



PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY. } The only Newspaper devoted to the Lumber and Timber Industries published in Canada. { SUBSCRIPTION \$2.00 PER ANNUM.

VOL. 1. PETERBOROUGH ONT., SEPTEMBER 1, 1881. NO. 21.

A DISPATCH from Buffalo, dated August 11th, says:—"At a joint meeting of the Buffalo and Tonawanda Lumber Exchanges held here today, it was resolved to advance the prices of pine lumber \$1 per thousand feet on all grades below shelving, and \$2 on shelving and higher grades. The established terms hereafter will be 60 days, or 1 1/2 per cent. off for cash."

THE fire in Bronson's lumber piles on the morning of August 16th is believed to have most satisfactorily settled the problem whether a fire in that locality could be extinguished. Great satisfaction is expressed among mill owners. Bronsons & Weston gave a cheque for \$100 to the benevolent fund of the fire brigade in acknowledgment of their services. The loss will not exceed \$1,000.

A BOSTON furniture factory is making 800 chairs and tables from oak logs taken from a bidge in Germany. They have been in the water since the year 780, and are consequently about 1,100 years old. The logs are in a remarkable fine state of preservation, and they show no sign of decay after penetrating two inches below the surface. The color is a sort of brownish-gray, the fibres are fine and close, giving to the wood evidence of being capable of high polish. The logs were imported by a gentleman, for whom the furniture will be made.

THE Jeffersonian of Stroudsburg, Pa., has just been shown the certificate of award—which, by the way, is a magnificent specimen of the engraver's art—and a beautiful bronze medal, awarded to "The Tanito Co., of Stroudsburg, Pa.," by "The Sydney International Exhibition" of New South Wales, Australia, forwarded to T. Dunkin Paret, Esq., President of the Tanito Co., by the commissioners for the United States, appointed by the Government of New South Wales. A similar award, similarly obtained, was not long since forwarded to the Company from the recent International Exposition of Geneva, Switzerland. The emery wheels of this company have obtained world-wide renown.

A LEADING match-splint manufacturer of Canada is authority for the statement that there are about twenty-two match factories in the United States and Canada, and that the daily production—and consequent daily consumption—is about 25,000 gross per day. In each gross of matches manufactured there are 144 boxes, so that the 25,000 gross produces 3,600,000 boxes. Each box made in the United States, where a duty of one cent upon every box of matches is levied, contains 100 matches, so that the number of matches produced and used daily amounts to 360,000,000. Counting that it takes a second to light each match, to light the 360,000,000 would take just that number of seconds. This gives

6,000,000 minutes, or 100,000 hours. In days of twenty-four hours each, it figures up to 4,166 2/3, and gives eleven years and five months, with a couple of days extra as the time occupied during every twenty-four hours, by the people of North America—not figuring on the Mexicans—in striking matches. Figuring a little further it gives 4,159 years time in each year.

THE increase in the value of the Michigan forests within the last dozen years is probably unprecedented in the annals of the lumber trade. Twelve years ago, a man with a few thousand dollars to invest, bought a tract of land in Menominee county, Michigan, from the United States for \$1.25 per acre. Wednesday he sold 2,875 acres of pine timber from the same section to a Chicago lumber firm for \$25 per acre, reserving the land for himself. The investment has therefore paid a profit of over \$68,000 on the 2,875 acres in only twelve years, the original investment being less than \$3,600, and, as the land is worth something, "the returns are not all in yet."

THE Stanton (Mich.) Clipper has recently instituted an investigation into the pine resources of Montcalm county, the result of which is stated in the following paragraph:—"It says that its success in obtaining exact figures was only partial, but believes that the estimates given may be relied upon as very close to the actual facts: Day township has 7,000 acres; Cato, 1,000 acres; Perris, 1,560 acres; Belvidere, 1,000 acres; Home, 7,920 acres; Douglas, 1,920 acres; Pine, 640 acres; Evergreen, 1,920 acres; Crystal, 4,000 acres; Richland, 5,000 acres; Sidnoy, 1,040—making a total of 33,000 acres of pine in the country that has never been cut over. The quality on an average is very good, and it will cut according to the best estimates we have been able to obtain, about 792,000,000 feet of lumber. This, of course, is exclusive of a vast amount of pine that has been cut over once or twice, leaving a quantity of good lumber and shingle timber. There are probably also small tracts of good pine that have not been reported to us, but the above approximates very nearly the quantity of standing pine yet remaining to be cut in Montcalm county. At the present rate of manufacturing it, our timber will be entirely used up within the next five years, except perhaps a few tracts that men of means and foresight may hold for the higher prices that are sure to come. In the same five years, at the rate at which clearing has been going on and improvements are being made, good, well-improved farms will have sprung up to take the place of the pine, and the transition from a lumbering district to a fine farming country will hardly have been noticed; yet the two conditions of the country will be so close together that they will stand out in bold relief."

THE PREDICTED TIMBER FAMINE.

In a recent issue, the *Lefel Mechanical News* makes some very sensible remarks on this subject.

Regarding the supply of pine timber in this country, says the *News*, its rapid disappearance, and the prospect of its speedy exhaustion, we gave a few weeks since some figures which are not a little alarming, but are believed to be entirely authentic. It does not add to the cheerfulness of the situation to know that in the matter of our resources of oak and walnut lumber we are no better off. Both these woods, but especially the former, are of such vast utility in our manufacturing industries that they have been justly considered indispensable, and no theory has ever been formed, so far as we are aware, of the means by which their loss could be made good. But it is daily becoming more apparent that the problem will, at no remote period, imperatively demand solution, and that one of two alternatives must be chosen; either the production of these varieties of timber must be stimulated, or substitutes be found which will answer in their place.

So far as oak is concerned, the case is not yet so desperate but that economy in its use, and above all an immediate check to its needless destruction, may be a sufficient remedy, at least for the needs of the present generation. The insane propensity for clearing land, whether it is useful for agriculture or not, and whether the timber is to be turned to any account or not, ought to be restrained by a penal statute. It is carried in some instances to such an extent that nothing short of a deliberate purpose to impoverish the country, to bring droughts and hurricanes to "sow the wind and reap the whirlwind," can explain the conduct of the landowners. Individual freedom is so much prized by our people that a restraining law on this subject would probably be difficult of enforcement; but agricultural societies, granges, farmers' clubs, and public journals of whatever class, can do very much in this behalf by disseminating the facts and bestowing wholesome advice on this vitally important subject.

The market for walnut lumber has already been seriously affected by the approaching scarcity. A "corner" has even been attempted by a few particularly shrewd dealers; and manufacturers of furniture are considering what course they shall adopt when the time comes in which they can no longer, even at a heavy advance, obtain this much desired material. Nothing else is so well adapted to the purposes for which it is used; and even of the unsatisfactory substitutes proposed, the supply is not to be depended on. Mahogany will take its place to some extent, but the tendency here also is to increasing scarcity, as the trade is destructive to the vessels engaged in it, owing to the stormy latitudes which they are compelled to visit. The

gun tree is also recommended, and as a material for veneers is found to be nearly equal to rosewood, free from shrinkage, and taking an admirable finish. Beech, birch and red oak have been resorted to in many cases, and will necessarily be used more and more frequently as the coveted walnut becomes higher in price.

The true remedy, after all, is to make good the deficiency, not by seeking poor and unsatisfactory substitutes, but by producing as fast as we consume. Groves of walnut trees should be planted by thousands of acres in every part of the country where they have a natural home. The experiment has been tried with perfect success in the south, in the west, and in the northwest. The great difficulty is that a term of years—say from fifteen to twenty—must elapse between the investment and the return; and however sure the latter may be, it requires to be waited for, which is the one thing of which the average American citizen is not capable. We have not much faith, as a rule, in any good to be accomplished by interference on the part of the government; but if the legislature of every state were to give a bounty of \$1 for every tree planted, we are confident that surprising and beneficial results would in due time be realized. A dollar in the hand—such is the charm of certainty and the bliss of actual possession—would go farther than the prospect of it in the tree.

ONTARIO TIMBER LIMITS.

The Ottawa *Free Press* says that Ottawa lumbermen will be interested in the statement made by the Parry Sound *North Star* that the Ontario Government contemplate offering the townships in that district not already under license for sale as timber limits at an early date. It is generally believed that the Government own no more unsold limits of any extent or value. This is a great mistake. There are yet some two thousand square miles of unsold Government limits in the district alone, lying on the upper waters of the Muskoka, the Magnetawan and the French rivers. Every township in the district is now more or less settled, and in order to save the timber from destruction by fire, though clearances are being made in every direction, it is absolutely necessary that the townships should be placed under license. Many of these limits are very fine, and will no doubt realize a handsome bonus. No better time for such a sale could be found, and the wisdom of the Government in taking advantage of the present boom in timber lands to dispose of such limits as it is necessary for the public interests to sell cannot be doubted.

THE spool factory lately erected at Jacques River, county Restigouche, and only in operation a few months, was totally destroyed by fire on the morning of August 12th. There is said to be some insurance, but the loss is very heavy.