My forthcoming biennial report deals largely with this important subject. The report will have thirty-two full page illustrations dealing with the growing of barks for tannery purposes. The coast supply of common black oak will in time become exhausted, and the black wattle is the only tree to take its place.

Another important work we are commencing is the distribution of the cluster pine, made necessary to State interest from the fact that our pine forests do not yield terebinthine products, such as turpentine, tar, pitch and resin, in sufficient quality or quantity. The cluster pine is the best for the purpose, and it does not take a lifetime for it to yield paying returns."

HOW CLOTHES-PINS ARE MADE.

IF there is one article that is an absolute necessity to a housekeeper, it is a clothes-pin, and the following facts in regard to that useful article are interesting:

Canadian clothes-pins are made at Newmarket, Ont., Eastman, Que., and Rundhill N. B. They are usually of white ash, but we have them of beech, birch, and maple. The wood is taken to the factory in logs, and cut into lengths of thirty-one inches by circular saws. These are then cut into blocks which are reduced to sticks, then placed under another saw and reduced to clothes-pin lengths. Next the turner takes a hand at them, and from him they go to the slitting machine. They are placed in troughs by the operator, the machine picking them up and slatting them. Then they are placed in a revolving pipe drier, going thence to the polishing cylinder. Each pin passes through eight hands.

"A single plant consists of a board saw, gang splitter, gang chunker, turning lathe, drying house and polisher, and costs from \$10,000 to \$19,000. The little blocks of wood, five and one half inches long, are placed on an endless belt, which feeds the blocks automatically into the lathe. As the lathe is turned the pin is taken automatically from the spindle and placed on a turn-table and carried to a circular saw, which whittles out the

slat into a pin. It is then finished and thrown out of the turn-table by the same appliance that puts the pins on the table.

"Falling, they are caught in a basket or barrel, and are taken to the drying house to remain twelve hours or until dry. The polishing cylinder holds from twenty to forty bushels. This is run at a slow speed, about thirty turns a minute, and by simple friction and contact they become polished. They are sold to the trade at a little over \$1 a bushel, and are packed in boxes of four to the bushel. The industry is an increasing one, and almost \$50,000 worth of pins were manufactured in 1890."

"THE SCOW BUSS UP ON LAC ST. PIERRE."

IT WAS one dark night on Lac St. Pierre,
De wind was "blow," "blow," "blow."
When the crew of the wood scow JULE LA PLANT
Get scare and run below.

For de wind she's blows like hurricane.

Bimeby she's blow some more,

When de scow buss up on Lac St. Pierre,

One half mile from de shore.

De captain she's walk on de front deck,

She's walk on de hind deck too,

She's call de crew from up de hole,

She call de cook, also.

De Cook he's name was Rosa,

He's come from Moreal,

Was chambermaid on lumber barge,

On dat big Lachine Canal.

De wind she's blow from Nor, Eass, Wess,

De Sou's wind she's blow too,

When Rosa say, my God, captain,

Whatever shall I do.

De captain she' throw the hank,

But still dat skow she drift.

For de crew he pass on dat shore

Because he loose dat skiff.

De night was dark, like one black cat,

De waves run high and fass.

When de captain take poor Rosa,

And lash her to the mass.

When de captain put on de life preserve

And he jump on de Lac.

And he say good-bye, my Rosa, dear,

I go down for your sake.

Next morning very early,

About half-past two, three, four,

De captain's cook and wood scow

Lay corpses on de shore.

For de wind he's blow like hurricane,

Pretty soon she's blow some more,

For dat slow buss up on Lac St. Pierre,

One-half mile from de shore.

MORAL.

Now all good skow sailor man's,

Take warning by dat storm,

And go and marry one nice French girl,

And live on one good farm.

Den de wind she may blow like hurricane.

And 'spose she blow some more,

You shant be drowned on Lac St. Pierre,

So long you stop on shore.

TIMBER FOUR THOUSAND YEARS OLD.

PROBABLY the oldest timber in the world which has been subjected to the use of man is found in the ancient temple of Egypt, in connection with stonework, which is known to be at least four thousand years old. This is the only wood used in the construction of the temple, and is in the form of ties, holding the end of one stone to another. When two blocks were laid in place an excavation about an inch deep was made in each block, in which one of these wooden-ties, shaped like an hour-glass was driven. It is therefore very difficult to force a stone from its position. These ancient ties are made of tamarisk or shittim wood, the same as that from which the ark was constructed.

MELBOURNE, N. S. W., Australia, imported from Canada during Nov. 1889, 11,586 pieces deals and 1,079,635 feet lineal tongued and grooved flooring.