

EDITORIAL NOTES

HAVE you made the acquaintance of Eli? He talks to you again in this month's LUMBERMAN.

THE forestry commissioners at New York are fighting against the building of any railway through the Adirondack forest reserves. They have applied for an injunction to stop the building of the Adirondack and St. Lawrence railroad.

THE *British Columbia Commercial Journal* is the name of a new weekly newspaper published at Victoria, B. C., and devoted to the mercantile interests of the Pacific coast. It is bright and newsy, and editorially faithfully and ably espouses the interests of this important commercial corner of the Dominion.

AT the meeting of the Presbyterian Synod in Montreal on the 15th ult., Rev. Dr. Armstrong told of his mission work among the shantymen of the Ottawa Valley and neighboring vicinities. During the season 250 camps had been visited, a large supply of valuable literature had been circulated, and the missionaries and their papers we are told, were heartily welcomed by the shantymen and miners. Another year the Presbytery hopes to increase the visits and the supply of reading matter.

THE *Merchants' Magazine and Financial Review* published in Montreal by Mr. Frank Weir, which dates its inception from April, will fill an important place in Canadian commercial journalism. We have several creditable weeklies devoted to trade and commerce, but it is only in a monthly that we can expect that careful and accurate summing up of events, where the hurry of weekly journalism, is not felt, that is so necessary to a correct casting up of results. Judging by the number before us, this new claimant in the mercantile field will ably fill the bill.

WE are pleased to publish in "Our Letter Box" a number of communications from readers of the LUMBERMAN. We are not going to say that we agree with the views expressed by all our correspondents. It is not necessary that we should. Lumbermen, we are sure, are liberal minded enough at any time to agree to disagree. We want to hear from our friends at all times; whether to indulge in a shaft of criticism, impart a piece of practical information, or record some items of news in their district, their letters will always be welcome.

IT is stated that Assistant Secretary Spaulding, of the United States treasury department, in reply to a Chicago law firm asking in behalf of certain of their clients who own timber land and stumpage in Canada, and from which they produce under their own supervision railroad ties, fence posts, etc., at what value they should be invoiced, their dutiable value in this country, etc., has informed them that the invoice should specify the actual market value or wholesale price of the merchandise at the time of exportation to the United States in the principal markets of the country of importation.

AN American contemporary raps over the knuckles those newspapers that have the "beastly" habit, as the editor puts it, of speaking of logs as lumber. The charge is laid particularly at the door of the press of New Brunswick. These papers, we are told, will say "that some operator put in so many feet of lumber on such a river the past season; or that lumber is coming out of such or such a stream in good shape." There is of course a marked difference between logs and lumber, and the "boys" of the maritime press will have to call things by their right names. Of course our American newspaper men never make such blunders. Oh no!

Mr. J. Fletcher, of the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, has been lecturing on "The most suitable ornamental shrubbery for this climate." As lumbermen we're sometimes apt to look too much on the trees of the forest from a hard practical standpoint, as something of wonderful utility, forgetting that they are alike, "a thing of beauty," and without throwing any uncalled for sentiment into the question, "a joy forever." The beauty of our leading Canadian cities is due to the commendable custom, which might be more widely cultivated of planting shade trees along our principal streets. The lecturer recommended for shrubbery purposes the growing of the Russian, English white, the ornamental and rosemary leaved willow, the weeping birch and the magnificent American elm of which there were few trees to equal; Canadian white cedar and the Siberian pine tree, of which there were 15 varieties.

THE forestry display of the Chicago World's Columbian Exposition will be one of the important features of the World's Fair. Every effort is being put forth by Mr. W. I. Buchanan, Chief of the Department of Agriculture, who has charge of the forestry department, to enlist the co-operation of the various timber and lumber interests, and an effort will be made to have a special building erected to be devoted to the timber industries. A good deal of attention will be devoted to forest botany, the distribution of forests, of genera and of species, as well as the anatomy and structure of woods, and the diseases of forest trees and timber. Forest management, maps, illustrations, and instruments for measuring standing timber; growths of different ages and soils; graphic and other illustrations showing rate of growth; influence of various managements on tree growth; statistics of the lumber trade and of forestry; the harvesting of forest products; the turpentine and charcoal industries will all receive proper attention.

THE fire losses in the United States and Canada in March this year footed \$12,540,750, against \$8,466,300 in 1890, and \$10,912,000 in 1889. The woodworking and allied industries contributed about \$750,000 to the total for March. These are large figures showing the devastating effects of fire, but they will be immensely increased, so far as the lumber interests are concerned, for the month of May. In another column we publish a list of fires in the lumber sections during May. They have been largely in the States, though we have not escaped in Canada. The damage in New Jersey footed up at least \$1,000,000, at one point alone, 25,000 forest acres were burned. The Schroll & Ahearn's mill company of Wiona, Minn., lose \$100,000 by the burning of their mill, blocks of lumber and warehouses. Michigan, the scene in the past of intense suffering and financial loss, counts in again to the amount of several million dollars of damage. Long Island, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and other States have been included in the sweep of the fire monster. It has been in the vicinity of Gravenhurst that our greatest losses have been made. From all parts comes the prayer for rain. It's needed to stay the tread of the travelling flames, and the country requires it too, the better to assure the certainty of the present hopeful harvest.

NO section of the continent is working up a boom on lumber more vigorously than the residents of the Southern States. A timber famine may be imminent in the near future in some parts of the American continent, but not "Away down South in Dixie, or elsewhere among the cotton fields. Yellow pine is being boosted for all our Southern friends know how, and from some of the more enthusiastic comes the prediction that it is making serious inroads into the sale of the white pine of Michigan and other northern states. But our contemporary the *Southern Lumberman* does not want Europeans or other people in the Northern States or Canada to run away with the idea that southern timber is confined even to "cypress, magnolia, and long-leaf yellow pine." As a matter of fact, we are told the varieties of woods in the Southern States are infinite. They embrace such woods as oak, poplar, hickory, ash, beech, cucumber, walnut, cherry, chestnut, buckeye, lynn, elm, maple, birch, gum, sycamore, locust,

pine, balsam, sassafras, mulberry, dogwood, sourwood, peawood, satinwood, hackberry, persimmon, holly and many others. Hurrah for the Sunny South! We cold blooded folks of more northern climes will have to look after our forest laurels.

THE destruction of forests has certainly compassed the failure of a good many water powers. This paper is not an alarmist, but the question of woods and rain is one which must sooner or later receive intelligent attention from the powers that be.

This statement we find in a contemporary devoted to milling interests. It is another argument for forest preservation. The scarcity of timber itself, though we're apt to look upon this time as far remote, perhaps mistakenly so, will prove a troublesome matter for this country. But in the meantime other interests are suffering seriously because of the almost entire wiping out of anything in the way of a forest in all the older settled sections of the country. Here we have a journal which makes a study of questions affecting the milling trades, pointing out the impairment that has been caused to many water powers for the want of the growing tree. In last month's LUMBERMAN we referred to the testimony of 200 farmers who told of the much better crops that were raised when timber was standing than since more has been cleared. We're neither alarmists nor fadists, but the question is one of sufficient import to call for consideration from those engaged actively in the lumber trades.

MESSRS. RIOPELLE & SMITH of Quebec says *Le Canada* have sold for \$82,500 a timber limit in the township of Ballantyne, to the Moore Lumber company, of Detroit. This limit was bought from the Ontario Government at an auction some years ago for \$49,000. Mr. Riopelle has been very lucky in his timber limit speculations. A few years ago he entered into partnership with Honore Robillard M. P. and, the latter, obtained from the federal government, for the firm, a piece of Indian reserve timber limits on Whitefish lake, for \$312. Mr. Robillard shortly afterwards sold his interest in the limit for \$15,500 cash, but Mr. Riopelle retained his share for some time selling it finally for \$27,500. In connection with Mr. Robillard's purchase from the Dominion Government Mr. Barron M. P. has moved in the Commons, now in session for a return showing what quantity of timber or other wood has been returned to the government of Canada, as having been cut up to the present time from off Indian reserve No. 6 of the Robinson treaty by the licensees or vendors of the timber thereon since the sale to Honore Robillard, M. P., what amount of revenue or dues has been paid to the government since the sale thereof, from the vendors or licensees, on account of timber or wood cut thereon. Mr. Barron is also moving for a return showing the quantities and kinds of timber and sawlogs cut annually on the lately disputed territory in the province of Ontario, under the authority of timber licenses issued by the Dominion government.

CHIEF JUSTICE SIR THOMAS GALT has recently given a decision which practically knocks the bottom out of the Ontario Act respecting assignments and preferences by insolvent persons. He decided that clause 9 of that Act, which provides that assignments shall take precedence of judgments and executions, was ultra vires. As the British North America Act says that the Dominion Government only shall have the power to deal with bankruptcy and insolvency, the Provincial Governments may not make laws taking away the priority of an execution creditor, as such would be legislation relating to bankruptcy, and insolvency. In the case in which his Lordship gave decision one Neville, an Ottawa merchant was in business difficulties. The Union Bank got an execution against him and seized his stock. Shortly afterwards he made an assignment to John Moran. Under the authority of this assignment Moran demanded possession of the stock. Under the Ontario Act he was entitled to it, but Mr. Meredith, who represented the Union Bank, took the case into court. In Chambers the decision was against him. He then took it before the Chief Justice, who decided as above. Mr. H. T. Beck, who represented the trustee Moran, as well as the attorney-General of Ontario, will carry the case to the Court of appeal. In the meantime Sir Thomas Galt's decision stands. If a creditor now gets his execution in he retains the right to realize on the goods seized entirely for his own benefit. It will be a race between creditors as to which shall get in the first execution.