

MASTER A TRADE.

IN a series of "Letters to Young Men," Dr. J. M. Buckley touched upon a point which is of plain truth and of the most vital importance. He spoke as follows: "Benjamin Franklin told the truth when he said that the best knowledge a man could give to his son was the mastery of a good trade. Such a man is cosmopolitan. He can make himself useful anywhere, and he can live anywhere. If it should not be necessary always to work at his trade, he feels the ability within to support himself. * * * Between the average mechanic and the great manufacturer or merchant prince, great numbers can be found who began as mechanics, and who have taken positions by their mechanical skill fully equal to that of the average merchant and far superior to that of most clerks and professional men. * * *"

There is, as the German proverb says, "a golden bottom to handicraft."

Look at the clerk, the book-keeper, the general salesman. For one who has a fair position, there are hundreds ready to occupy the same, and fill it, perhaps, for a mere pittance. The qualifications necessary to the performance of their duties are not difficult to secure, and from this very fact not over remunerative.

The man who is master of his craft, has his capital safe and always at his command. In proportion to his skill the value of his stock in trade is rated. There is no danger that it will depreciate.

Hence the turning away from manual employment, the reluctance to take up good solid hand-work is foolish in the extreme.

In the mastery of a good trade there is the guarantee of earnings sufficient to subsistence and the prospect of a competency, while in the many of the other fields of labor uncertainty and scantiness of compensation are the rule.

MACHINES SURPASSING HAND WORK.

In one of the many stores in Fifth Avenue used for the sale of fine furniture to which the trade name of "artistic" is now applied, says a New York paper, two men were examining an elaborate cabinet, the other day. One of them was actively engaged in the wholesale furniture business, the other had retired from it some few years ago. "I want you to examine this," said the former, "and tell me if you think it is really what it claims to be—a piece of hand-made furniture." The other, after a sharp scrutiny, and examining closely various points, such as the carving, the interior finish of the little cupboards, the returns of the mouldings, and so forth, said: "Certainly this, with the exception maybe of some of the minor mouldings, must have been worked by hand, and finished altogether in that manner."

"Well, then," replied his companion, "I may tell you that this was worked by machinery from start to finish, and put together for thirty cents an hour." He remarked that during the last year or two an enterprising western firm had gone in for making furniture of the highest grade by machinery. The designs were prepared by the most skillful New York designers, and a design has yet to be prepared which the machine cannot turn out with nearly as fine a finish as can possibly be attained by hand-work. New machines are being constantly invented to do any peculiar work which has hitherto been thought only possible by hand. Fine mahogany fancy tables, carved parlor sets and cabinets are the principal lines of furniture now made in this fashion, and the work is as superior to common hand-work as the latter is to the cheap Chicago machine-made stuff which was once the only representative of machine work on the market. It appears that most of the dealers in the finer sort of furniture in this city are adding the new machine-made work to their stocks. The wood is carefully seasoned, and the joints are finer and closer than is usually the case with hand-work. The cost is of course much less."

REMOVING OIL, ETC., BY INFUSORIAL EARTH.

Scouring or removing oil from substances such as wool and wollen cloth, by means of infusorial earth, has been patented by Groth. The kind of earth is one that absorbs a great quantity of liquid, and is what is used to absorb nitroglycerine and make it into dynamite. The patentee states that it is this extraordinary power of taking up liquids which enables it to withdraw oil from textiles containing it. The process is to warm the textile with the infusorial earth in some apparatus where the temperature may exceed by ten or twenty degrees the melting point of the oil or grease. As soon as it is liquefied the infusorial earth takes it up from the textile. After this the materials are passed through warm water, which washes off the infusorial earth, leaving the fibre clean. If instead of infusorial earth we read fullers' earth, the principle of the process will be found very ancient.



It is said that the American firm of Pack, Woods & Co., own 600,000,000 feet of timber in Canada

The steam saw mill owned by Mr. O. Dufresne, near South Durham, Que., was lately destroyed by fire. Fully insured.

It is said that never before were there so many small operators at work in the lumber woods as this season.

The Muskoka *Herald* says that the cut of pine timber in that district this winter has been about 80,000,000 feet.

British Columbia has forwarded to the Colonial Exhibition in London an immense plank nine feet in width and twenty feet long.

Mr. C. Young's saw mill at Young's Point, Ont., has been fitted up with new saws and a cast iron track.

Last year's shipments of lumber are reported to have been fifty per cent. more than those of the two preceding years, and one hundred per cent. more than any previous year.

Advices from Arnprior, Ont., state that McLachlan Bros., lumber merchants, of that place, have sold their entire mill cut of next season for a figure in the vicinity of half a million dollars.

Mr. H. Lovering, a prominent lumberman of Coldwater, Ont., has been nominated to contest East Simcoe in the Conservative interest for a seat in the Dominion Parliament.

Mr. James Boyd, of Lethbridge, Ont., has returned from the lumber woods, having completed a contract of taking out 1,000,000 feet of saw logs in the township of Gibson for the Georgian Bay Lumber Company.

The mill lately built by Mr. Tait at Germania, Ont., is said to be one of the best and most conveniently constructed mills in that district. It is kept constantly running at present cutting shingles, but Mr. Tait will shortly commence the manufacture of lumber.

Mr. Wm. Thomson, President of the Longford Lumber Co., was in the coach which rolled down an embankment on the Northern Railway recently. He was fortunate enough to escape with a slight injury in the back.

Mr. James Kennedy, son of Mr. D. Kennedy, of Campbellford, Ont., is manager of the Brandon saw mills, which Mr. Christie, the present proprietor, lately purchased. It is the intention this season to cut one and a half million of lumber.

While engaged in surveying lumber at Malone for the Rathbun Company, Mr. Thomas Pidgen, of Deseronto, Ont., slipped off a lumber pile and fell against a log, sustaining very severe internal injuries.

The A. Manufacturing Co., of New Brunswick, are getting out large quantities of lumber of all kinds to be manufactured at their mill at Hillsboro. It is yarded at various points along the Albert Railway by which it will be taken to the mill.

Benj. Gammon, of Hopewell Hill, N. B., who is in the employ of the A. Mfg. Co. was struck on the head by part of a falling tree while working in the lumber woods the other day. At last accounts little hope was entertained of his recovery.

A syndicate of Quebec gentlemen, including J. E. Ross, E. Beaudet, H. J. Beemer, Andrews, O. Turgeon and others, are about to erect a large saw and shingle mill and furniture factory at River Pierre, on the line of Lake St. John railway, province of Quebec.

On March 11th Messrs. Steven Bros' sash and door factory at Chesley, Ont., with contents, was destroyed by fire. The loss is about \$7,000, insured for \$2,000. The fire was first discovered in the engine house, and had gained such a hold before it was discovered that nothing could be done to save the building.

Thos. Ebbage's pump factory and carpenter shop located in a large building known as the plow factory, at Acton, Ont., was totally destroyed by fire in the night of March 16th. Mr. Ebbage lost all his tools and some machinery lately put in. Insurance on building, \$1,200.

An exchange in presenting statistics of the Chicago lumber business, says: "There are over 250 houses and firms engaged in the lumber business in Chicago, of which 115 are dealers in pine, thirty hardwood, and the remainder commission dealers, scalpers and manufacturers, representing mills."

Messrs. J. & J. D. Howe, furniture manufacturers, of St. John, N. B., have prepared a very handsome wood trophy for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition. It is designed to exhibit all the various woods produced in that province in all forms which will interest practical wood-workers. It is represented as being very ornamental, and will no doubt attract a large amount of attention.

The Commissioner of Customs at Ottawa is credited with the assertion that the present export duty on logs is almost impossible of collection, and that it is practically useless. He, it is said, believes that an export duty on logs will never serve the purpose of protecting Canadian lumber mills, and that the only hope lies in a reciprocity in lumber between Canada and the United States.

The George T. Smith Co., of Jackson, Mich., use about 4,000,000 feet of whitewood lumber in the course of a year, or about 500 carloads. A short time ago they entered into negotiations with parties in the south for 3,000,000 feet of extra quality whitewood, but the purchase was not consummated because of prohibitive freight rates.

About five o'clock on the morning of the 18th of March a fire broke out in Round's sawmills at Welland, Ont., and in spite of the efforts of the Fire Department the building and its contents, consisting of machinery, stock, etc., were entirely destroyed. The building was occupied by O. H. Round & Sons who did a sawmill business, etc., and O. H. Round, a sash and door business. The total loss of the two firms is about eight thousand dollars, on which there is no insurance. A number of men are thrown out of employment by the fire besides having their tools destroyed.

Reports from Ottawa concerning the lumber trade are to the effect that at Chaudiere and Hull shipments are already going forward briskly. In a letter from E. B. Eddy, received recently from Europe, he says the indications point to a good demand from that quarter, and that lumber dealers in Canada need have no fear, but that their stocks of sawn lumber will meet with a ready sale and a good price.

While George Nix was putting a board through the matcher in Tillson's sash and door factory at Tilsonburg, Ont., the machine clogged and he got on the board to investigate. The board started unexpectedly, and before he could get off it one of his feet was drawn under the cylinder. He retained his presence of mind, however, and threw himself out far enough to reach the main belt, which he threw off and thus stopped the machine.

The largest stick of timber to be floated on the St. Croix river this year, says a St. John, N. B., paper, was cut on the banks of the Ox Brook Lake. This was a pine, and was cut in five logs, each 16 feet in length, the largest being 29 inches at survey end, and the smallest 17 inches. The whole scaled the enormous amount of 2,078 feet, making the largest stick that has been cut on the river for the past ten years.

A deputation consisting of Messrs. Burnham, M. P., Guillet, M. P., and Edwards of the Peterborough Anti-Sawdust Association recently waited on the Minister of Marine to represent to him that the throwing of sawdust in the river in the vicinity of Peterborough impeded navigation, killed the fish, and produced malarial fevers, and to ask him to prohibit this mode of disposing of mill refuse. The Minister promised to take the subject into consideration.

J. B. Wilson, of East Saginaw, Mich., dealer in pine lands, has been arrested there, charged with embezzlement of \$1,000. The complainant is William Merrill, of Norwich, Ont. Mr. Merrill held a mortgage on pine lands in the upper peninsula, owned by Bay City parties, and instructed Wilson to have the mortgage discounted and forward the amount, \$1,000, to him. The mortgage was discounted, but Mr. Merrill did not receive the money.

Mr. Murray's Bill for the better regulation of the driving of timber on lakes, rivers, and streams has been referred to a Special Committee. Deputations from the Ottawa, Georgian Bay, and Peterborough Districts have appeared before the Committee. While some of the members of the deputations strongly favored the Bill, the general desire was that further time should be allowed for consideration of its provisions, and that a conference of lumber merchants from all parts of the Province should be invited to declare judgment upon it. To this the Committee agreed. There appears to be a growing feeling that such legislation is necessary, and it is likely something will be done next session in this direction. The States of Maine and Michigan and the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have adopted Acts of a similar character.

The *Lumberman's Gazette* has the following:—"Canada pine will, before the close of this century, play a conspicuous part in the Northwestern output. The Canadian timber owners are over anxious that a treaty of reciprocity be consummated between the two countries. While they know that it would be desirable that their timber be manufactured under the flag of the Dominion, they are aware this cannot be and meet competition of American lumber at home. Great Britain offers them no inducements to export, and a strong probability is that their country will never be in a position to consume to give present owners any revenue. They seek the best opportunity to use the fruits of their accumulation in this life by favoring strongly a treaty between the two sister countries. We hope that the present year will crown their efforts in this direction."

The Hon. H. G. Joly, of Quebec, has this to say concerning free trade in lumber between Canada and the United States:—"The Dominion would be much more benefited by the imposition by our own Parliament of a heavy duty on the export of logs to the United States, than by the abolition of the import duty on our own lumber into the States. A heavy export duty on logs would prevent the cutting down of our forests by the American lumbermen, and it would secure work for our people and keep them here. It appears little short of madness, when we have got the raw material here and thousands of willing men to work it, that we should send away to our neighbors both the raw material and the men who can work it here. It is a suicidal policy, and it would be difficult to find a parallel for it in any other country. The fact is that our timber trade does not rest on a sound basis. If we would arrive at a correct balance of that trade for the last 25 years, it would be sad to find out how little we have received for the value of our timber above our expenditure in manufacturing it. In more than one case I fear that we have actually paid the purchasers on the other side to accept our timber from us. The responsibilities of this state of things must rest, above all, with our Provincial Governments. They are the administrators of our timber lands. Instead of treasuring them and opening them only gradually to the lumbermen, as the legitimate requirements of the timber trade demand, they force them, wholesale, on the market and actually compel an extravagant production, which can only have one result: glutting the market and ruining the lumberman. How many men are there not among us who understand absolutely nothing of the lumber trade, who had never given even one thought to it, and who, at a moment's notice have been actually manufactured into lumbermen by the action of provincial government. I stated that our timber trade did not rest on a sound basis; let me quote no less authority than John Stewart Mill on the subject. In his first volume on the Principles of Political Economy, chap. 15, 'of profits,' he says:—"The timber trade of Canada is one example of an employment of capital, partaking so much of the nature of a lottery as to make it an accredited opinion that, taking the adventures in the aggregate, there is more money lost by the trade than gained by it; in other words, that the average rate of profit is less than nothing." This was written long ago, but it applies now, more than ever, to our timber trade. It is not often that Governments can interfere beneficially with trade; but they can in the present case, and it is full time that they should do so."