

IMPORTANT MEETING.

THE SUBJECT OF FOREST FIRES CONSIDERED—
ESSAY ON FORESTRY.

At the meeting of the Ontario Agricultural Association, held in the City Hall, London, on September 21st, prize essays on forestry were read.

Mr. J. H. Aylesworth presided, and on the platform were professors Bell and Mills.

Professor Bell explained the objects of the meeting, and said the necessity for precautions being taken by the Government for the preservation of the forests was becoming more and more obvious. The essay which had been awarded the first prize by Professor Buckland, Mills and himself was written by Mr. D. Nichol, of Cataraqui, Frontenac county. He then read the essay, which embraced a list of all trees indigenous to the country, with the habits and values of the same, and their adaptability to the different soils. Directions for planting were also given at length, and some valuable information in regard to the destruction of forests by fire and other causes. The essay included a description of shrubs suitable for hedge plants, and the white cedar was highly recommended for that purpose. A mass of valuable information on the subject was contained in the essay.

Prof. Bell could corroborate what was said in regard to the white cedar for hedges from personal observation. The locust was also valuable for such purposes.

Prof. Mills proposed that Prof. Buckle's essay on the same subject be read by the writer, as his observations on the subject were the result of a long experience.

Prof. Buckle's essay referred to the immense destruction of forest areas by the early settlers of the country. At that time it would have been ridiculed if the proposal to save the timber had been made. He spoke of the timber interest as second only to that of agriculture in this country. The health-preserving properties of forests was pointed out, and the many other benefits derived from their presence. The annual revenue derived from the timber lands of Ontario aggregated over \$400,000. The destruction by fires was dwelt on, and some surprising statements made in regard to this. More trees have been destroyed by these bush fires than have ever been exported from the country. Some of the precautions taken by the Government against this destruction were related, and examples were drawn from those countries in which the tree felling was regulated strictly by the government. From the time occupied by hardwood in coming to maturity—80 to 150 years—it was most obvious that the government must become the producer. No private individual could undertake such a work. In the neighboring republic great encouragement was given to tree raising, by free grants of land, etc., for that purpose. One of the largest exporters in the country expressed his opinion that in twenty years there will be no pine to export from Canada. In conclusion, he stated that it was absolutely necessary that forest fires should be suppressed, and the Government ought to take steps for enforcing precautions having this effect in view. Secondly—the pine lands remaining should not be settled. Thirdly—waste lands should be immediately planted. The destruction of the forests, he said, would lead to the gradual decrease of rainfall and other evils.

Professor Bell said the object which the Society had in view in offering prizes for these essays was to draw the attention to a subject which was of vital importance to the country.—
Free Press.

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MEMOR.

KINCAID'S MILLS. We are pleased to notice the increased business which has sprung up in connection with Mr. Kincaid's saw, shingle and planing mills here. The product of these mills for the past season has been as follows:—Half a million feet of pine lumber, half a million of shingles, and two hundred thousand feet of hardwood, besides supplying the local demand and attending to large orders connected with building operations. Mr. Kincaid has shut down at present for want of water to bring logs to the mills. He was to leave for the woods on the 22nd Sept. to get out more logs from his limits in the township of Harvey. The bush fires made considerable havoc in these limits, destroying a large number of logs, &c.

CEDAR STRIPS.

A Saginaw man has devised machinery for manufacturing cedar strips with which to line trunks. The machinery consists of a set of knives six and one-half feet long, which begin on the outside of a cedar log and cut it lengthwise into strips of any thickness required from the thirty-second to half an inch in thickness, the strips being delivered in a compact roll ready for use as soon as cut. The importance of this manufacture consists in the fact that cedar wood is a complete protection against all kinds of vermin, such as ants, cockroaches, lice, moths, and worms of all kinds. This ceiling can also be used for pantries, clothes presses, store-rooms, and all other apartments in the house, where insect pests are apt to be found. It can also be used for flooring. By the new method, the difficulty occasioned by the smallness and imperfection of cedar logs is overcome. By piling the strips thin, they can be made fifty feet long, and their flexibility prevents their breaking. For ceilings, the edges are beveled and glued together. It has been suggested that these thin cedar strips be used for mattresses.

Kentucky's Biggest Tree Felled.

The Louisville Commercial reports the felling of Kentucky's largest tree near Carr's. The tree measured 13 feet in diameter at the base. The cut was made 6 feet above the ground, where the tree was 12 feet through. The Commercial adds:—"From the cut to the first limb can be made eight good length rail cuts, each 10 feet long, which would split enough rails to fence a small farm. The first limb was nearly a dozen feet in diameter, and it would have, by itself, made a very large sawlog. Nearly all the small limbs had fallen and decayed away. Its plank measurement is computed at nearly 50,000 feet, besides several limbs that would make altogether, 25 cords of wood. On the day of the felling a large concourse of people marched from Vanceburg to the place. Colonel W. S. Rand, an able speaker, was the orator of the day. He and others, qualified to be good judges of such things, supposed that this mighty forest was four or five centuries old. There were to be distinctly seen over 300 rings, and it is not known how long since it completed its growth, as it has been dead for many years.

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