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PORT ARTHUR TRADE.

The lumber business at Port Arthur seems to have grown like a mushroom in a night. Two weeks ago lumber could not be had here for love or money, and now you can get any quantity of it. Since the middle of May there has arrived here, on different vessels, about 2,500,000 feet of lumber, the principal portion of it being for the Northwest. But this is only a beginning of what is to come. The barge Lothair, Capt. Symmes, with her consorts, the Staubezie and Corrisande, have a contract for landing here, from Parry Sound, for Ogilvie & Co., of Winnipeg, 6,000,000 feet of lumber, to be used in building elevators in the Northwest. After this contract is completed he will probably continue all the season. They carry about 1,000,000 feet each trip, and it is estimated that they will land here during the season about 10,000,000 feet. G. A. Priest, who has opened out in the lumber business here, will also do an extensive business. He will have vessels running here regularly with lumber, which he will ship to the Northwest. It is estimated that he will ship through Port Arthur several millions of feet. Graham, Horn & Co., of this place and Port William, also have their fleet of vessels, which will be constantly employed in bringing lumber here for the Northwest trade. Their shipments will go into the millions. We have heard of day of another large lumber yard that will shortly be opened out here by a Mr. Wells, of Winnipeg. We understand he will go into the business on a large scale, and will ship several million feet to the Northwest during this season. With these large lumber firms operating here, it will be safe to estimate that between 25,000,000 and 50,000,000 feet of lumber will be transhipped at Port Arthur this season. And still business in this line is only beginning. The coming events are casting their shadows before, as it were. Where now are the people who a few weeks ago asked what we were going to do with our docks? The vastness of the trade that will eventually go through Port Arthur can scarcely be estimated at the present time.—*Herald.*

SAW MILLS IN THE DOMINION.

The business of sawing timber gave employment in Canada in 1881, as we learn from the census returns of that year, to 41,500 persons in 5,390 mills, at an average wage of about \$200 a year each. The value of the logs sawed in that year is placed at \$20,798,000, and the wages amounted to \$3,146,000. The value of the product is placed at \$23,569,000.

The census enumerators have located the 5,390 saw mills in operation in 1881 as follows:—Ontario, 1,761; Quebec, 1,729; Nova Scotia, 1,190; New Brunswick, 478; P. E. Island, 165; Manitoba, 37; British Columbia 27, the Territories 3.

The number of hands employed was: In

Ontario, 16,846, of whom 69 were women and eight girls under ten years. In the province of Quebec 12,461 hands, of whom 37 were women and eight girls. In New Brunswick 7,175, of whom 20 were women and eight girls. In Nova Scotia 1,160 hands of whom 34 were women. P. E. Island returns 419, British Columbia 404, and the Territories 44 employees, making a total of 41,569 persons.

The following are the statistics of the annual wages, value of raw material and value of these 5,390 saw mills arranged by provinces

	Yearly Wages.	Raw Material.	Products.
Ontario.....	\$3,681,223	8,985,797	16,629,075
Quebec.....	2,287,191	5,101,884	10,642,649
New Brunswick..	1,243,625	4,351,100	6,632,820
Nova Scotia.....	549,480	1,440,858	2,394,137
Manitoba.....	203,190	513,158	855,173
British Columbia	202,420	223,061	550,321
P. E. Island.....	53,202	127,194	240,153
Territories.....	17,000	43,802	95,318
Grand total	\$8,140,090	20,798,389	33,569,052

Figures of shingle manufacture are not included in this table—the Provinces standing as follows in the product of the shingle mills—Ontario \$454,803, New Brunswick \$128,714, Quebec \$98,130, Nova Scotia \$69,344, P. E. Island \$10,406, British Columbia \$5,597. Commenting on the return the *Montreal Herald* says:—"The art of shingle making was either not understood or remained uncultivated in Manitoba and the North-West up to 1881. Doubtless in the manufacture of lumber of all descriptions great strides have since been taken in that quarter." *Monetary Times*

THE LAKE OF THE WOODS.

We take the following extract from the *Montreal Herald's* report of the interview of a reporter with Major Lewis:—

"Is there a good timber country east of Winnipeg?" was asked by the *Herald* representative.

"Not until you reach," Major Lewis replied, "the Lake of the Woods or rivers and lakes connected with it. Of course, Lake Winnipeg is renowned for being plentifully supplied with spruce, but, in order to get red or white pine, you must go to the Lake of the Woods or east of it, and then it is only found in very small quantities, and in groves or bunches."

"Is the timber of large size such as we usually cut in Ontario?"

"By no means," the Major answered, "but I think it is sounder and better, although smaller, and will average, per centum, more stock lumber."

"Why is it that there are complaints about the want of lumber if the timber is there as you say?"

"In the first place because millions upon millions of the timber have been burnt, I think chiefly on account of the carelessness of traveling Indians lighting fires. Some people think

that the destruction has been caused by lightning. This may have occurred in some localities, but it never could have caused such wholesale destruction as has taken place, as the country shows evidence of. In the second place, on account of the great expense that pertains to the getting out and manufacture of timber, aside from the fact that there is no permanency in the present regulations, that would justify a capitalist in investing his money."

"Are there any facilities at or near the Lake of the Woods for the manufacture of lumber?"

"Yes, we have at Rat Portage on the Canada Pacific Railway, mills, steam and water power, as fine as there are in the world, with all the latest improvements."

"Does Rat Portage possess any natural facilities for manufacturing purposes?"

"It not only possesses an immense water power, which is now being used for a large paper mill, but, I have been informed, will, in a very short time, be utilized by the Hudson Bay Co., for the working of the largest grist mills in Canada. In addition, I may say, that Rat Portage is destined to be the watering place of the whole great Northwest. There will be many who will go to Port Arthur, which in my opinion, will be the Chicago of the Northwest, but for real pleasure, canoeing, boating, tenting and fishing, the Lake of the Woods is par excellence the place there."

HEAVY IN HEMLOCK.

F. Shaw & Bros., with headquarters at Boston, are said to be the greatest manufacturers of hemlock extract and tanners in the world. They own seven tanneries in Maine, an equal number in Canada, besides six large establishments in Maine and New Brunswick, for the manufacture of hemlock extract. Two years ago, they owned or controlled 14 tanneries in Canada, but, as bark grew scarce they gradually closed their works there, until but six are now in operation. The location and capacity of their tanneries, as given by the *Mining and Industrial Journal*, of Bangor, are as follows: Grand Lake Stream, 700 vats; Kingman, 550; Vancoboro, 500; Jackson Brook, 400; Forest City, 300; Lincoln, 200; Princeton, 100; total capacity, 2,700 vats. Their extract works in No. 39, near Burlington, consume 8,000 cords of bark yearly; in Houlton, 3,000 cords; Shorman, 6,000; Woodstock, N. B., 7,000; two sets of works on the St. John river, 6,000 each; total, 38,000 cords.

The same authority says: The tannery at Grand Lake Stream is said to be the largest in the world. The buildings consist, first, of a drying house for the leather, 80 feet square and eight stories high. Connected with and running north from this is the building containing the 700 vats, which is 600 feet long and 80 feet wide. Adjoining this is the bark mill, leach

room, and furnace room, 220 feet long; and running eastward from the dry house is a building 225 feet in length, which contains the dry hide and finishing rooms. There are 13 steam boilers and 12 furnaces for burning the waste bark or tan. The motive power of the establishment is furnished by six water wheels and three steam engines. The works run night and day, the year round (Sundays excepted), and the premises are illuminated during the night by the Edison Electric Light. The firm has its own saw mill, which furnishes all the lumber required in the construction of its factory buildings, and also all the houses in the village occupied by its own and other laborers. It has steamers on the lake for towing its 12 scows, which bring in about 100 cords of bark daily, that which is not required for immediate consumption being stored for winter use. The bark required for tanning the leather must be got out a year ahead, and the firm has at the present time some 11,000 cords of bark—peeled and yarded in the woods last year—which it is now bringing forward in its scows for this summer and next winter use. As an illustration of a single item of expense in running this tannery, it may be stated that this bark is valued at \$7 per cord. The company has a single pile of bark, up the lake, containing 4,000 cords.

This immense establishment turns out 1,000 sides, or about nine tons in weight, of finished leather every working day of 24 hours. To produce this quantity of leather requires the grinding and consumption of 40 cords hemlock bark, in connection with 15 barrels of hemlock extract, equal to 15 cords more—or 55 cords daily. South American hides are mainly used.—*Northwestern Lumberman.*

The lumber trade of St. Paul, Minn., in 1881 was reported as having amounted to \$1,348,000, and in 1882 it rose to \$3,439,622, thus gaining more in one year than all the previous years of St. Paul's existence.

The city council of Pueblo, Colo., has received a remonstrance against cutting down a cottonwood tree which is 26 inches in circumference, and probably 1,000 years old. It is regarded as the largest and finest cottonwood in the state.

A large elm tree growing at Norwich, Conn., is over 70 years old, and the limbs are 30 feet from the ground. It stands alongside a house, the chimney of which has been swept away by the overhanging branches, while the tree has raised and moved the house one foot by the force of its growth. A similar instance has occurred at Nassau, New Providence, one of the Bahama Islands. A cotton silk tree growing there has attained such mammoth proportions that it has actually lifted a large Government building.