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THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interests of the lumber trade and of allied industries throughout the Dominion, being the only representative in Canada of this foremost branch of the commerce of this country. It aims at giving full and timely information on all subjects touching these interests, discussing these topics editorially and inviting free discussion by others.

Special pains are taken to secure the latest and most trustworthy market quotations from various points throughout the world, so as to afford to the trade in Canada information on which it can rely in its operations.

Special correspondents in localities of importance present an accurate report not only of prices and the condition of the market, but also of other matters specially interesting to our readers. But correspondence is not only welcome, but is invited from all who have any information to communicate or subjects to discuss relating to the trade or in any way affecting it. Even when we may not be able to agree with the writers we will give them a fair opportunity for free discussion as the best means of eliciting the truth. Any items of interest are particularly requested, for even if not of great importance individually they contribute to a fund of information from which general results are obtained.

Advertisers will receive careful attention and liberal treatment. We need not point out that for many the CANADA LUMBERMAN, with its special class of readers, is not only an exceptionally good medium for securing publicity, but is indispensable for those who would bring themselves before the notice of that class. Special attention is directed to "WANTED" and "FOR SALE" advertisements, which will be inserted in a conspicuous position at the uniform price of 15 cents per line for each insertion. Announcements of this character will be subject to a discount of 25 per cent. if ordered for four successive issues or longer.

Subscribers will find the small amount they pay for the CANADA LUMBERMAN quite insignificant as compared with its value to them. There is not an individual in the trade, or specially interested in it, who should not be on our list, thus obtaining the present benefit and aiding and encouraging us to render it even more complete.

## TO VISITING LUMBERMEN.

Lumbermen visiting Toronto are invited to use the office of the CANADA LUMBERMAN as their own. We shall take pleasure in supplying them with every convenience for receiving and answering their correspondence, and hold ourselves at their service in any other way they may desire.

## THE FORESTS OF ONTARIO.

It would be difficult to over-estimate the importance to the province of the preliminary report presented to the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario by the Royal Commission appointed to investigate and report on the subject of restoring and preserving the growth of white pine and other timber trees upon lands in the province which are not adapted for agricultural purposes or for settlement. This report, published in our February number, is by no means exhaustive, neither does it deal with many of the problems of forestry, but it certainly casts an entirely new light, to many, on what we are to do with our cut-over and burnt-over pine lands.

The common idea held by lumbermen and others has been that a pine forest, once cut down and the ground burnt over, would not again re-clothe itself with pine timber. This has now been shown to be a mistaken idea, and that under certain conditions pine will again become the dominant wood of the district. If a forest fire is so fierce—as sometimes happens—as to kill every tree in the district, then only those trees will appear as second growth whose seed can be carried in quantities and long

distances, such as poplar and ash; but if, on the other hand, some of the large pine trees escape and are left standing, if only a tree here and there, then the seed from such pine trees will so disseminate itself as to produce slowly it may be, if the parent trees are scarce another crop of young pine trees, who find the necessary conditions of their growth as forest trees by coming up amongst the young poplars. It has not yet been determined how far a pine seed will carry; the wing or tail attached to each seed, measuring about three-quarters of an inch long by one-quarter of an inch wide, will no doubt fly a considerable distance or strike the ground near at hand, according to circumstances. The cone opens late in the fall, and as it gradually opens, the seed will usually become detached during a gale of wind, and so from its altitude be carried a considerable distance away.

Some districts visited by the Commissioners are thus described: "In most of the burnt-over territory examined, pine was found intermixed with other trees, and gradually as was no doubt the case with the original forest—asserting its supremacy and dominating the surrounding trees of the young generation." A specific case is given of a typical young forest in the county of Peterborough, twenty-three years of age, the exact date being verified by the postmaster of the district. "Viewed from the Burleigh road it has the appearance of a thrifty young poplar forest, with a few pine trees appearing on a level with the poplar; on close examination it was found that the young forest was largely composed of white and red pine, poplar, white birch, balsam, spruce, with some cedar, black ash and spruce on the low lands, as well as odd pine trees here and there that had been left by the lumbermen, relics of the original forest that had survived the fires."

The rate of growth of pine timber has been variously estimated, and is, of course, subject to many conditions. A young tree may begin life in the forest under adverse circumstances, germinating later than its near neighbors, and so grow up under their shade; while still young it may make fair growth, but as the forest space surrounding it is gradually taken up by the older trees, shutting it out from the sunshine, the struggle for existence can only end one way—by the gradual stoppage of growth and final death of the less favored specimen.

Leaving out of account, however, trees of this description, and taking only those living under fair and normal conditions in our northern country, it takes, according to the average made by the Commissioners, about forty years for a young pine to reach any commercial value; at that age it will make an eight inch log sixteen feet long, or say sixteen feet board measure. How important it is to preserve this sapling will be seen by considering its growth during the next thirty years, when, according to the apparently moderate calculations made, and by actual tests taken, it will, at the age of seventy years, produce 164 feet of merchantable lumber, and thereafter increase in growth at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum.

All the recommendations made by the report can be carried out by order-in-Council except clause 5, which required the sanction of Parliament, and that was given at the last session by

the enactment of Bill No. 54, "An Act to Establish Forest Reserves," which, being entirely away from the strife of parties, attracted little notice, but which we consider the most important act which has passed the Legislature for many years. Taken in connection with the recommendations that no pine tree should be cut smaller than 12 inches diameter measured two feet from the ground, that the system of fire-rangings should be compulsory on all lumbermen, and adopted by the government for their unsold berths, the system, if carried out, would introduce a new era in forestry, which would show its effects in after years.

The necessity of adopting a policy of forest reserves has long been admitted by those who have given the conditions prevailing in our north country any consideration. There are many millions of acres quite unfit for settlement that are admirably adapted for growing coniferous trees, and it would seem the height of absurdity to allow settlers to enter an area unfit for permanent cultivation, and where their presence leads to the destruction of valuable timber, as may be seen in many sections of the province.

There is a little over 20,000 square miles of territory now under license in this province, and presumably there is as much more to be sold, although not all pine lands; and of this vast area a considerable proportion may be set apart for forest reserves, as it reverts back to the Crown when the present crop of timber has been taken off. It certainly looks as if no better investment could be made by the government looking forward to obtaining a permanent revenue for the province. As to those areas which have been so completely burnt over that valuable varieties will not immediately reproduce themselves, it is a question on which we require further information and more complete investigation. Meantime we welcome the report, with its valuable initial suggestions, and as an earnest of what may be accomplished by close and practical attention to the interesting subject of forestry.

## TWO MAIN FACTORS IN TRADE.

It is not always easy to determine just how far the price of a certain commodity may advance before the consumers thereof cast around for a suitable substitute. The relation between price and demand is one which should be carefully studied by lumber manufacturers, as upon it depends, to some extent, the volume of consumption. After guarding against an over-supply, perhaps the next thing to be carefully watched is that prices are not forced so high as to cause substitutes to be purchased; for it is vastly easier to hold a market after it is secured than to capture it for the first time. Shippers in foreign markets may continue to advance prices until, to their surprise, they find the demand weakening, and upon enquiry, learn that other woods have been substituted.

Two illustrations may be given, one showing the evil effects of over-production, and the other the necessity of maintaining prices within easy reach of probable consumers. It is well known to readers of this journal that the spruce production of 1897, especially in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, greatly exceeded that of any previous year. The result was the overstocking of our principal market, Great Britain. Early in the