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#### LUMBERING IN MAINE.

Few states have a better variety of timber than Maine, and the inhabitants of no state use their timber to better advantage. The Maine lumbermen who own pine and spruce are the most conservative to be found. They long ago did away with promiscuous slashing, and cut such timber as would best answer their purpose, and carefully preserved the balance for future use. This is the reason why the Penobscot holds out so long as a logging stream. The end of the timber on that river has often been predicted, but the end has not come, nor will it for a long time yet. Once going over the ground does not answer the intentions of the lumbermen. They look upon their lands as permanent investment, and, as any investor should, they make the most of it. Outside of the manufacture of pine and spruce lumber, hundreds of wood-working establishments are busy, which utilize timber that, in the newer lumber states, would be considered of no account. The output of these establishments includes bean poles, fruit boxes, spool blocks, clothes pins, and various other small articles that the different industries call for. It is said by some that the manufacture of these things are peculiar to Yankees. It would be better if they were peculiar to some people who do not class themselves as such. They pay well and answer an imperative demand. It can be predicted that the wood-workers in the Northwest will follow the examples of the Manitias, as that section shall become older. Actual accomplishments point in that direction. It was not long ago that pine lumber was all that was expected of the grand forests west of Lake Erie, but now more is expected of them. Furniture factories, hoop mills, and other manufacturing concerns outside of saw mills, are springing up to make use of the hard wood that is so abundant. These will increase, and as they do, factories which will turn out minor articles as do the Maine establishments will naturally follow.—*Northwestern Lumberman.*

#### AN ORGANIZATION.

The *Northwestern Lumberman* says:—In Pennsylvania there is an organization known as the Retail Lumber and Coal Dealers' Association of the North Pennsylvania Railroad and Adjoining District, having for its object the maintenance of uniform prices. When a dealer becomes a member, he must deposit his due bill for \$25, and if at any time he is caught underselling his brother members, the due bill is collected, and the money goes into the association. This forfeiture tends to keep the members in the traces, and we understand it works admirably. This plan might be adopted with good results elsewhere. At several of the leading lumber markets there are associations and exchanges, and the main object of most of them is to establish prices. This they do regularly

—on paper—but generally it goes no further. The dealers meet and discuss the importance of uniform prices, and while they are doing it no one would suspect that some of them have their sleeves packed with so many axes that they feel confident of winning the game. It would not be drawing on the imagination to say there are dealers who, at these meetings, advocate high prices on the published list, while all the time they expect to sell away under them, and thus convey to their customers that they are selling cheap. If they were obliged to deposit a few hundred dollars that would be forfeited in case they undersold the current list, they would cease to be the bulls they are in convention, and the bears they are out of it.

#### PRaised BY THE PRAISED.

If laudari a laudato—to be praised by one who is praised—is, as is said, the highest possible eulogium, the following from the *Bay City Lumberman's Gazette* should warm the hearts of Canadian lumbermen:—

"Many people in this world are apt to imbibe the idea that something of which they are the possessor is the greatest of the kind in the world, and the people of cities are liable to form a similar impression in regard to manufacturing or other enterprises located within their midst. Bay City possesses two of the largest mills on the Saginaw river, and they are monsters in their capacity to masticate pine logs. Although they are mammoth institutions, and visited during the busy season by thousands at home and from abroad to witness their wonderful capacity they are far from being the largest institutions of their kind in the country. In a little village situated on the Grand Trunk railway in Canada, and at the head of the Bay of Quinte, bearing the name of the river at the mouth of which it stands, Trenton, is a saw mill owned and operated by Gilmour & Co., which exceeds in capacity and the number of men employed any mill on the Saginaw river, which stream turns out nearly a billion feet of lumber annually and even exceeded that amount in 1882. The Trenton mill alluded to cuts over 3,000 logs daily produces over 350,000 feet of lumber, 100,000 lath, 100,000 pickets, besides heading and shingles, and the number of its employes is 600 men and boys. It stands in the small village alluded to a monarch without a rival."

#### ARTIFICIAL LUMBER.

In giving an account of the manufacture of artificial lumber, a New York man says the lumber is made principally of the pulp of wheat, rye and cut straw, and other vegetable fibers, combined with chemical ingredients and cements. It is formed of layers, about one-quarter of an inch in thickness, and these are pressed together with powerful machinery, and thus rendered as hard as the hardest wood, be-

sides being much more dense. The boards are also rendered waterproof in varying degrees, according to the purpose for which they are to be used. The material is as durable as tano and can be sold at a good profit for less than ordinary lumber. It will take any finish, and in this respect is equal to the finest hard wood. Moreover, it can be marbelized in imitation of any kind of marble, both in respect to a high degree of polish and exact imitation of grain. It will not warp and can be rendered perfectly water-proof if desired, thus making it suitable for the construction of burial caskets. It makes just as solid a surface as any wood, and may be made of the hardness of stone. As a substitute for wood in the construction of buildings it possesses qualities of perfect adaptation. It will make the finest material in the world for roofing, not excepting slate or iron. It can be sawed, split or planed, and boards made of it are perfectly smooth and flat from end to end on both sides, without any knots, cracks or blemishes of any kind. He exhibited several articles of cabinet ware made from the material. Two of these were ordinary parlor tables, one of which resembled the peculiar mottled appearance seen in some choice hardwoods. The surface of the table was varnished and highly polished. The other table was finished in exact imitation of rosewood. A panel door was also shown the finish resembling mahogany. A couple of ladies' work boxes made after an elegant pattern and highly finished, were also exhibited.—*American Lumberman.*

#### LARGE TREES OF TURKESTAN.

A French traveller has recently measured mulberry trees at Ourgout and Salavad, in Turkestan, which measured more than 16 feet in circumference at five feet above the ground. Such large trees are generally found in religious places or overshadowing the retreat of some hermit. Plane trees have been measured which were of really wonderful size; one of these, in the village of Sairob is twenty-seven and a half feet in circumference at shoulder height. It has been protected from the wash of rains by a barrier of stones and its hollow trunk has been formed into a square room and fitted up as the village school-house. Near it is another plane tree which measures twenty-six paces in circumference at the base. Of a group of trees at Chojakand, east of Tashkend, the largest is a rotten and hollow old stump, looking like the ruin of a giant wall, from which six vigorous lateral trees have shot up. The whole plant is 48 paces in circumference at the base, and the hollow of the principal trunk is about 28 feet in diameter. A party of a dozen tourists from Tashkend once had a feast inside of this stump, and they were not cramped for room. The growth of plants in as hot a climate as Turkestan is very rapid, and trees have been known to make growths by measure, in one

year, of from 15 to 20 feet, and a corresponding development in thickness. Nevertheless, good trees are rare, and the few of extraordinary size owe their preservation to the respect in which the natives hold the places near which they are found.

#### A BIG FAILURE.

The *Toronto World* of Jan. 29, says:—For some time rumor has been busy with the affairs of the British Canadian Lumber and Timber Company, the offices of which are at 24 Scott street. It was stated yesterday that a receiver had been appointed, or rather that the company had assigned to the banks interested.

The company had a capital of a million, mostly Scottish money, was formed some years ago, and bought extensive limits and mills from the Cook Bros., Geo. J. and H. H. It is understood that the Messrs. Cook made a good thing out of the sale. Geo. J. Cook is president of the company, and J. S. Lockie, formerly manager of the Bank of Commerce, is its financial manager. The banks mainly interested are the Toronto, Quebec and Commerce, the liabilities to which foot up to close on to a million dollars, perhaps half of which is secured. The Commerce is the largest creditor.

It is now alleged that the rosy statements made as to the value of the limits have not been realized, and that not only will the shareholders lose all the money that they put in it, but the ordinary creditors will not be paid, and the banks will be out a large amount.

A short time ago it was hoped that the company would pull through by each of the banks advancing \$50,000 and the Scotchmen the same amount, but this appears to have been abandoned.

A reporter asked Mr. H. H. Cook last night about the matter, but he had nothing to say.

#### An Engraver's Block.

As the lines in a good wood engraving have to be very thin, it becomes very necessary that the wood should be of a firm and strong fiber that will not break, or split, or crumble easily. And, indeed, the wood used for engraving is one of the hardest known. It is box-wood, and is obtained almost exclusively from Turkey and Asia Minor. The grain of boxwood is exceedingly close and smooth, and engravers' "blocks" consist of slices each about an inch thick and usually from two to four inches square, cut across the grain of the tree. The box-tree does not grow to any considerable size, and when a large block is desired it has to be made by screwing and gluing a number of small blocks together very tightly and securely. It is said that it would take more than one hundred years for a boxwood tree to grow large enough to furnish a block in one piece of a size sufficient to include the whole of a page engraving in an ordinary magazine.