

MAPLE PRODUCTS.

Our former reports regarding the short run of sap this season, and the consequent largely decreased make of sugar and syrup, have since been fully corroborated, and it is now known that the crop of maple products is the shortest for many years. It is stated by one owner of over 1,000 maple trees in the Eastern Townships that he did not secure 50 per cent. of the yield of 1895. He also states that the flow of sap for two days in succession was so profuse that it was impossible to collect it, and that from this cause alone there was a considerable loss. After that the run of sap seemed to stop abruptly, and those who failed to collect it all during that period, had not a chance to secure much afterwards. In view therefore of the great deficit in supplies the price of both syrup and sugar has advanced, and nothing choice can now be had in wood at under 5½c. per lb., although the first lots of the season sold at 4½ to 5c. Syrup, which sold down at 50c. per tin a short time since, cannot be had now under 60c. per small tin for choice, while the larger tins bring from 70 to 85c. each. There seems to be a great variation in the size of tins this season, so much so that some of our dealers are selling by weight instead of the single tin. A great scarcity of maple products is experienced in the West, one dealer informing us that some orders from Ontario have had to be cancelled owing to the impossibility of filling them. Maple sugar, which recently sold at 7½c., is now firm at 8 to 8½c. per lb.—*Montreal Trade Bulletin.*

TIMBER AND LUMBER IN BRITAIN.

A very fairly satisfactory condition of the wood trade in Great Britain is indicated by the latest circular of Farnworth & Jardine, dated Liverpool, 1st May:

"The arrivals at that port from British North America during the past month have been 10 vessels, 7,659 tons, against 3 vessels, 2,107 tons during the corresponding month last year, and the aggregate tonnage to this date from all places during the years 1894, 1895, and 1896 has been 44,066, 44,395, and 76,068 tons respectively." The circular goes on to say: "During the past month business has been fairly satisfactory, prices steady, and imports of most articles moderate. The deliveries have been fully up to an average, and the new import season opens with light stocks.

"CANADIAN WOODS.—Of waney and square pine the import has not yet commenced; the consumption has been satisfactory, stocks are low, and prices firm. *Red Pine.*—There has been little enquiry; the stock is about exhausted. *Oak.*—No import; the stock of prime wood is very small, and buyers now await the fresh arrivals; prices are unchanged. *Elm* has moved off slowly, and the stock for this season of the year is sufficient. *Ash.*—There has been a large import of round wood from the United States, for which there has been a fair demand; stocks are ample. *Pine Deals.*—The deliveries have been fairly satisfactory; prices are unchanged; stocks are now reduced to a more moderate compass.

"NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA SPRUCE AND PINE DEALS.—Of Spruce Deals there has been an import of 3,006 standards, against 796 standards same time last year, but the deliveries have been satisfactory, and the stock being still unusually light, several cargoes for prompt shipment by steamers have been readily sold; the demand continues good, and the import promises to be early. *Pine Deals.*—No sales to report.

"BIRCH.—Of logs, from St. John, the import has been large, chiefly on consignment, and still unsold; the deliveries have fallen off, and the stock is ample. Planks have been imported freely; the consumption has been fairly satisfactory, but stocks are increasing and values are lower.

"UNITED STATES OAK.—The import has consisted of a few small parcels; the demand is quiet, and prices rule low; the stock, chiefly old wood, is quite sufficient. Of planks the import has been heavy, viz., 208,000 cubic feet against 161,000 cubic feet same time last year; the demand is only moderate, and although there has been a fair consumption prices are easier. The total stock amounts to 205,000 cubic feet, and shippers should be cautious in consigning.

"PITCH PINE.—The arrivals during the past month have been five vessels, 7,248 tons, against

five vessels, 5,945 tons, during the same time last year. Of hewn the consumption has been good and stocks are moderate. Of sawn, in spite of a large import for the month, we are left with moderate stocks, the consumption having been on a large scale. Of planks and boards, though there has been a good consumption, it has scarcely kept pace with the import, thus stocks are slightly increased, though by no means excessive.

"SEQUOIA (CALIFORNIAN REDWOOD).—Sales continue to be made in retail quantities; there is no active demand and no change in value.

"BRITISH COLUMBIAN AND OREGON PINE continues to move off slowly, but there is no change in value to report, and the stock is still too heavy.

"UNITED STATES STAVES.—There has been a light import during the month; the demand is good for most descriptions; the stock is moderate.

"BALTIC AND EUROPEAN WOODS.—The arrivals during the past month have been 41 vessels, 23,740 tons, against 22 vessels, 11,777 tons, during the like time last year. *Fur Timber*—No import; the demand is quiet, and there is sufficient stock. *Red and White Deals* have been imported very moderately; the consumption has been moderate, prices are firm, but the stock is still ample. *Flooring Boards.*—The import has been large, viz., 6,145 standards against 3,668 standards same month last year; still the deliveries have been satisfactory, and there is little change in value to report; the stock is heavy."

BOOKS FOR BANK CLERKS.

Junior bank clerks and officers are frequently slow in being promoted to more lucrative and responsible positions, because they have neglected to thoroughly inform themselves of the broad principles which underlie the great transactions of trade and finance.

Experience alone, valuable as it is, can not supplant this knowledge of the elementary bases of business. In these progressive days there should be a combination of both theoretical and practical training, as the opinions of the bankers are being more and more sought and listened to with attention by associations of bankers and the general public also.

Every young banker, and for that matter every banker who has not done so, ought to read Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations," John Stuart Mill's "Political Economy," and "Methods and Machinery of Practical Banking," by Claudius B. Patten.

A careful study of these works will aid in advancing any one in the banking profession, affording a combination of theoretical and practical knowledge that will place the young banker on sure ground ready to meet the emergencies of his calling and to respond to whatever demand the public may make for advice and counsel in his special field of business.—*Bankers' Magazine.*

A TIMELY "INTRUDER."

Valuable testimony is borne by a former Hudson's Bay factor to the services of the late Sir John Schultz in the development of the North-West. A late issue of the *Canadian Gazette*, of London, contains the following letter from Mr. Roderick Campbell, now of Park Road, Bushey, Herts, addressed to the editor:

DEAR SIR,—The late Sir John Schultz was known to me for many years. Personally I agree with Emerson that you can get anything you want in this world. That is, if you work for it, hope for it, pray for it, and believe you will get it, it is yours in time. This eminent sage says, also, that if you want a rock in mid-ocean it will come floating to your feet. That is also my own belief. It was also the solid belief of him I once knew, but now know no more.

I was in that land of bliss and rum-drinking—under, perhaps, climatic coercion—that land of many silent crimes, that land loaded with fish, flesh and fowl; and that land which groaned in silent weeping, to be admitted into the list of the wheat-growing countries of the world, the old Red River settlement—three years before the advent of that enterprising, and then young man, of whom we now speak. My company, by right of charter, were, of course, absolute rulers. I need hardly say that, in this young man of Scandinavian appearance, of splendid physique, over six feet,

powerful and active, yet with the coolness and caution of a canny Scot, my company found one, if not the worst, opponent that had ever up to then entered the sacred realms of the charter of James II. He was an earnest exponent of free trade and of free government. He told me shortly after he came to the settlement that "the charter my company held was not worth the paper it was written upon. I, for one, shall never recognize it." The country being too healthy, he found no scope for his professional ability, so he turned first to merchandise, building the first brick house in the town that is now Winnipeg. Then it followed that he started the *Nor-Western* newspaper and became a journalist. In every page he poured vituperations over the head and ears of my worthy company—some of which were conversation to order, some of which promised to lend themselves to philosophic aphorism, others to epigrammatic brilliance, and all more or less, I may say with truth, somewhat excessive.

In time, the Council of Assiniboine thought it right, in the interest of the company, to appoint as sheriff this young intruder's half-brother, Mr. H. McKenny, that he might be able to curb and appease this exponent of free trade, who had vowed that until there was a free Government he should pay no duty on imported goods. When the goods arrived, young Schultz in person defended them at the landing ferry. The next day his half-brother sheriff entered the doctor's warehouse to put execution on the goods, but the first bale he touched, he was collared by the physician, and another instant saw the worthy relative officer sprawling on the floor, and glad he was to exit and make himself scarce. Instances of this kind are too many to mention now.

Sir John Schultz was a warm friend to the Indians and they rewarded him, for in the first election after the union their votes, though illegal in a sense, returned him to the Dominion Parliament. My company opposed him strenuously, but their man was as small as Mr. Schultz was big, and, as I have said, the Indian vote sent him to Ottawa a conquering hero. But, nevertheless, in time all their "land became Pharaoh's." It was with pleasure that I found that he and my company had come to better terms of friendship; for in 1877, traveling in the steamer "Chief Commoner"—*en route* to my native Scotland—he and Mr. Chief Commissioner J. A. Grahame were aboard, and very friendly they seemed. Again I made a journey with him from St. Boniface to Ottawa, in the winter of 1879, when he was always unassuming, always considerate, though suffering acutely from both eye and throat affection.

BRITISH COLUMBIAN GOLD.

In connection with Herr Schmeisser's report on the Western Australian gold fields, "Mr. Molyneux St. John writes calling attention to the position of British Columbia as a gold-producing country, whose richness in precious metals is supplemented by the advantage of the ore, as well as the pure gold, being procurable usually at a much less cost than in any other parts of the world." There are many old miners who believe that it will prove to be the richest mineral country in the world. Since the first rush of Californian explorers in 1859, over \$55,000,000 (£11,000,000) have been taken out of the country, without reckoning the gold dust and nuggets exported by the host of Chinamen who are constantly at surface work, but who do not report their results."—*Bradstreets.*

AN INGENIOUS MACHINE FOR SCRUBBING FLOORS.

An ingenious machine for scrubbing floors is in use in England, which is something like a lawn mower. It runs upon four wheels, and above the two front wheels is a tank which contains clean water, which may, of course, be heated if desired. The water is supplied to rotary brushes at the bottom of the machine, and these, rotating in an opposite direction to the motion of the machine itself, scrub the floor. At the back of these brushes and over the two back wheels is another tank, in which the dirt and water is carried. The wiping apparatus consists of an endless band of absorbent material made especially for the purpose. This band is pressed upon the floor by rotary brushes, so that the cloth accommodates itself to the inequalities of the floor. The cloth is rinsed out mechanically as it leaves the floor and passes through the tank at the back. It is not necessary to sweep the floor before scrubbing.