

CARELESS SAWING AND PILING.

Report of the Agricultural Commission just issued, we find the following with reference to the proper manufacture and piling of hardwood lumber:—

"One of the greatest drawbacks to the hardwood timber business is the difficulty experienced in getting the lumber properly manufactured. While there are many mills distributed throughout the Province, very few of the sawmill men seem to know, or if they do, don't care, how they cut their lumber. In most cases they will cut the logs through and through, thus leaving the heart in the lumber and often one or more inches of bark on one side, besides making the boards of uneven thickness. When they measure such lumber they do so on the wide side, and make no allowance for heart lumber. This is the source of great trouble to the purchasers, as when properly measured there is a great difference, even in a few thousand feet. All hardwood lumber should be cut free from hearts and shakes, and, when cutting, the logs should be turned so as to make the lumber as clear as possible, as a piece of good lumber, either inch or thicker, six or eight inches wide, is worth far more than one twice the width with a heart or shake in the centre or on one edge; further, it should all be cut uniform in thickness and parallel width, and also square edged. Then, again, a great loss is occasioned by improper piling of the lumber, as often good lumber is completely spoiled and rendered worthless from the way in which it is piled. The piles should be started on firm foundations laid north and south, as lumber piled in these directions prevents the hot summer sun from splitting the ends. Each length and thickness should be piled separately, and, except in long lengths, should only have two cross pieces; in lumber twelve to fourteen feet long, these should be about nine feet apart. The pile should have a slope of about six inches. This can be done by placing the back stringer six inches lower than the front. This fall causes the rain to run off. The front piling strip should be put across at the very end, or even a little past the end, and each board or plank should come a little forward of the one below it. The piling strips should be over each other, or rather a little in front. For instance, a pile twenty feet high should overhang say two feet, and a straight-edge put up on the front of the pile should touch all the front cross pieces, and not touch the ends of the lumber. The lumber should not be allowed to remain uncovered, but should, as soon as piled, be covered with culls or cheap lumber. The ends of the covering-boards should extend over the front and rear, and be tied down or have heavy pieces of timber thrown on the top to keep the wind from blowing them away. The piles should be finished as quickly as possible.

If sawmill men would only attend to the above instructions they would get from one to three dollars per thousand feet more for their lumber.

BRITISH TIMBER TRADE, 1880.

An exhaustive review of the trade for 1880 is made by the London *Timber Trades Journal* of January 22nd, from which the following interesting particulars are compiled, attention being directed mainly to American stock sold in the various marts of the kingdom:

The total supply of foreign timber to the United Kingdom, exclusive of staves and furniture woods, for two years past was as follows, with the countries furnishing it, a "load" being 50 cubic feet:

	1879.	1880
Loads.	Loads.	
Norway and Sweden, hewn.....	436,653	658,881
Norway and Sweden, sawn.....	1,400,030	1,608,210
Russia, hewn.....	174,838	336,649
" sawn.....	723,609	1,060,608
Germany, hewn.....	200,011	277,579
British North America, hewn.....	194,431	360,622
" sawn.....	904,689	1,147,010
Other countries, hewn.....	309,322	486,145
" sawn.....	218,584	271,055
Total.....	4,731,527	6,206,778

The total supply of 1874 was 6,252,641 loads; 1875, 4,985,769 loads; in 1876, 6,260,913 loads; in 1877, 6,665,361 loads; in 1878, 5,299,901 loads. Reduced to inch boards the superficial measurement of the supply of 1880 would be about 3,103,389,000 feet.

The importation from Canada to London last year was: Yellow pine deals, 1,805,000 pieces; spruce deals 2,977,000 pieces; yellow pine timber 4,357 loads; red pine 892 loads; elm 1,991 loads; ash 2,719 loads; hickory 311 loads; ash 3,738 loads; birch 8,617 loads.

As compared with the importation of 1879, there was a decrease last year of 289,000 pieces of pine deals and 345,000 pieces of spruce deals; there was an increase in yellow pine timber of 1,603 loads, of oak 1,137, and of birch 5,357 loads.

In 1878 the tonnage employed in bringing cargoes of timber, deals, and other wood goods into Liverpool and Birkenhead was 373,000 tons in 1879, 326,000 tons, and in 1880 about 485,000 tons, or an increase of 28 per cent. over 1878, and 37 per cent. over 1879. Of this 485,000 tons, about 122,000 tons have been vessels engaged in the Quebec and Montreal trade, 102,000 tons from St. John, N.B., 110,000 tons from Nova Scotia ports, 96,000 tons from the Baltic and White Sea, and 65,000 tons from the pitch pine ports, and if we add the tonnage of the vessels bringing teak, greenheart, and mahogany, which have not been taken into account in the above, the total may be set down in round numbers at 500,000 tons.

The imports from Canada of yellow pine timber in 1880 were 47,800 logs, against 25,200 in 1879, and 25,160 in 1878, and from St. John, N.B., and the Lower Gulf ports, 6,100 in 1880, against 3,100 in 1879, and 3,100 in 1878. Of pine deals, 1,660,000 pieces in 1880, against 1,061,000 pieces in 1879, and 1,001,000 pieces in 1878, show a very large increase in this description of goods, which appear to be growing more in favor year by year. The increase in the quantity of deals from New Brunswick and other ports, chiefly spruce, is shown as follows: In 1880, 3,289,000 pieces, against 4,735,000 pieces in 1879, and 5,896,000 pieces in 1880, which may be estimated as being 87,500 Petersburg standards in 1880, 65,700 in 1879, and 81,800 in 1878.

Canadian goods have not varied much in prices during the past season, save pine deals, which gave way to the extent of 10s. to 15s. per standard during the first part of the import season, owing to the consignment of parcels of low qualities and generally poor specifications, but regular sizes and good qualities have throughout the year been very steady. This has also been the case with prime timber, but fair average and common qualities have been sold at prices under cost of importation.

The import of pitch pine has been, like most other woods, in excess of last year, being about 59,000 logs, against 40,000 logs in 1879. But as there has been throughout a very lively consumption of this favorite timber, our stocks, as will be seen from the table, are moderate. Prices during the year have been high, and, although they have slightly receded here lately, the rates asked abroad are very firm.

	Stock for Dec. 31, 1879, ft.	Year end'd Dec. 31, 1880, ft.
Quebec square pine.....	569,000	531,000
" waney board.....	303,000	301,000
St. John pine.....	21,000	23,000
Other ports pine.....	43,000	18,000
Pitch pine, hewn.....	391,000	273,000
" sawn.....	200,000	204,000
" planks.....	37,000	13,000
Red pine.....	63,000	22,000
Dantzic, etc., fir.....	219,000	59,000
Sweden and Norway fir.....	4,000	7,000
Oak, Canadian.....	521,000	714,000
" Baltic.....	37,000	1,500
Elm.....	43,000	35,000
Ash.....	13,000	9,000
Birch.....	275,000	86,000
Greenheart.....	38,000	117,000
East India teak.....	77,000	93,500
	Stand'ds.	Stand'ds.
Quebec pine and spruce deals.....	11,095	6,750
B.B. & N.S. spruce deals.....	30,641	21,592
" pine deals.....	1,850	2,224
Baltic deals.....	6,943	3,468
" boards.....	709	1,002
" flooring boards.....	2,330	2,091

The total tonnage employed in the conveyance of wood goods to Clyde ports during the year 1880 has amounted to 184,000 tons; from British North America alone 123,000 tons; showing 5,000 tons more than the average of the last ten years. From United States (pitch pine), tonnage employed during 1880, 28,400 tons; India (teak), 13,200 tons; Mexico (mahogany), 3,200 tons; Baltic ports and Norway, 5,000 tons, etc. For the conveyance of wood to Grangemouth, through which port this market is supplied with Baltic and Norwegian goods, the tonnage employed during the past year amounted to 99,068 tons. Of this total a small proportion represents imports from Quebec and Pensacola to Grangemouth.

During the year 1877 Quebec square yellow pine was imported to the amount of 77,472 pieces, while the total of 1880 only reaches 36,787 pieces, with a consumption of 43,899 pieces and in 1879 import 13,231 pieces, and consumption 34,500 pieces. These figures show that much of the consumption of the past two years has been drawn from the unusually heavy import of 1877. The stock now on hand seems to be moderate. Birch timber shows a very heavy import during last year, 9,676 pieces; and the consumption 7,921 pieces. The stock on hand at 31st December last is about equal to that of 1878. The probability of a sparing import for the current year should have a tendency to improve prices.

There has been a marked increase in the import and consumption of pitch pine, a total of 96,691 logs being the import of 1880, and 71,465 logs the amount of consumption, as contrasted with an import of 43,606 logs, and consumption 35,725 logs during 1879. This wood appears to be improving in value and general estimation.

Yellow Pine.—Quebec waney boardwood: the stock at the beginning of the year was much less than usual, and an advance in prices soon took place, which is still well maintained. Recent sales of prime 19 in. average square have been at 2s. 4d. @ 2s. 7d. per foot.

Deck plank wood.—Prices, 60 to 70 feet average per log at 2s. 3d. @ 2s. 4½d. per cubic foot; 90 ft. average at 2s. 6d. per cubic foot. These figures are much the same as were realized at the beginning of the year, and for the spring months a fair demand is anticipated, as ship-building promises well.

Building timber.—The import has been judiciously curtailed, and the stock now on hand is comparatively light, which is satisfactory in view of the dull state of the house-building trade; 50 ft. average recently brought 14d. @ 16d. per ft., showing an advance on prices current at the beginning of 1880.

Red pine.—Parcels of 30 to 35 ft. average have recently sold at 14d. to 16d., being much the same prices as were obtained in the opening of the year.

Pitch pine.—There has been a very heavy import and large consumption during the year. The stock on hand is not very heavy considering the rate of consumption, and prices at present current are very similar to what they were about a year ago—hewn of 80 to 90 ft. average 20d. to 21d.; and sawn, 35 to 40 ft. average, 18½d. to 19½d.

Elm.—Present prices, 2d. 1d. to 2s. 2d. per cubic ft. for 45 to 66 ft. average, and 1s. 10d. per cubic ft. for 36 ft. average of good quality.

Ash.—Import and consumption during the year show a marked increase, this wood coming more into use by cabinet-makers; prices 2s. to 2s. 3d. per cubic ft.

Birch.—Current prices Quebec of 16 in. average, 1s. 7d. per cubic ft., lower port, 15 to 16 in. average, at 1s. 4d. per cubic ft. Stock on hand may be called moderate, considering the rate of consumption experienced during the past year.

Deals.—Prices. 1st quality Quebec pine deals, 2s. 2d. to 3s. per cubic ft., 2nd quality, 1s. 7½d. to 1s. 10d.; 3rd quality, 1s. 2½d. to 1s. 5d. Lower port pine deals, 1st, 2nd and 3rd quality mixed, at 11d. to 1s. 1d. per cubic ft. Spruce deals at 10d. to 1s. 1d. per cubic ft. Last year's total import of deals shows a very large increase over that of 1879. The most marked increase is in lower port deals, of which there were large arrivals in the spring of 1880. There is at present an ample stock of Quebec deals, but of other descriptions the supply is quite moderate.

Prices have undergone very little change during the year.

The reports throughout the entire kingdom show an increased importation for last year and larger stocks on hand at the close, notwithstanding an improvement in trade and a larger consumption.

TIMBER SUPPLY.

There are few questions more important to Western Ontario farmers than the question of timber culture for future use. Forests have been cut down with almost criminal waste and no new ones planted, and even in the Orillia districts ten years will use all lumber fit for the saw. While the future lumber supply has been much talked of, a few farmers in that neighborhood, show the question not so hard of solution. Having planted a few acres of poor land, they found it does not require many years to grow profitable timber, and that if its culture were properly understood there is little occasion to offer any inducement to plant beyond the self-interest involved in itself, just as there is in any other business pursuit. The man who plants an orchard does not expect to get any return until it is ten or fifteen years old. He knows that if he wants to sell his farm before the trees bear fruit, the statement on the sale-bills that it contains "an orchard of fruit trees just coming into bearing," will help the bidding wonderfully, and it would be the same with the trees if the timber question were properly understood. These parties state that a piece of woodland properly planted will come into use as quickly as an apple orchard will, and a farm of one hundred acres that had a few acres of young forest would bring far more than the additional cost of planting, should the farmer be forced to sell before the timber matured. All this implies that it be properly located. It would neither be prudent nor profitable to plant where a whole acre of timber could be bought for a few dollars any more than it would be wise to plant apple trees the fruit of which nobody would buy. There is, however, no doubt that in fifteen or twenty years, over a large district of our Province, timber will be scarce and lumber high-priced, and that those who plant now will be well rewarded though the trees be not large enough for saw-logs then, yet the little plantation would come well into use for fuel and other purposes. Every one who owns a farm should look about him and see how the timber prospect is, and, if he sees a probable scarcity in the market or in his woodshed, plant a few acres to supply the deficiency.

Where the Wood Goes.

To make shoe pegs enough for American use consumes annually 100,000 cords of timber, and to make our lucifer matches 300,000 cubic feet of the best pine are required every year. Lasts and boot-trees take 500,000 cords of birch, beech, and maple, and the handles of tools 500,000 more. The baking of our bricks consumes 2,000,000 cords of wood, or what would cover with forest about 55,000 acres of land. Telegraph poles already up represent 800,000 trees, and their annual repair consumes about 300,000 more. The ties of our railroads consume annually thirty year's growth of 75,000 acres, and to fence all our railroads would cost \$45,000,000, with a yearly expenditure of \$15,000,000 for repairs. These are some of the ways in which American forests are going. There are others; packing boxes, for instance, cost in 1874 \$12,000,000, while the timber used each year in making waggons and agricultural implements is valued at more than \$100,000,000.

THE Thunder Bay *North Star Miner* urges the establishment of rolling mills and blast furnaces at that place. It expresses the opinion that "Thunder Bay is the one point most favorable for the erection of rolling mills and blast furnaces, and capitalists can find no better site, and no better time than the present, for the establishment of industries of this nature. There is here the necessary deposit of ore in quality and quantity, the opportunity of disposing of their manufacture at a large profit, and the matter of labor is also favorable, for it is generally abundant at fair wages."

TWELVE months ago only ten furnaces were in blast in Virginia. There are now 30 stacks for charcoal pig iron, with ten in blast eight stacks for coke iron, with eight in blast—24 stacks in blast out of 38 furnaces in the State. There has been an increase of five stacks this year (1880) in Virginia. So far the accumulation of pig iron is merely nominal. Throughout the State and the bordering States of North and South Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia, the iron industries are prospering, and the promise for 1881 is most satisfactory.