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CANADA LUMBERMAN OFFICE, PETERBOROUGH,  
Peterborough, Ont., June 13th, 1881.

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# The Canada Lumberman

DEVOTED TO THE LUMBER AND TIMBER INTERESTS OF THE DOMINION.

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Communications intended for insertion in the CANADA LUMBERMAN, must be accompanied by the name of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. Communications to insure insertion (if accepted) in the following number, should be in the hands of the publishers a week before the date of the next issue.

PETERBOROUGH, Ont. JUNE 16, 1881.

## THE HARDWOOD TRADE.

While pine is undoubtedly the most valuable as well as chief product of our forests, it cannot be too frequently impressed upon our people that a vast field for the employment of labour and capital lies before them in the other varieties of timber which our forests produce.

With advanced prices for pine the tendency will be more and more to substitute the former for the latter. Already in the neighbouring States hardwoods, such as maple and beech, are taking the place of pine for the purpose of flooring, and various finishings in houses, while every ship, every wagon, every agricultural implement, every piano, every piece of furniture, every railway car, every nicely finished room calls for more or less hardwood, and inasmuch as this same call comes from a rapidly growing continent as well as from Europe, it is evident that in our hardwoods we have a source of national wealth and individual employment and prosperity that should not be despised. We observe that the hardwood trade of Chicago alone for 1880 is estimated at 250,000,000 feet, or about one-sixth of its pine trade, and that nearly 7,000,000 feet of hardwoods were cut in the Saginaw Valley alone in 1880, where its first manufacture dates only a few years back. In Michigan only a few years ago maple was valueless, and now every tree is husbanded as representing so much money. Birch too, which was a drug, is now anxiously sought after by furniture men, and so on through the round until you reach the despised poplar, which has found a commercial value for the manufacture of printing and wrapping papers.

While the field is a good one and prices of hardwoods like pine is booming, it will, however, be wise in those who think of embarking

in the hardwood trade to proceed cautiously. Very much depends upon how it is manufactured and handled, while it requires time to season, and is of comparatively little value until properly seasoned.

## HEMLOCK TREES AND BARK EXTRACT.

Our neighbors in New Brunswick are considerably exercised over the hemlock bark question. It appears that recently three representative men visited Fredericton, in the milling and lumbering interests of Northern Kent, to protest against the Local Government's policy of selling outright, to parties interested in manufacturing hemlock bark extract, portions of the timber lands licensed to them for general lumbering purposes. The Crown Lands Department has advertised for sale 1,000 acres of land on the Richibucto river under license to Mr. E. Walker, and from which he draws supplies from his mill on Bass river, and surveys have been made of other blocks on the Goul Branch, the Kouchibouguine and the Kouchibouguine, affecting the other mill owners. There is a considerable number of hemlock trees on the streams named, and the Government claim that under the terms of the licenses granted to the mill-owners and lumberers these lands can be sold at any time. The St. John Sun says: "It may be justifiable to withdraw such lands from the lumbermen when they are actually required for actual settlement purposes, but it seems scarcely just or reasonable to refuse to sell these lands, so necessary to the supply of the saw mills of the country, to one class of lumbermen, and to sell them absolutely (not simply license them) to another class of lumbermen. In the one case the trees are cut down, hauled out, sawn into lumber and form a staple export of the country. In the other case, the trees are cut down and stripped of their bark, which alone is removed; the trees themselves are left to rot in the woods; the prosecution of other lumbering is greatly obstructed; and the risk of forest fires is greatly increased." The Sun goes on to say: "We hope the Provincial Government will consider the whole question very fully before deciding to sacrifice an old and important industry for the sake of one which, with some good features, has a number of very bad ones. We regret to learn that the mill-owners' protests have not been favorably regarded by the Local Government, but there is still time for the Government to reconsider their original decision in the matter. We incline to the opinion that the country will say there is a practical grievance here which the Government cannot pass over without serious injury to the public interests."

Mr. Chas. A. D. Miller gives his views in the St. John Telegraph on the other side of the question. He says:—

"It is argued that the selling of a certain quantity of land in Kent County to a firm interested in the Bark Extract business on the sole condition that they erect one of their factories in the district will have the effect of seriously injuring saw mill owners in that part of the country, and that it is a great injustice to these gentlemen. Now this is not all borne out by the facts of the case, as all unprejudiced persons will readily admit, for the extract manufacturers do not want the spruce or pine (whatever small quantities of these may remain on these lands, they having been cut and culled over and over again for the last 30 years and more) but on the contrary are perfectly willing that the lumbermen should make use of what remains on the lands they may take up as heretofore, and in fact offer to the mill owners this lumber on condition that they give them in return the hemlock bark on what lands they (the lumbermen) may hold, which surely is fair enough. In fact the establishment of a bark extract factory in that part of the country will increase the value of mill property and provide them with work for many years to come, for the effect of such a factory will be to furnish them with an abundant supply of hemlock logs, which otherwise would be too expensive to lay down at the mill, unless the bark were also utilized, and at the same time they will have their supply of spruce logs, etc., as intact as before."

"It must also be borne in mind that the spruce and pine in this district have now become so scarce, and what is left of them, so

small, that it is very unprofitable work, and does not give their mills anything like full employment. Hemlock logs, on the contrary, at the prices at which they will, by the erection of the bark factories, be enabled to obtain them, delivered at their mills, will offer much more remunerative and constant employment."

"Now as regards the argument that this bark should be reserved for the use of tanneries in the future. What guarantee have we got that large tanneries will ever be established in this section? In this age of progress and discoveries can we be certain that hemlock as a tanning agent will not at any moment be superseded by some cheaper and more perfect tanning agent? Do not India and the Levant and other tropical countries produce tanning materials which grow up and are gathered every year in the form of nuts and a species of plum, etc., which are now being shipped to England and Europe generally in immense quantities, and which have almost entirely taken the place of oak bark for tanning purposes? The production of these articles can be forced at will and is enormously increasing, and whereas as hemlock bark only contains from 4 to 7 per cent. of tanning, these articles contain from 20 to 40 per cent. The effect already of the introduction of these materials, though hemlock and oak bark may be becoming scarcer, has been that tanning agents in the great markets of the world are cheaper to-day than they were 10 or 20 years ago, and this, too, notwithstanding that the tanning trade in the same time has enormously increased. There is an old saying that 'Hay should be made while the sun shines,' and surely the present generation should not be allowed to starve that a future one may have a merely prospective advantage."

"England does not prohibit the use of coal, though scientists unanimously declare that it must, ere long, be exhausted. The fact of the matter is that there will always be enough bark in New Brunswick, and to spare, to tan all domestic hides; and as much money is expended per cord of bark used in the manufacture of merchantable bark extract, as in the case of a large tannery, which invariably has to look to a foreign country for its supply of hides, which is by far the largest item of expenditure in such an industry. In this respect it contrasts unfavorably with the hemlock extract business, in which the entire expenditure is made in the country."

## HOW TO SPLICE BELTS.

Mr. W. McGrath, one of the employees of the Dickson Estate Mills, has sent us the following ancient item which appeared in a late issue of this journal with regard to the running of the splices of a belt:—

A belt should be put on so that the splices will run with the pulleys, not against them. Both pulleys, the driving and driven run the same way, consequently the splices act the same on both. In instances where a pulley is on both sides of a belt, as is the case when a tightener is used, put the belt on so that the splices will run with the smaller pulley. The grain side of the leather should be put next the pulley, as it is more close and will not stretch as much as the flesh side. It is also smoother and will not be so apt to slip under the strain of starting up.

## McCLAREN vs. CALDWELL.

Since our last issue this case has occupied the attention of the Court of Appeal for several days. The lengthy arguments of the counsel having been concluded, judgment was reserved. Several minor moves have also been made on the legal chess-board with regard to the same, without, so far as we can see, any material benefit to either party.

## PETERBOROUGH.

PETERBOROUGH, June 13.—The river here is full of logs. Some forty river drivers are camped at the Little Lake, and there are now between this point and Stoney Lake fully 500,000 logs bound for the mills.

We are informed on excellent authority that the Dominion Bank recently sold their mill cut of last season (with mill culls out) for \$12 per 1,000 f.o.b. at Langford mills. This lot could not be considered above an average one.

## A SMALL MILLER'S COMPLAINT.

To the Editor of The Canada Lumberman:

FALKENBURG, June 6th, 1881.

DEAR SIR,—I see in the current month you ask for correspondence under the head of "Class Journalism," from persons interested in the lumber trade. This brings to mind the case of small saw mill men, of whom, being one myself, I can speak "feelingly." Now, such men find it quite a feat, and a hard one too, to furnish and stock up a small mill with a few thousand logs, cut them into lumber, and get it to market without the loan, in most cases, of a cent from a bank, they are consequently forced to hurry their lumber to market and sell for anything they can get in order to meet running expenses, and, of course, they nearly always sell at great disadvantages. For instance take this case, such a man "ships" 2 or 3 carloads to Toronto, say, when he gets there he has little cash, and can't wait, he must sell, the planing mill man know this, and they've got him; they offer what they like, and a bargain is made, and the lumber is sold for sometimes a third less than its real value; then in measuring, the buyer has the seller again, if a board is damaged in transit, it is culled, and a wide margin is taken for "checks," sun-dried boards, spoil lying on cars, docks, and waiting shipment, this margin in a few carloads is often thousands of feet; these culls are rated as of no value, although firewood is \$5 or \$6 a cord in Toronto. All this reduces the price of the lumber to a low figure, that just allows the millman to live by a hard struggle, and he often breaks down after a short fight, and is bankrupt. Now, if a combination of small mill men was formed, a depot at some point formed under proper management at any good point for selling, where the lumber could be received and taken proper care of, and sold at a fair profit, how much better that would be for such men as I describe, and it would injure nobody, but would be a fair way of doing business, and the standing, etc., of the persons availing themselves of these arrangements could be learnt, and loans could be got from banks to enable a better winter's work to be done in stocking up and cutting, etc., better and more lumber could be made at a benefit to all round. This idea, no doubt, has occurred to many, but I have not seen it in print. If it interests any of your readers, well and good; if not, no harm is done; and as your paper is especially devoted to the trade, to which it is doubtless doing good service, I suppose one may consider the above named as a fair subject for thinking over by anyone concerned.

Yours truly,

W. MOORE.

[We shall be glad to hear from others on this or any other subject connected with the trade. One of the advantages to be derived from the publication of such a paper as THE CANADA LUMBERMAN, is that it will afford a medium for the expression of opinions, and thus secure the removal of grievances.—ED. LUMBERMAN.]

## BRACEBRIDGE.

THE late rains have been the means of bringing out nearly all the logs that were expected to be "hung up" for the present season. The Little East drive is still moving, but it is slow work as the water is very low. The tail of the Muskoka Boom Company's drive is past Bayville, on the South Branch, and they are running into Mary Lake. On the North Branch the head of the drive is within three miles of the Georgian Bay, and the Company expects to begin delivering these the last of this month, which will be about a month earlier than usual. The water generally is very low and falling.

## BOBCAYGEON.

A scow load of poplar has passed through the locks here on its way to the Napanee Paper Mills. At Lindsay it will be transferred to the cars and taken to Napanee. As poplar makes first-rate paper, the probabilities are that this will prove the pioneer shipment of many to follow from the same district.

THE steamboats are busy with the drives.

ULLYOT & SADDLER's drive of 40,000 pieces, from the township of Anson, are now passing the slides en route for Harwood. They are a fine lot.