

# THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

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## THE ORIGIN OF THE WORD "LUMBER."

THE word lumber, says the Timberman, which has an essentially American origin as applied to manufactures of timber, was first used in Boston in an official way in 1663. It is a most comprehensive word, and other countries have no expression for it that covers the ground so completely. In Great Britain, for instance, each item of lumber has its name, as with us; but, if they were speaking of manufactures of wood as a whole, about the only term which they have that covers the case is "wood-goods," which is an awkward expression at best. The word lumber was coined in Boston. A recent writer in the Boston Journal states that the word has not had full justice accorded to it. From 1630 for nearly one hundred years Boston was the chief lumber market of the world, and that industry was one of the principal foundations of Boston's wealth. Other Boston staples were fish and leather, but in magnitude of transactions lumber was in the lead. The site of the old state house, known as Market Place, was formerly a lumber yard. The men of Boston got to calling sawn timber lumber because the ships that brought that article of commerce to Boston used to lumber up the wharves and streets with their product. In 1663 the police regulations of Boston provided that the wharves and all streets "that butted upon the water" must be kept free from all "lumber and other goods." Boston lumber carried in Boston ships went to all parts of the world and laid the foundation for Boston wealth. It is said that the first cargo returned by the Pilgrim Fathers to England was a cargo of pipe staves, and for the reason that Europe could not produce as good an article, it was a profitable venture, netting the shippers five hundred pounds. In that industry the Puritans were satisfied that all Europe could not rival them. The term lumber included masts, staves, clapboards, shingles, boards, planks and timber. Although Boston is still a large lumber market and has continued so through all these years, it did not long maintain its supremacy in this country, being early overshadowed by New York and many other markets, and now all of these are inferior to the great city of the West, Chicago.

## ANCIENT WOOD HOUSE IN JAPAN.

JAPAN possesses what is probably the oldest wooden structure in the world. It contains the art treasures of the Mikado and is situated in Nara, which for some years was the imperial residence. The building is oblong in shape and is built of triangular logs of wood. It rests on piles. The wood used is of native growth and shows extraordinary lasting power, considering the trying climate which it has had to endure for over 1,200 years. A peculiar feature about the logs of which the building is constructed is that, in the parts most exposed to the weather, the logs are thinner by several inches than in those in a more sheltered position, the wood having gradually worn away. The treasures which the storehouse contains are of great antiquity and have been seen by Europeans during only the last three years. They consist of rare and beautiful fabrics of Persian, Indian, Chinese and Turkish manufacture and ancient articles from all parts of the world. Among the objects of interest is the earliest known specimen of Japanese printing. Even to-day many of the words are easily decipherable. The treasures have remained undisturbed in the same building for 1,200 years, and despite the troublous times through which it has been in existence, it has never been injured or disturbed. Many of the treasures are still packed up in the storehouse chamber underground, where they have lain for hundreds of years, and when they are brought to view some new light may be thrown upon the early history of the country.

## THE LATE SENATOR KENNEDY F. BURNS.

IN the death of Senator K. F. Burns, of Bathurst, N. B., a few weeks since, the lumber trade has lost one, who, for many years, had been prominent in its ranks.

Mr. Burns was a native of Ireland, having been born at Thomaston, County of Tipperary, Jan. 8th, 1842. He came to New Brunswick when a boy and his education was obtained in Halifax, N. S., and St. John, N. B. In 1857 he became a resident of Chatham and in 1861 settled in Bathurst. In 1878 he formed a business partnership with the Hon. Samuel Adams, and his brother Mr. P. J. Burns, the new firm going extensively into lumber, and erecting a fine saw mill at the mouth of the Nepisiguit river, opposite the town of Bathurst.

On the retirement of Mr. Adams the business was carried on under the name of K. F. Burns & Co., until May, 1890, when it became merged in the St. Lawrence Lumber Co., Ltd., with mills at Bersimis, Que., Bathurst and Caraque, N.B., and offices in London and Liverpool, Eng. Considerable English capital was invested in the business, and apparently a profitable trade was done for some years. Within the present year, however, the



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company became financially embarrassed and at the present time it is in course of liquidation, Mr. Burns having been one of the liquidators.

Mr. Burns was a public spirited man, having represented Gloucester in the House of Assembly for several years. In 1882 he became a member of the Dominion House, as representative for Gloucester. Later on he was appointed Senator by the Dominion Government.

Personally the deceased possessed in a generous measure the elements that give success and popularity in life, and in his death a blank is created in the business and social walks of the Maritime Provinces.

## SHIPPING LUMBER.

IN loading lumber, especially timber, upon flat railroad cars, says the Tradesman, some provision must be made for holding the top end of the stakes firmly in position so that they may not bulge outward or break off owing to pressure of the lumber as it shifts about in going up or down grades or round curves. Some shippers nail pieces of board across from stake to stake. This method is not accepted by some railroads, as it is claimed that the nails may break off. Other shippers put sapling poles across and spike the poles to stakes. This method is open to the same objection as the first. Still another way is to put telegraph wire across from stake to stake; half a dozen strands of wire thus strung across forms a very stout and handy method of tying the sticks together, especially as a twister can be inserted in the middle of the car between the strands of wire,

and the stakes drawn into the required positions. The great trouble with this method is that the wire is rather expensive. Some enterprising shipper has been sending me timber with a combination of the wire and sapling methods. He puts in sapling stakes, places a sap pole across from stake to stake, notches the ends of both stake and pole and then wires them together with a few short pieces of No. 8 wire. Very little wire is used and the job is as strong as where the all-wire connection is made.

## THE SEASON FOR CUTTING TIMBER.

THAT there is a right season for felling timber, and that the value of timber for building purposes largely depends on this season being chosen, are generally admitted facts; yet the practice of different people and districts, says the Carpenter and Builder, is found to vary most essentially. Thus, while the time for cutting timber for building is largely fixed in Germany in the months of November, December and January; in the Alpine districts of Switzerland and Austria the best and most durable timber for building is considered to be that which is felled in the summer. The reason of this is that the wood of coniferous trees—fir, pine, etc.—contains least moisture in May and June, and as the felled timber is left on the ground till the following winter, it becomes well dried before it is taken away. However this may be with the coniferous trees of the mountainous districts, it is certain that the trees in the plains require different treatment. The question has been subjected to a series of tests in Germany, and the result is sufficiently conclusive. In one case the experiment was with four beams of equal length, breadth and thickness, sawn and shaped in the same fashion, cut from trees of the same kind growing close to one another, and kept on the same dry spot, the only difference between them being that they were cut in four different months. The timber felled in December was the strongest of all; that cut in January was 12 per cent. inferior to it in point of strength or of power of bearing pressure; that cut in February was 20 per cent., and that cut in March 38 per cent. weaker than the December timber. In another experiment entire pine trees were buried in a moist damp soil; one sort had been felled in December, the other in February. It was found that the latter had turned rotten in eight years, while the former was sixteen years before it decayed. A similar experience with deal planks showed that those sawn from trees felled in March decayed in two years, while planks from December timber last six years.

## SAWING PATTERN LUMBER.

BETTER patterns, says a writer in an exchange, can be made if the lumber be sawed with a rift or quartered saw, as frequently termed. It may be something new for the pattern maker to use "quartered pine," but the patterns he makes of that lumber will stay in place much better than when sawed off the log in the usual manner. An old pattern maker of my acquaintance, whenever he is called upon to make a particularly nice pattern, always splits out his pattern stock with an axe, taking a log of sufficient length to make the desired pieces. He splits this log carefully in the middle, then splits each half into quarters, and bews out from these quarters the required shapes to make his patterns. Quarter sawing comes very near to the effects secured by the hand axe pattern maker alluded to above. The foundry worker has long been aware that quartered oak stays in place much better than cant sawed oak, which means sawing off one side of a log, then beginning over and sawing the other side.

Moffatt & Co., of Renfrew, Ont., are building a large addition to their wood-working establishment.