

CORRESPONDENCE.

SUGGESTIONS ON PLANTING.

Editor Canada Lumberman.

It would be of great value to Ontario if this spring could witness an increased amount of tree planting; and, perhaps, not of less value, if a more general care were taken in the preservation of the small portions of forest which here and there still exist. We should remember that the experience of all nations teaches us that when the forest is destroyed fertility ceases in the land. On the great western prairies, people at first thought they could do without trees, as the ground, destitute of the forest, was fertile. But it was soon found that the great mass of dense prairie grass had answered the purpose of the forest, and when the land was chiefly brought into cultivation the same evils occurred which had been experienced on clearing wooded countries. What is wanted here is not so much the planting of lines of trees, (though these are excellent in their way), as the planting of large numbers of young trees in plantation form, covering a strip of some acres.

In such a plantation as this valuable timber can be rapidly grown. It is surprising to see in Kansas where the railway companies and also private individuals have planted forests by the square mile, what great trees have been produced in ten years. They plant them four feet apart every way, and do not intend to thin until they can take out trunks large enough for railway-sleepers. This they have been probably doing for sometime, as when I saw them four years ago they were nearly large enough. In a closely planted wood trees grow to timber, but set out alone they grow to branches. The plantation also has the impetus in growth given it of each tree striving to rise above the others, so that at last instead of short branching trees tall straight stems are produced. Good timber of many kinds is already scarce in Ontario, and the farmer who secures a valuable plantation of useful woods will add greatly to the worth of his farm. There are two points it would be well to attend to in doing this. The plants if taken from a forest should be chosen from the outside; and next, the plot should be cultivated to keep down weeds for a couple of years or longer if necessary. After that they will if cattle be kept away take care of themselves.

The forestry report for this year is now printed, and will be sent to any of your readers who forward me their address. There is no charge for it, and no postage to pay on it, it is a pamphlet sent free yearly by the Ontario Government in the interest of the forest preservation, and this year contains many articles of interest concerning forestry.

Yours, &c.

R. W. PHIPPS,
233 Richmond St., Toronto.

April 27, 1889.

MADAWASKA, N. B., May 22nd., 1889.

Editor Canada Lumberman.

Your valuable journal is one among the few to be found that is free from party prejudice, which accounts for the high esteem in which your subscribers hold it. I see you have changed your base in regard to the export duty; but I must beg leave to differ with you and at the same time give my reasons for so doing. Now suppose you owned mills in some part of the Dominion on some beautiful river, with water power to cut all the lumber the stream could supply. Americans come over the line and with unlimited capital control all the lumber on the stream above your mills, float their lumber by your mills and over your dam and manufacture it on the American side, thereby saving 35 cents per M. on shingles and \$2 per M. feet on other lumber. By not exacting an export duty, the Dominion is offering a premium of the amount of the duty to Americans to come over and slaughter our forests and depress our milling industry; whereas, if an export duty was enforced to secure the manufacture of our forests at home, it would bring about a boom in the local milling business, and thereby stimulate both labor and agriculture.

Now suppose this said party of Americans cut stock to manufacture 30 million of shingles per year on the American side and if they paid a duty of 35 cents per M. on their shingle stuff making it equivalent to what we must pay to get it into their market it would amount to \$10,500 per year. The clapboards and other lumber would amount to some hundreds more, and the loss in labor and consumption to manufacture the lumber at a small calculation would amount to \$40,000 per year, or more. The above state of affairs has for years been carried on, until our forests are being denuded and our sons and daughters are being driven from the country.

I see in your news items, New Brunswick has the credit of collecting \$465 paid for export duty, and if the Dominion had only done its duty, in our parish alone, \$10,500 per year should have been collected. In regard to your argument about the Americans manufacturing so much of their lumber at St. John taken off American territory, I may say, if New

Brunswick had got her honest rights not one stick of lumber would have been on American territory to be driven to St. John.

The capitulation of Ashburton gave to the state of Maine a great part of New Brunswick, to have the privileges of our waters and manufacture the lumber we had. The way Webster outgeneraled Ashburton it was agreed they should meet in a spirit of perfect candor. And how did Americans do it? Webster had a copy of the map in the Archives of Paris and on it drawn a string red line through the entire boundary of the United States, which line ran wholly south of the St. John, and between the head waters of that river and those of the Penobscot and Kennebec. He never allowed Ashburton to see it or know anything about its existence until the treaty was signed, so through secreting facts we were swindled out of our honest rights, they got our territory and they are not entitled to our sympathy.

P. O. BYRUM.

LUMBER TRADE IN THE NORTHWEST.

The importance of the lumber trade in the Northwest may be seen from the following account of the trade done during 1888. In the Edmonton district the collections for timber amounted to \$973 more than 1887, or \$6,767.

There are four saw mills in this district, three driven by steam and one by water power, having a capacity, two of 5,000 feet and two of 10,000 feet per day of 12 hours.

	Feet.
The quantity of lumber manufactured during the year was.....	2,038,301
The quantity of lumber sold during the year was.....	1,129,964
The quantity of lumber on hand October 31, 1888.....	2,189,077

All spruce:

	Pieces.
Shingles manufactured during the year.....	866,507
Shingles sold during the year.....	847,700
Shingles on hand October 31, 1888.....	375,500
Lath manufactured.....	76,775
Lath sold.....	188,875
Lath on hand October 31, 1888.....	13,000

In the Calgary district the revenue amounted to \$10,599.39. There are five steam mills and one water power, the smallest turning out 5,000 feet and the largest 25,000 feet per day of 12 hours, the timber cut being Spruce, Pine, Cypress, and Douglas Pine.

	Feet
Quantity of lumber manufactured during the year.....	3,677,308
Quantity of lumber sold during the year.....	2,371,552
Quantity of lumber on hand October 31, 1888.....	1,927,924

	Pieces.
Quantity of shingles manufactured.....	518,000
Quantity of shingles sold.....	204,250
Quantity of shingles on hand.....	108,250
Quantity of lath manufactured.....	593,050
Quantity of lath sold.....	227,150
Quantity of lath on hand.....	527,900

In the Prince Albert district the business was small, the dues collected being \$3,220, of which \$401 was for seizures.

There is only one saw mill in this district (steam), turning out 35,000 feet a day of 12 hours. The timber cut being Spruce, Pine, and Poplar.

	Feet.
Quantity of lumber manufactured was.....	1,755,590
Quantity of lumber sold was.....	1,132,151

	Pieces.
Quantity of shingles manufactured.....	1,709,666
Quantity of shingles sold.....	574,665
Quantity of lath manufactured.....	4,385
Quantity of lath sold.....	1,728

In the British Columbia agency the returns show the revenue from all sources amounting to \$25,567.

"The agent states that during the year there have been many inquiries by Eastern Canadian and American lumbermen with a view to establishing extensive mills in the Province at an early day." I may here say that Mr. James McLaren, of Ottawa, and others, sent out a few days ago a large staff of mechanics, millwrights, etc., to build a large saw mill in British Columbia. "The Douglas Pine and cedar of this province are recognized to be superior to any wood found in the East, the trees containing from 5 M to 25 M feet B. M., and defective trees being the exception."

Another advantage that presents itself to the lumberman being the immense market, as these superior woods find ready access by water to China, Japan, Australia, and South America, while a steadily increas-

ing demand for the finer grades is developing in the Canadian Northwest territories which is supplied over the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The returns only cover saw mills operating under government license, therefore do not show the whole lumber output of the province.

There are in the district six steam and two water mills, producing from 10,000 to 75,000 feet a day, the timber sawed being Douglas Pine, Spruce, and Cedar. It may be interesting to give the names of the owners of the mills and locations, as well as the output. They are as follows:

	Feet	Sold.
Royal City Planing Co., New Westminster, cut.....	12,378,678	12,378,678
Brunette Saw Mill Co., New Westminster, cut.....	4,858,906	4,858,906
W. C. Wells, Palliser, cut.....	438,178	438,178
F. Robinson, Beaver, cut.....	4,208,535	4,208,535
Knight Bros., Popcum, cut.....	85,598	85,598
Hugh Burr, Ladner's Landing, cut.....	567,000	567,000
J. McDonald, Craigellachie, cut.....	1,100,000	1,100,000
S. McKay, Griffin Lake, cut.....	800,000	800,000
	24,436,895	24,436,895

It will be noticed that the whole actual output was sold within the year, a result which rarely occurs to any of our Eastern manufacturers. The report does not give prices realized, which information would be of considerable importance.

The Forests of Alaska.

It is a mistake to suppose that the whole of that territory is heavily timbered, a good deal of it being as destitute of timber as the desert of Sahara. There are nowhere any trees or other vegetation except moss above an altitude of 3,000 feet, the tree growth above 2,500 feet being of not much account. When it is considered how much of the country consists of lofty mountains, the area of timbered land becomes, under these conditions, somewhat restricted. The above remark applies, of course, only to that portion of the territory that has been explored, a comparatively small part of the whole. What of the timber or other resources there may be in sections remote from the coast no one knows. In the far north, where the country is believed to be less mountainous, there may be and very likely are, extensive forests, as is the case on the Eastern continent. The most common tree in Alaska is the Sitka spruce; the most valuable the yellow cedar. Both these trees grow to a large size, some of them reaching a height of 250 feet, with a diameter of six feet near the ground. Generally they are about 150 feet high and measure about four feet through at the butt. The Sitka spruce makes a good coarse lumber, much like the spruce and fir of California. The yellow cedar is, however, a much more valuable tree, having a close, fine grain, and being remarkable for its strength and durability. It is also very fragrant, and taking readily a fine polish becomes a most desirable cabinet wood. Hemlock is also quite a common tree in Alaska, with willow and alder along the water courses. The bark of the hemlock will some day become valuable for tanning purposes. In intimating that the forests of Alaska are in some sense restricted, compared with the extent of that territory, is not to say that they will ever suffer extinction. Centuries hence, when the forests further south have all disappeared, the coming generations will be able to draw their supplies from this vast timber preserve, which, with its power of production and its immunity from the ravages of fire, will prove practically inexhaustive. Owing to the moisture of the climate and the thick coat of moss that everywhere covers the ground, it is impossible for a conflagration to occur in the forests of Alaska.

Measured Lumber.

Statement of lumber measured at the Port of Three Rivers for the year ending June 30th, 1888. Spruce Deals, 6,476 pieces; Pine Deals, 4,525, Pine Deals, 30,000; Spruce Deals, 14,239; Pine Deals, 800; Spruce Planks, 2,760; Spruce Deals, 1,568; Pine Deals, 46,731; Pine Deals, 137,967; Spruce Deals, 57,747; Pine Deals, 70,698; Red Pine Deals, 2,415; Spruce Deals, 15,891; Spruce and Pine Lumber, 417,781. The total amount accrued on the above amounted to \$1,093,74.