

THE JOURNAL
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FOR UPPER CANADA.

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JACQUES & HAY'S CABINET FACTORY.

One of the great objects of this Journal being to keep its readers well-informed as to the manufacturing industry of the country, we propose to give a brief sketch of Messrs. Jacques & Hay's cabinet and furniture factory. Before taking our readers thither, however, it may not be amiss to say a few words about the raw material of which so large a quantity is worked up there.

The subject of Canadian woods, which has so long interested the merchant and artizan of other countries, cannot fail to engage the attention of our own people. The fact indeed of their growing so greatly in favor of late, should awaken a deeper interest in our forest productions as a source of wealth and prosperity to the country. We scarcely need specify any particular purposes for which our woods are adapted, because we believe that they are suitable to nearly all purposes to which the material is applied. At the several international exhibitions the beautiful samples of Canadian woods have elicited general admiration; and, at the late Exhibition for 1862, a commission from Lloyd's was sent to the Canadian department for the purpose of making extended investigations into the nature of these woods. The result was, that in "Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping," for the years 1863 and 1864, a number of our Canadian woods were added to their list, and raised to a high standard for ship-building purposes, in comparison with woods of other countries.

"Black-walnut, hickory, black-birch, and white and red cedar, are added to the list of timbers for vessels classed A; and black-elm, hickory, white-oak, beech, chesnut, red-cedar, tamarac and birch-pine, are allowed the highest place for outside planking from the keel to the first buttock heads in ships of twelve years in class A. The important uses made of Canadian timber in every part of the ship, inside and out, and which secure the highest standard in their registration, is shown in table A." The jurors also in their report stated, that "at no previous exhibition in this or any other country has so splendid and valuable a display of the products of the forests and plantations been exhibited, not only when we consider the

magnitude of the various collections sent from almost every country, but also in regard to the admirable care shown in the preparation of the specimens;" and that "in point of size of specimens, excellent selection, and information given, the Upper Canada collection is undoubtedly the finest in the exhibition building."

Already we export annually in the form of logs, thirty millions of cubic feet, and of sawn timber we export every year four hundred millions of feet, board measure. The revenue derived from these in 1860, was five hundred thousand dollars.

The value of our forest products exported in

The year 1860 was \$11,012,253

" 1861 " 9,572,645

" 1862 " 9,482,897

For our finest woods the demand, we think, must grow much larger, from the fact that in South America and in the West Indies, rosewood and mahogany are becoming very scarce.

From its susceptibility of a very high polish and its peculiar adaptation for displaying ornamental carving, black-walnut will, doubtless, become the favorite wood here, as it already has in the United States.

Our cabinet makers here will act wisely in seeking, if they have not already found, the best possible methods of treating their woods so as to enhance their beauty. We are anxious that our native workmen should not be excelled, and there is no reason why they should be. With a continually advancing power and skill to work up our raw material, we should become large exporters of furniture and cabinet-ware. All that is required in the premises is rightly directed enterprise. Of this there is an eminent example in the establishment of the Messrs. Jacques & Hay.

The manufacturing part of this establishment is situated at the foot of Bay Street, on the Esplanade in this city, and is the largest of the kind in British America. If it were not for the heavy inland freights, it would possibly be much more extended, and manufacture more largely for exportation. As it is the foreign trade of the firm is confined to the best class of their furniture, some of which goes to England and some to Scotland.

The number of persons employed in all the branches of this establishment is about three hundred, and these, aided by a steam-engine of thirty-five horse power, fed with the waste of the factory, work up fully one million feet of lumber in a year. There are, of course, great quantities of other materials consumed here, as paint, varnish, glue, sand-paper, &c., of which it is not our present purpose to speak. For the benefit of our glue manufacturers, however, we would just say that