

**TIMBER OF THE U. S. NORTHWEST.**

Practically, the whole country between the Minnesota prairies and the Rocky mountains is bare of timber. There are little strips of forest trees along the water courses in Dakota, but they consist mainly of cotton wood, soft maple, and alder, and furnish only a scanty supply of fuel to the settlers and are of no value as a source of building material. West of the Missouri there is nothing worth sawing into lumber until the advanced spurs of the Rockies are reached—the Big Horn, the Belt, the Judith, the Big Snowy and the Yellowstone mountains. In the gorges running up their sides there is sufficient "bull pine" and spruce for the settlers' purposes, and for railway ties and bridge timbers, but there are no large well-timbered areas. On both sides of the main divide of the Rockies about the same condition is found. The pines are somewhat larger, and some cedar is met with. For want of something better, the timber is of great value for local consumption, for fuel and building purposes in the neighboring valleys, but this is all that can be said of it. Not until I reached Clark's Fork of the Columbia, or the Pend d'Oreille, as it is known to the settlers, did I see any extensive body of good timber. On both sides of the stream, between the Cœur d'Alene and Cabinet mountains, lies a heavily timbered belt of about 100 miles in length by 30 miles in width, reaching down to and around Pend d'Oreille Lake. The trees are "bull pine," cedar, hemlock and spruce with a little white pine. The western slopes of the Cœur d'Alene mountains and the Bitter Root mountains, which are a continuation of the same range, are moderately well timbered and furnish material for fuel, fences and buildings for a wide stretch of rich, bare country further west. From these mountains westward, to the narrow valleys running up into the Cascade range, the country is nearly destitute of forest growth. A few stunted pines grow on the sides of the deep narrow valleys through which the streams run. Along the lower course of the Columbia and around Puget Sound there are immense forests of fir, furnishing a practically inexhaustible lumber supply. Eastern Oregon is almost treeless, but the slopes of the mountain ranges bear sufficient timber for local use. Eastern Washington, fast becoming a great wheat field, feels most the lack of forests. Western Oregon, including the fertile, well-settled Willamette Valley, is well supplied from both the coast and Cascade mountains, while western Washington, is all a vast forest, where the clearings are mere specks upon the immense expanse of woodland. This magnificent forest is destined to be a source of great wealth for centuries to come. The lumbering operations up to this time, although very extensive, have only notched it here and there at long intervals close to the water side.—*E. V. Smalley in the Century.*

**TREE PLANTING ENCOURAGED.**

Though the prospects are very remote when this country will be called upon to seek its necessary supplies of timber in foreign countries, lumbermen should bear the fact in mind, that from other than a commercial point of view, our forests are of incalculable value. It has been proven conclusively that where forests abound droughts are entirely unknown; and there is no doubt that the character of the deposition of water in wooded regions is much more gentle, and therefore fertilizing, than in denuded countries, where long droughts alternate with short but violent rains.

The farming class of this country are fast awakening to this fact, and in numerous instances State Legislatures have been called upon to take action to encourage the setting out of young trees. Kansas has entered boldly into the spirit of the subject, and a day has been set apart in each year, when every citizen is expected to cast his mite, so to speak, into the treasury, by setting out one or more trees in his immediate locality. Iowa, not to be outdone in this respect, has bills before the legislature, offering a bounty to those who plant and maintain for a specified time a given number of young trees. As an illustration of the interest taken in the West in this movement, it may be said that a considerable amount of prairie land in southern Indiana and Illinois has been suc-

cessfully converted into forest, and the natural adaptation of the soil for this purpose is shown by the fact that in a single square mile of wood seventy-five species of trees, or almost as many as are found throughout the whole continent of Europe, were observed to be growing. These seventy-five species included nearly all the varieties of valuable timber trees known, and specimens of fifty-one of them were found which were estimated to be at least one hundred feet in height.

This subject is of vast importance, particularly to the Eastern section of our country, and action should no longer be delayed. Droughts are becoming more and more frequent, and the effect upon the crops is illustrated at times in a manner not pleasant to realize or consider. Let "tree planting day" therefore be enumerated among the list of legal holidays, and instil into the minds of our young the necessity of providing for the wants of future generations—a duty mixed with pleasure.—*Lumber Trades Review.*

**DANGER OF FOREST FIRES.**

Now that the drying winds have commenced to shriek through the forests, drying the leaves scattered thickly over the ground throughout valuable timber lands, aided of course by the warm sun, care and precaution should be exercised whereby the customary damages by extensive forest fires shall be lessened or prevented entirely. The Philadelphia *Times* pertinently refers to the subject clearly and forcibly in the appended article:—

The usual spring floods are doubtless over for this season. The drying winds of the past few days have been preparing the way for another destructive agency, the spring forest fire. The most general and destructive of these usually occur during the months of April and May. The warm sun and drying winds render the last year's fallen leaves as dry and inflammable as a tinder-box. There is as yet no crop of green foliage even partially to counteract the dangers arising from the drying mass of combustibles. Of all the States in the Union, Pennsylvania probably suffers the greatest annual loss from this source. The mountain-sides are covered with much valuable timber, but the lumberman and the tanner are making sad havoc with our forests, and the methods pursued only prepare the way for a greater waste of timber by fire.

A last year's bark peeling or lumber camp furnishes the material upon which this year's forest fires will revel. When once started the flames do not stop with burning up the dried branches of fallen timber, but spread over miles of green and standing forests, causing untold destruction. It is stated on the authority of the last census that in the year 1880 alone more than 600,000 acres of Pennsylvania forest were burned over, with an immediate loss exceeding \$3,000,000. The loss in increased sterility of soil and lessening rain supply is incalculable. After one of these fires in the pine or hemlock forests of the state there is very little grows but briars, fireweed, and a cold moss.

There are laws more or less adequate already on the statute book of the state for the suppression of these damaging conflagrations. But they will not execute themselves. The farmers and other forest owners must organize for that purpose or laws are useless. This should be done at once, in advance of the danger. In such a matter the value of the ounce of prevention is almost incalculable. Prompt and watchful attention on the part of all interested will prevent many forest fires in their inception, before which, when once started, the usual means of suppression would prove perfectly worthless. The preservation of our streams and the maintenance of the rainfall are of too much importance to the welfare of this commonwealth to be treated lightly. Add to these public considerations the value of the private property exposed to danger and sufficient motives are offered for the most strenuous efforts to prevent these annually recurring disasters to our forests.—*Lumber Trades Journal.*

**A TIMBER SEIZURE.**

There is not the least doubt about it; and a big one, too. Section B company for the past winter, have been doing an extensive business in the way of getting piles, timber, lumber and

other materials. Some 3,000 men were engaged during the winter in getting out these materials, and there has been piled along the Thunder Bay Branch, waiting for transport to the west, to be used in construction, over 1,750,000 ties alone. These ties are worth 30 cents each, delivered on the railway, and are of good quality. The value of the materials now on the track is about \$1,000,000, and materials to the value of \$300,000 are yet to be delivered. The winter's operations have drawn to a close. It will be seen that a very large amount of timber has been cut by these cutting timber. But it is said that this company have not complied with this demand, and have not paid their license. But they are not going to be allowed to get of "scot free," for the department have given instructions to their agent here, Mr. Wm. Margach, Government Inspector of Timber, to proceed at once and seize all the ties and timber that has been cut by the aforesaid company, and Mr. Margach left here on Saturday last for that purpose. He took the train as far as Savanne, from which place he will take to the woods and seize everything that has been cut, posting up notices that anyone touching the materials will be arrested and dealt with as a person would be for stealing. His instructions are very emphatic, and he informs us that he intends carrying them out to the letter. Of course there will be a grand "kick" on the part of the company, but that is to be expected. Nevertheless the Government will hold firm until their demands are met. It may be claimed that the Ontario Government have nothing to do with the timber or lands in this disputed territory; nevertheless they intend to lay claim to it. This may be the means of a speedy settlement of the boundary dispute, as to which Province this territory belongs.—*Prince Arthur Herald.*

**ARBOR DAY.**

The Montreal correspondent of the Toronto *Mail* says:—The judicious appointment by the local Government of an annual "Arbor Day" has met with immense and most gratifying success, not only here, but throughout the whole province. Tuesday, May 7th, was a gala day both in the city and vicinity, and from the despatches published this morning Montreal has nothing to boast of as compared with other cities and the rural districts. In fact, it was observed as a fete day everywhere. There was a good deal of enthusiasm among those present when the trees in the names of her Royal Highness the Princess Louise and his Excellency the Governor-General were planted on the mountain side here. All the elite present took part in the operation. The Mayor and corporation thoroughly entered into the spirit of the celebration. There is now no danger of our magnificent forests being wasted, since the whole population is enlisted in their preservation as well as perpetuation.

**A Tell Tale.**

The barometer in the lumber business that best tells the condition of the times is thick stuff. The demand for it increases as prosperity becomes greater, and diminishes as the people notice that they are being pinched. A man who puts up a house when he feels well-fixed and happy will use one and a half or two-inch doors, but if he feels for plenty of dollars in his pockets, and they are not there, he will content himself with thinner ones. Three or four years ago when we were emerging from the ruins of the panic, thick stuff was everywhere abundant, but now it is everywhere scarce, and it will remain so until hard times strike us again. Buyers of houses may take a hint from this. As a rule, if a house is built when money is easy, it will be better built in every respect, than though erected when the builder is uncertain whether his bank account will hold out against his lumber and carpenter bill.—*Northwestern Lumberman.*

**Tree-Planting in Texas.**

An exchange says that tree-planting in Kansas has made an encouraging beginning. Two plantations, of 500 acres each, in Crawford county, illustrate what may be achieved in this direction. One of the plantations is conducted by the Fort Scott & Gulf Railroad Company, primarily to furnish ties and timber for its own

use, and with a view to affect ultimately a great saving by this enterprise. The western catalpa appears to be the tree preferred for planting on the prairies. It is a native of the lowlands along the streams in Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri. The wood is tenacious of life, is soft and almost indestructible, even when exposed to the weather, and has proved so durable that the farmers of Missouri, it is said, have nearly exterminated the species in their eagerness to secure it for fence-posts. It is also an exceedingly rapid grower. A block of 100,000 seedlings planted in the spring of 1879, on rich soil, in the Fort Scott forest, already ranges from 10 to 15 feet in height, while the individual trees vary in circumference from eight to 11 inches.—*Northwestern Lumberman.*

**A GRAND FORKS SCHEME.**

A meeting of citizens was held at Grand Forks, Dak., April 26, for the purpose of considering a proposition of a Michigan party, whom the *Plaindealer* lazily calls "Mr." Howard, for building a mill at that point. The offer is to invest \$500,000 in the enterprise, if the citizens of Grand Forks will subscribe a bonus of \$50,000. It was stated that Mr. Howard spoken of was thoroughly responsible, and owned a \$300,000 mill in Michigan—a statement that no man who knows the cost of saw-mills can swallow. Before the meeting adjourned the subscription was raised to \$20,000, and it was thought that the desired amount of local guarantee could be easily obtained. This is the first tangible effort that has been made to locate mills at Grand Forks for the manufacture of Red Lake pine, that will soon be opened by the government for sale. A Grand Forks is at the junction of Red Lake river with the Red River of the North, and at the very gateway of the immense demand for lumber in northern Dakota and in Manitoba, it is the natural manufacturing and distributing point for pine in all northwestern Minnesota. If the active men of Grand Forks do not take the opportunity that lies within their grasp they are sillier than they have a reputation for being.—*Northwestern Lumberman.*

THE Toronto *Globe*, in alluding to the death of Leonard Bacon Hodges, says:—There has just gone to rest from St. Paul, Minn., a quiet, unostentatious man who has probably done more real good than many who will find a place among the world's great ones. Ever since 1854 Mr. Hodges has been actively engaged forest-planting on the prairies of the northwest. From long experience his mind had been a perfect storehouse of facts concerning forestry. It was he who dictated the legislation of his state under which Minnesota is fast becoming a wooded country. He also founded the State Forestry Association. His work will endure for ages, and of him it may be truly said that future generations will rise up and call his work blessed.

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