

FORESTAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS.

To the Editor of the Canada Lumberman.

DEAR SIR,—I mail to you a copy of a paper on "Forestal Experiment Stations," which sets forth a plan of organizing such an institution in Ohio. This plan has been made the basis of a bill now pending in the Legislature of this state. There can be no question as to the fact that the passage of this bill would promote the interest of forestry not only in Ohio, but also in other states, and in the Provinces of the Dominion of Canada. I am now making an effort to keep the subject before the people and to show our legislators the interest manifested in this question in the different parts of this great continent, which, I venture to believe, may ultimately induce them to pass the bill. To this end I solicit the co-operation of the leading journalists of this country and of Canada, by asking them to treat the subject in an editorial of their respective papers. These articles I shall collect and append to a memorial to be sent to every member of the General Assembly of this State. You have more than once touched upon forestal experimental stations, and an article from your pen is very desirable. Please favor me with a copy of your paper containing the desired article.

I also shall send you a copy of a pamphlet by Supt. John B. Pease. The little work contains, as you will see, nothing new, but abounds in what may be called supposed facts and sentimentalism. It has been published at the expense of the Ohio State Forestry Association and has been distributed broadcast by that body, so that the edition of 7,000 copies is about exhausted.

If agreeable to you I shall take pleasure in sending you an occasional correspondence on forestal topics.

Respectfully Yours,

ADOLPH LEUE.

Secretary of Ohio State Forestry Association.
Cincinnati, Ohio, July 9, 1884.

FORESTRY.

The following letter appears in the Toronto Globe:

SIR,—Allow me to call the attention of your readers who wish to form plantations or wind-breaks, and do not wish to wait too long for their benefits, to a tree valuable for many purposes, easily propagated, and of very rapid growth. This is the Silver Poplar. Within twenty years after planting, it often produces trees of 60 or 70 feet in height, 60 feet in spread, and with a trunk more than three feet through at the base. One such tree, to my knowledge, lately yielded four cords of firewood. I have had some of this timber kiln dried and tested for various purposes. When sawn and polished it is of a handsome light yellow colour, with a beautiful waving grain. In testing it for strength, it was found exceedingly tough, and calculated to bear a much greater strain than pine. In testing it for fuel, it was found to more nearly resemble maple than any other wood, giving as hot and almost as lasting a fire, and leaving a bed of coals almost similar. It is easily propagated from cuttings of its last grown wood, cut a foot long from above a bud to below a bud, and thrust nine inches into the ground.

Any one with whom it is an object to grow timber very rapidly could hardly do better than plant a square block of trees four feet apart each way. They will then grow tall and single stemmed. Even in ten years time they will yield a quantity of wood—that is to say in about one-third of the time in which most other trees will give as much. Anyone, however, wishing to grow them, should be warned that they have, as have many of the poplar varieties, a tendency to throw up independent shoots or suckers, especially when cut by the plough. These are of course easily kept down by care, and will not, according to my experience, be observed near more than one tree in twenty. They will do no injury but be rather of a benefit in forest strips planted with these trees, so far as the value of the forest to the country around is concerned, as a forest dense with undergrowth forms a far better reservoir of moisture than one where nothing but the larger trees are found. There will, however, be but few of

em there, as the undergrowth, in the poplar forest, where cattle were excluded, would most likely spring up from maple and other seeds brought hither by the wind. The only trouble on this point will be found near ploughed land, as, where the plough breaks the roots, young shoots will rise. Where they can be planted beside permanent grass lands or a narrow strip of such left surrounding them, there will be no trouble at all.

In cities, where these trees have been planted in numbers, some objection has been made to them on account of the falling, for about a week in June, of the catkins, as they are called, which are covered with a sort of cotton down. In the Silver Poplar, however, these are small, being about two inches long, and the amount of down falling is not of sufficient amount to create any annoyance by being blown into windows. Another tree of the poplar variety is very objectionable in this respect, the catkins being very heavy with cotton and nearly six inches long, covering the ground below for weeks with a heavy mass of disagreeable rubbish, on account of which habit many of these trees were cut down in Toronto streets some years ago. This is, however, very different in all respects from the Silver Poplar, its leaf being very large, dark green on one side and light green on the other, smooth on both, and the young wood glutinous. The Silver Poplar, on the contrary, has a small leaf, dark and smooth on one side, almost white and downy on the other, as are also the young twigs which bear them. During twenty years, in which I have observed certain of these trees, the suckers thrown out have been very few, and the amount of down falling not worth mentioning.

Where a farm has, as too many have, been denuded of its trees, and the owner wishes in a short time to obtain shelter and timber, this tree, where it can be planted under the conditions above named, will be found very valuable. It would prove especially so, I should think, to our North-West and Manitoba farmers, as, though they have poplar in quantities, it seems to be a much inferior variety. If North-West editors think so, they might be of service to their readers by copying this letter. The tree has the slight disadvantages mentioned; but it has also the advantages, and will be as large in ten years many maples at twenty-five.

Such trees as this, however, though valuable because they can be rapidly grown, are not to be compared to the solid beech and maple, the pine, ash and elm of our native Canadian forests, which are all too rapidly, throughout much of Ontario, passing from the land. Few are aware how rapidly, but you will find on enquiry among the works in wood that our furniture manufacturers have no more walnut; they find white ash difficult to obtain; and even basswood of which we formerly possessed vast amounts, is now so diminished in quantity that the swamp elm has to be substituted. Our agricultural implement makers and car-builders, too, already find good oak, ash, and rock elm so hard to obtain that, where they can, they use iron instead; and in many other woods the present deficiency, as compared with the former abundance, is extremely marked.

Very little has been done towards replanting forest trees so as to grow in forest form. What is being done along the roadside serves an excellent purpose in its way, but the roadside tree grows to branches, not to trunk, and, therefore, not to timber, to obtain which they must be planted in quantity, and but a few feet—say but four—apart at first. So little has been done in this direction, that you with difficulty find in Ontario an acre of planted forest, though, since the matter has lately been brought before the public, many are turning their attention that way, and some are preparing young trees for the purpose. But when we consider what a period must elapse before a plantation of the most desirable woods can supply timber of any size (though in the meantime, it should always be remembered, very useful for shelter), it is above all things to be hoped that many of our farmers will see their way to preserving some portions of the forest which yet exist on their lands. With the view to obtaining valuable opinions as to how far legislation can assist in this matter, I lately addressed communications to the various County Councils in Ontario.

Some of the Committees to whom these were referred have replied. I should be glad if others would do so at their earliest convenience.
Yours, etc.,

R. W. PHIPPS.

Toronto, July 10.

THE FORESTRY EXHIBITION.

The London Times of July 1, commenting upon the International Forestry Exhibition, which opened on that day says: Centuries will scarcely repair the havoc wrought by fifty years of unrestrained arboricide on the Alps, the Pyrenees, the Apennines, in Scotland, Ireland, Denmark, and North America. Half Spain has been reduced to a parched desert by the insaniety, though of longer standing than this single century, which denuded its sierras of their shade. Italy tottering on the brink of a similar fate as the result of more recent folly. Ireland, as was lately explained, has been impoverished by the destruction of sheltering foliage. Vast tracts of Jutland have been changed into heathery wastes by the felling of the pines. In North America settlers acted as if timber were a mere incumbrance and obstruction. Since it has been admitted to be commercially of value its fortune has been almost worse. The population has regarded its forests as a mine, of which the proper destiny was to be severed straightway from the soil. For 20 years after the appropriation of California by the United States the hatchet raged with fury against the noblest woods in the universe. In defiance of laws it continued its vindictive attacks. Fear for the supply of fuel brought the first pause in the devastation in Europe. Frenchmen and Germans began to be alarmed that cutting without planting must end in nothing to burn. In this country, which could dispense with wood as fuel, a similar return to common sense proceeded from a discovery that soil incapable of agriculture might give a profit as woodland. Only gradually has the more important discovery been made, or popularized, that trees may be in the highest degree profitable though they be neither timber nor fuel. A mass of irrefutable evidence has demonstrated that trees play a part in economy of nature for which no equal substitute can be found. Coal may supplant wood as fuel. Iron may replace teak and pine in shipyards. Danish peasants may do without wooden clogs, and authors may learn to dip their pens in other gall than that from the oak. Nature very seldom arrives at an effect in one way without leaving room for human ingenuity to accomplish it in another. Some natural processes are at once so beneficent and so complex that for man not to avail himself of them as they are is to sacrifice irretrievably the most manifest advantage. Nature fits up in every wood a perfect laboratory auxiliary to the ends for which the farmer labors. Agriculture which strips a country of wood condemns itself to the superfluous cost of trying, with a success at best only partial, to create artificial alternatives. The Laputan condensers of sunbeams out of cucumbers were not more foolish than the exterminators in the Old World and New of the vegetable reservoirs otherwise styled forests.

A THEORETICAL BUSINESS CHAT.

We, among others, have lost quite heavily of late through the honest failure of three firms who at one time seemed fully competent, financially, to meet all the waves of adversity which might come, but they all relied too much upon the promises of personal friends and were forced to succumb, as is generally the case when the meeting of obligations depends upon the action of a third party.

It would be well when one is about to enter trade, and concludes that his reliance rests chiefly upon the promises of personal friends, to be sure of it that this man leans upon a broken reed. If he deems it essential to his success that he must secure some one peculiar locality for the establishment of his mill, above all others, he could not entertain a greater fallacy. And a too common belief that certain salesmen must be employed, if competition is met with sufficient strength, to endure a formidable encounter with a rival of enterprise, betrays at once the weakness of a would-be mill or factory owner. The idea of a large building,

brilliantly decorated, a finely furnished office and splendid equipage, is one of the most delusive and fatal of all the notions apt to be considered seriously by the inexperienced.

The miller or manufacturer, in fact anyone who starts out depending largely upon such auxiliaries, will repent his folly and cry for help, when, alas! none of his pillars of strength will do to lean upon even for a single moment.

Real merit, and that alone, can be utilized when the pinch comes. Dreams of a splendid building, hosts of friends, best salomons and a fine location, all vanish when paying patrons are wanting, and the expense account absorbs not only profits, but capital itself. The manufacturer or merchant finds out not only that he has one weak spot, but many, and that the successful tradesman he had expected to outstrip have suffered nothing by his efforts, but, on the contrary, owe him an obligation for convincing the custom of both places that mere pretence and sham will not pass current among honest people.

It is well to have an establishment of easy access and well furnished with all modern appliances, machinery and the like, to make out of the material at hand the best that can be made. Again, one must be assured his qualifications are not outbalanced by his competitor, and by no means ever allow a rival to think for a moment that he can outdo you in politeness and courtesy to all with whom you may come in contact. Reduce expenses to the lowest possible point commensurate with the production of good goods, ask a fair price and be positive that no one can undersell you and make a profit; he may sell at less than cost, but such do not hold out long.

In conclusion, in the majority of instances where we have lost heavily by others' honest failures it has been among a class who, though understanding their own business thoroughly, possessed the ambition which characterizes Americans, and, to make a better show, dabbled in some outside business. This generally means failure in the end, unless you have the amount so invested to spare without crippling your own business.—*Lumber Trade Journal.*

THE C. P. R.

The Monetary Times of July 11, contains the following:—The assurance of the Canadian Pacific directors that the means already provided are sufficient to enable the company to complete the construction of the line, was needed in the London market. The heavy fall in the price of shares had caused some uneasiness there. But as the Economist remarks, the downward movement, "is in the main due to New York selling," and "when the company would only have been too glad to avail itself of the London market, London was flooded with shares already placed in America." How the attack on stocks in the position of that of the Canadian Pacific is made, the New York Commercial Bulletin explains: "The most sensitive points in the loan market are selected for special attack. Railroad and other enterprises in an incipient stage and which are dependent on credit for their completion are the favorite objects of assault. It is known that a certain amount of the paper of such corporations is placed bearing frequently the endorsement of its supporters and backed by new securities. If such paper can be rendered unnegotiable, or its collateral impaired, or if suspicion can be cast upon the names it bears, that is an achievement to the purpose." In such a state of the market, it is fortunate for a road under construction when, without so borrowing, it has the means provided for its completion. And in this position the Canadian Pacific is now declared to be.

A Big Elm.

On Wednesday last, as some parties were travelling through a bush a few miles northwest from this village, they found a giant elm tree which measured thirty-three feet in circumference four feet from the ground being eleven feet in diameter. The tree is very high, and its magnificent crown of foliage can be seen for miles towering high above all the other trees of the forest. This tree is said to be the largest tree standing probably in this township.—*Ex.*