

work of some of the chief timber merchants, lumbermen and their assistants in that bive of timber industry, Ottawa.

At one of the leading mills, great baulks of pine were neatly hauled up from the river near the Chaudière Falls, and almost solely by the water power judiciously applied from the falls, they were placed in position on the great saw benches, the process being watched and directed by a foreman, so situated that his range of vision took in all that was going on; and I was informed after seeing the sawing done, and the great mass of timber moved by machinery, apparently as easily as a skilled nurse turns over a tiny infant, that a great tree can be converted into joists cut to a given thickness and length at an average of eight minutes per log.

Of course there is much refuse from these logs, and men and lads have to be tolerably active in clearing this away in order to prevent impediments and delays.

The larger refuse is rapidly converted into water pails by very ingenious machinery. Such as is not available for pails is used by a neighbouring match manufactory, which works up the scraps, except the bark, and what adheres to it, and the saw dust.

But there is a leak, and a very troublesome one, notwithstanding all this use of refuse, much of which finds its way into the river, and becomes interlaced, forming shoals, banks and impediments that must inevitably cause difficulties and troubles hereafter, which will have to be dealt with by the municipality, or the Government.

Many years ago, some French merchants discovered a great waste going on in England. Immense quantities of coal dust could be had at the collieries almost for the asking; they secured it, mixing it with some simple compound, they had it compressed into brick-shaped lumps, and now use it largely for heating the furnaces of their steam engine boilers. I would suggest that the waste saw dust, chips, &c., instead of choking the flow of the river, be compressed, converted into charcoal and sent to England, where such fuel is valuable and necessary for many trades, especially for metal workers, and where its use might be indefinitely extended, could a regular abundant supply be relied on at moderate price.

Abundant and cheap charcoal in many parts of continental Europe enables the people to carry on many metal trades which cannot thrive without it. Canadian charcoal might relieve England of a difficulty, and help to establish and extend various profitable branches of trade now neglected for want of it.

England is at present largely dependent on Sweden for "Safety Matches," where a lower quality of wood seems to be utilized, possibly by the use of improved processes of splitting, and the Swedish matches have the further advantage of being "safety matches," lighting only by friction on the specially prepared surface of the boxes.

This seems a trade that should naturally fall to the lot of Canada, and it probably only requires a little tact, energy and perseverance to secure it.

I was in some parts of Canada surprised, almost indeed, painfully startled, at the apparent want of care to avoid the risk of setting fire to factories and workshops. In many cases I saw iron forges being worked on floors of wood, the ceilings also of wood. I had never in any part of England or of Europe seen such, to my mind, hazardous risks of house burning incurred. Invariably, when I remarked on this, the owner, occupier or manager smiled, or passed off the incident with the answer "no danger, we always do so." In England fortunately for us other ideas prevail. Let us hope that they will spread; that our Canadian friends will not need to keep harness continually slung over the backs of horses at their admirable fire engine stations, ready to run out at thirty second's notice, lest some neighbour or dear relative's life should be sacrificed by one of the most horrible forms of death.

Before I conclude let me cast a glance at the effect of good home social legislation. Driving through Hamilton, my coachman remarked: "Hamilton is a prosperous place, Sir—they, are very strict about the liquor here; 'tis drink that makes and keeps a country poor."