

TIMBER CLAIM LAW.

An Iowa correspondent wrote to the Chicago *Lumber Trade Journal* as follows:—I think few of us realize the benefit of this law. Those who settled far out in our prairies twenty to forty years ago, when there was no trees for miles around to break the bleak winds, can now since trees have been planted and grown twenty to forty feet high, realize their benefit in breaking the wind. Far more will the settlers of the broader treeless countries to the west and north west be benefitted by the Timber Claim Law, which will induce so general and extensive planting of timber. Whether forests do or do not induce rain I will not here stop to argue, but it is certain that when the wind is checked the dews fall more and last longer in the morning; the evaporation of moisture from the soil is less; the wind does not dry up, injure and break down the field crops; nor does the winter wind so terribly pierce both man and beast when trees planted as when the long reaching winds meet with no barrier to check them.

Wood and timber is a proper and valuable product of the farm, and the young beginner on the farm will find, if he plants valuable and fast growing varieties, the grove will be the most valuable investment on his farm.

Winter and spring is too late to gather the seed and nuts of most of our forest trees, but the cuttings of cottonwood and willow should be taken off very early, before the sap begins to circulate, and stored where they will keep slightly moist. I do not recommend these trees as being valuable, except for quick growth and easy to be had for next spring.

The nurserymen have large quantities of walnut, maple, ash, hardy catalpa, etc., which may be had by applying before their stocks are all sold, but the demand is very great, mostly sold out last fall. The catalpa has been raised by the million and sold for planting in Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and some in Dakota and Minnesota; but its success north of Iowa is yet in doubt. I would recommend its trial in the middle of groves of other trees, with deep planting on dry land. Wherever it can be raised it will certainly be the most valuable tree for the farmer.

When Congress passed the Timber Claim Law it was a wise provision and a great incentive for the settlement of new territories. They will soon become new states, and changed in a wonderful short time into comfortable homes with prosperous farmers.

JOINERY FOR ENGLAND.

The *Timber Trades Journal* says:—We have further information to hand respecting the coming importation of prepared American joinery, or more correctly termed "finished wood-work." Great efforts, it is said, will be made next season to establish "American finished wood-work," as a saleable item in the English markets.

The same journal also says:—Messrs. Ekman of Stockholm, the firm from which Messrs. H. Atkinson & Co., of Wharf Road, London, receive their supplies of Swedish joinery, are, we understand, in order to meet an increasing demand for their doors and other goods, about to make considerable additions to their mills. This firm were the pioneers of the Swedish joinery trade in this market, and the uniform excellence and reliability of their goods are too well known to our readers to need any further commendation from us.

RENDERING WOOD INCOMBUSTIBLE.

Accounts are published in the English scientific journals of some recent tests of asbestos mixtures for rendering wood, canvas and other materials incombustible, and it would seem, with encouraging results. Among other experiments, a piece of light pine wood, about six inches long by four inches square, painted with five coats of this substance, was placed for upwards of half an hour in an ordinary grate fire, but, although the wood within was reduced to charcoal, there was no blaze whatever emitted during the charring. Again, a small model theatre, built of wood, with net scenes and accessories, was sprinkled with turpentine and set on fire, every portion ignited, and the whole was consumed; but a similar model with the net scenes and the wood frame all painted with asbestos, was

drenched with turpentine and set fire to, but the scenes were only partially charred at the lower ends, with the turpentine flames, while the timbering was not even ignited. Tests were also made with two models of a larger size, about four feet cube built on a bed plate of one inch real board, and set fire to by a bundle of shavings, the one was burned and the bed plate set on fire, while, in the other no ignition was effected in the parts to which asbestos has been applied.

THE GATINEAU FORESTS.

A reporter of the *Montreal Star*, in a description of the Gatineau Valley says:—"The existing forests of the Gatineau districts are as nothing in comparison to the original ones, the lumber trade or bush fires having swept off most of the huge pines which lorded over the country when Canada was discovered. They are for the most part composed of hardwood, varying in size according to the date at which the country they stand on was cleared of pine. Most of the uncultivated country is covered thickly with maple, oak, birch, elm, beech and other hard woods, which are used as fuel, and the Gatineau railway when built will be able to bring out enough cordwood from this district to alone make it a promising investment. Again there are large quantities of valuable butternut and ash, almost invaluable through its size for the manufacture of furniture and carriages, which is at present being wasted, but for which there will, undoubtedly, be an unlimited demand as soon as it is within reach of the outer world. In the moist places cedar grows in abundance, while spruce and hemlock are very often met with."

NORWAY.

The Christiania correspondent of the *Timber Trades Journal* writing on Dec. 11th, says:—We have now had thorough winter for about a month, and, notwithstanding many prognostications to the contrary, it seems to have settled down for good. A fair quantity of snow having fallen, the transport of logs from the forests will be as easy as can be, and this year's crop of hay having been abundant, the hire of horses is likely to be cheap. Under these circumstances it would seem probable that a great quantity of timber could not fail to be brought forward for next year's sawing season. However, much will depend upon the prices, which have yet to be fixed. As the peasants have had a pretty good harvest, they will be independent; and on the other hand, shippers are not likely to go in for allowing last year's rates, the same having given little or no profit, and prospects on your side not being particularly bright. It is likely, therefore, that the favourable state of the "winter roads" will not be taken advantage of to the extent that it might have been under other circumstances.

SPRUCE IN ENGLAND.

The *Timber Trades Journal* of Dec. 23, says: The heavy and somewhat sudden arrivals of spruce deals in Liverpool have had the effect of bringing down prices. Sales have been made during the week at reduced figures, and we hear of orders having been booked in the country at 27 5s. ex quay. The fall may, however, prove to be only of momentary nature, and it is quite possible that prices may rebound when the bulk of the wood ex quay has been dealt with.

Spruce deals have been offered at reduced figures, and sellers have displayed some anxiety to rid themselves of stock. Why holders of spruce should be unduly anxious to take orders is not quite clear. The demand for wood in those districts where spruce is most largely used is certainly now as good as it was during the corresponding period of last year, and there exists every likelihood that a steady demand will continue during the early spring months.

FOREST PROTECTION.

If our law makers throughout the country represented with anything like faithfulness the awakened interest of the most intelligent part of their constituents, says the *New York Tribune*, the coming winter would not pass without some efficient legislative action, state and national, in the matter of forest protection.

Special enactments are needed in different states to meet the dangers which threaten in each. In the lake region laws to protect the remaining pineries from fires should be passed at once. In the south where forests are preyed upon by browsing animals, as well as by fire, and devastated by the wasteful production of turpentine, legislation of another sort is demanded. The first duty of our own legislature is to protect the Adirondack woods from further invasion. In California the imminent danger is from mountain torrents, and the state government should co-operate with the federal government to preserve the forests about the footings of the streams which head on the western slopes of the Sierra.—*Lumberman's Gazette*.

A Satisfactory Test.

A test of Mr. Hubert's new fire-proofing material, which is intended to take the place of iron beams in constructing fire-proof buildings, took place lately at Schillinger's stone yard at 82nd street and avenue A., New York city. The material consists of coal ashes and plaster paris moulded into strips one and one-half inches thick. A large oven built of this combination was erected in the yard. The top of the oven was coated with the fire-proofing, so as to represent the ceiling of a room, and above which there were a number of wooden beams, around which were nailed strips of the same material, these being surmounted by a wooden floor. At 2.30 p.m. a fire was started in the oven and allowed to continue to burn fiercely for an hour and a half. The fire was then extinguished with water and it was found that the floor was scarcely warm, while a beam that was directly across the flue was only slightly charred and a very small piece of the ceiling of the oven had fallen. It is claimed that iron beams would not have stood so severe a test in such a satisfactory manner and that the cost of this method of fire-proofing, will be about 33 per cent of that now employed.

Muskegon Enterprise.

The *Lumberman's Gazette*, of Bay City, Michigan, says:—The late trip of the Muskegon lumberman is fraught with great significance especially in Chicago, the most important lumber distribution centre in the west, and in fact in the world, it being virtually without a rival in the amount of lumber handled, the entire product of the Saginaw Valley being insufficient to supply more than half its needs. The *Muskegon Chronicle* in alluding to the movement just inaugurated to effect a scheme for the handling of Muskegon lumber product at that point direct, says: The *Northwestern Lumberman* represents the Chicago dealers at calculated on how low a price they can offer our mill men for the lumber now cross-piled on the docks. They should save themselves this trouble, for Muskegon intends henceforth to dispense altogether with the services of Chicago dealers.

The Manchester Canal.

The Manchester City Council have confirmed the report of the sub-committee appointed to inquire into the feasibility and desirability of the Ship Canal Scheme. The sub-committee, it will be borne in mind, submitted a highly favourable report. A member of a leading Liverpool house of timber importers has publicly expressed the opinion that the Ship Canal will not materially damage the wood trade at Liverpool. It has been resolved to seek the sanction of Parliament for the scheme to be subscribed to out of the rates. Incidentally it was mentioned that a million pounds would be a fitting sum to subscribe. The project has not been well entertained by the Manchester press.—*Timber Trades Journal*.

HOOPER & CLARK, pump manufacturers at Lewiston, Me., in connection with a gentleman of Portland, have purchased 3,000 acres of timber land, and will cut spruce and hardwood lumber. Their portable saw mill will be discarded for a permanent one of respectable capacity, which will be driven by 120-horse power engine, and built in the woods. A wooden tramway several miles in extent has been laid, on which cars are now running. The lumber will be shipped from Phillips, distant 10 miles from the mill.

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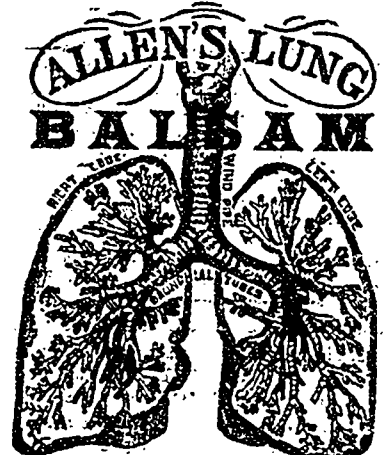
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