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CHARACTER SKETCH.

HON. PETER WHITE.

It affords THE LUMBERMAN much pleasure to present to its readers a portrait of Hon. Peter White, together with some particulars of his active and useful life. Mr. White is a son of the late Lieut. Col. Peter White, a native of Edinburgh, Scotland, who came to Canada and founded the town of Pembroke in 1828, and was for years one of the principal lumber merchants of the Ottawa valley. Born at Pembroke in the year 1838, the subject of our sketch was educated at the local schools, receiving his business training in a mercantile house in Ottawa. In 1858, in partnership with his brother, Mr. A. T. White, he embarked in the lumber trade, the firm name being A. & P. White. This partnership has continued ever since. For many years their business was chiefly confined to the production of square and waney timber in the Ottawa valley, but latterly they have been engaged in the manufacture of sawn lumber. Their mills are located at Pembroke, and have a capacity of about six million feet per annum. The members of the firm are also shareholders and directors of the Pembroke Lumber Company, which have extensive saw mills in the same town.

Mr. White has devoted much time and energy to advancing the interests of the town of Pembroke, and aided very materially in promoting the Kingston & Pembroke railway. He was first elected to the House of Commons for North Renfrew at the general election in 1874, and with the exception of one session, continued to represent that constituency until 1896, when he was defeated by Mr. Thos. Mackie, M. P. For some years he was chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Mining, and during the Seventh Parliament, 1891 to 1896, held the office of Speaker. He was appointed a member of the Advisory Board of the Liberal-Conservative Union of Ontario in 1896, and in March of the following year was called to the Privy Council of Canada. He is president of the Pembroke Electric Light Company and of the Crystal Gold Mining Company, and a director of the Pembroke Lumber Company, Pembroke Navigation Company, and the Tobique Gypsum Company. His senior partner, Mr. A. T. White, M.P.P., was elected to the local legislature of Ontario at the general election of 1898.

EXACTLY SO.

An "ad." in a trade journal will do what traveling men, as a rule, do not do. It will go to towns off from the railroad, where there are no hotels. It will work nights, Sundays and holidays, in wet weather or dry, hot weather or cool. It will talk to the merchant before some of the boys are out of bed in the morning and after they have gone to bed at night. It's one of the few things that has not as yet struck for eight hours.

CANADIAN WOODS IN GERMANY.

In a report on the subject of American woods in Germany, the Consul of the United States at Bremen writes to his Government pointing out some curious features of German trade. For example, in the April consular report, he says that the freights charged on non-European woods average from 41 to 47 per cent. higher than those on European woods. The longer the distance, the higher becomes this indirect tax. The difference is especially detrimental to American walnut and hickory, while American oak can be sent to South Germany only over the waterways. Mr. Lange gives some hints as to shipment of lumber which may be worth the observation of Canadian exporters. Although Canada's trade in lumber with Germany is very



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small, it has shown signs of increase in the last three years. It is recommended by this American consul that: The boards and barks must be more carefully (i.e., slowly) dried, thus avoiding dry rot; that exporters must be more prompt in fulfilling their engagements; and that sea freight should be kept down as low as possible throughout the year. This might be accomplished by a combination of exporters. The woods cannot stand, he says, a freight of more than 18 cents per hundred pounds to Bremen and 15 cents to Rotterdam. Higher freights prevent a larger import.

As to what kinds of American wood the Germans want, Mr. Lange says that the white maple is liked, and the required white color can be obtained by a careful treatment of the wood, which will save the trouble. It is imported in barks and blocks. The consumption of white wood (poplar) grows steadily in Germany. It is the most suitable material for many purposes, such as carriage making, construction of pianos, etc. Stout blocks of first-class quality are preferred. Small trunks are cut to much greater

disadvantage in Germany than in the United States.

Hickory would be much more imported by the Germans if the exporters would adhere more to the wishes of the market. Split hickory for making spokes is hardly offered at all, although there is always a demand for it. American cherry makes very slow headway in Vaterland. The beautiful quality of this wood should make it more popular; but the prices asked for it are high. Pitch pine, yellow pine, and Carolina pine have a constant demand. It is highly advisable for exporters to take care in sorting these.

TIMBER ELECTRICALLY SEASONED.

The process of seasoning and preserving wood by electricity, which has of late attracted much attention, has many points of advantage which are likely to go a long way toward insuring the ultimate success of the method. One great recommendation of the new system is that certain woods which are at present used only for fire wood, since they will not stand seasoning in the ordinary way, can thus be rendered available for structural work. Among the specimens exhibited to illustrate this quality are some species of larch, very common in France, but hitherto quite unusable in carpentry, owing to the extent to which shakes developed in seasoning. The specimens were perfectly sound, and both heart and sap wood could be planed with equal ease and efficiency. The treatment makes the wood absolutely impervious to damp and prevents its decay. Another advantage of the method is that, so far, none of the large class of wood-destroying or wood-puncturing insects have been known to attack wood electrically seasoned. Even now more than 25 cubic feet can be cured for one cent, and the process is of the kind that will naturally be cheapened. The wood to be treated is placed on rests in a tank containing a solution of 10 per cent. of borax, 5 per cent. of resin and 5 per cent. of carbonate of soda. A heavy current is turned on, which causes the solution to be sucked from the bottom to the top, and the whole mass of wood permeated by the combined resin, borax and soda, through electrocapillary attraction. The resin seals the fibers of the wood after cooling, and the boric acid acts as an antiseptic. The sap displaced from the wood rises to the surface of the bath during the operation, and the resin in it mixes with that in the solution. The time required for the operation varies from five to eight hours, according to the nature and state of the wood under treatment, green wood being easier to treat than wood nearly dry.

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