

ELEPHANTS IN A LUMBER PILE.

WILLIAM B. Tourgee has just returned from a trip round the world, says the Buffalo Courier. One of the places which offered some of the most interesting scenes was found in the large lumber yards of Burmah. The teak wood industry is the great industry of that country. The wood grows for the greater part in the northern part of Burmah, where it is cut and floated down the Irrawaddy to Rangoon, where the more important and larger yards are located.

It is in these lumber yards that they employ the elephants in moving and handling the logs. The elephant has practically the entire handling of the logs from the moment they are ready to be taken from the back water, where they have been stored until the logs have been converted into the thin planks used in shipbuilding and other industries, where it answers the purpose better than any other known wood.

A dozen or more elephants may be employed in the same yard. They are nearly all males, which are, generally speaking, larger and stronger than the females. These intelligent creatures will balance a log on their tusks, and, holding it firmly with their trunks, will proceed to walk off with it to the saw. They will then hold the log up to the saw while it is at work, and will see that it is cut properly, either cross-wise or lengthwise, as may be desired. They pull the slabs away with the ends of their trunks, and pile them in piles that are as neatly arranged as the most exacting yardmaster could desire. The principal work of the elephants consists of taking the logs from the water and piling them up in the yards. They will pile logs in the neatest manner imaginable, and will adjust them at either end until they are perfectly satisfied that they are rightly arranged. Mr. Tourgee says that the yard owners look upon a good elephant

as almost priceless, and seldom part with them. What makes their work so very valuable is that they can do this heavy work in that hot climate without being affected by the heat, as other animals would be.

There are 200,000,000 acres of forest lands in the Republic of Quenzula. Rosewood, satinwood, mahogany, and white and black ebony are found.

The manufacture of artificial silk from wood pulp has been fully established as an industry in France, and there is a prospect that it will be undertaken on a large scale in England. Textile fabrics, made wholly or in part of the new material, are now sold readily in Paris and London. It will not be long before they find their way to America. The silk worm cannot compete with chemical and mechanical ingenuity. Great is wood pulp!

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