

THE UNITED STATES TARIFF.

The recently authorized and officially appointed commission for the purpose of investigating the tariff policy of the United States, and making such recommendations to congress as a conference with the representatives of the various industries of the country may impress the committee with the necessity of, possesses an interest to the lumberman as much as to any other class of our citizens. Already steps have been taken in the Saginaw Valley to bring the subject of a tariff on products of the forest to the attention of the commission. Such representatives as may appear before the committee, from the manufacturing localities of the country, can reasonably be expected to present only the views of the pine land owners of the United States, and it is an indisputable fact that a large majority of these are advocates of a full protective tariff, as opposed to the admission free of duty of products from other countries which may be expected to enter into competition with the timber and lumber produced in this country.

It is a favorite argument with this class of people that the admission of Canadian lumber would reduce the selling value of the lumber produced in the United States, and consequently diminish the profits of a large and influential class which, having large investments in the manufacturing of lumber, gives employment to vast armies of men in the woods, on the rivers, in the saw mills, in the maritime interest, and in the various manipulations of manufacture, transportation and final distribution, down to the final consumption on the farm, or in the dwelling, or warehouse.

There is much force in the arguments of the advocates of a policy which shall exclude from the markets of the United States the timber products of the neighbouring Dominion, and this side of the case will without any question be forcibly and ably presented to the attention of the commission. But there is also a large, well informed and influential body of citizens equally interested in the general prosperity of the tariff and of the lumberman particularly, who believe that lumber and other forest products should be admitted to this country free of duty. These, too, have strong arguments to present in favor of their view of the case. They acknowledge all that is claimed by the advocates of protection, as regards the extent of the business, and the vastness of the army of men who find employ in its production, transportation and sale. But they argue beyond those who favor the protective policy in the interest of the holders of timber land, and say that the greatest good to the greatest number, the protection of the interests of the great mass of the people in a rapidly growing country demands that no restrictions shall be placed upon the importation of a commodity necessary to the growth of the country, and the development of its industries, especially in view of the fact that the article in question is rapidly becoming extinct as a home product, and that even with the addition, without let, hindrance or import duty, of that which a neighbouring province can supply, the period is all too near at which the exhaustion of the home supply will be most severely felt.

Those who take this side of the question urge that the interests of the many millions who consume the lumber are of paramount importance to that of the few thousands of timber owners, in whose interest protection is demanded. They go yet further and assert that the interests of the timber owners of the United States would not be in the least jeopardized by the admission free of duty of the entire timber resources, or surplus, of our Canadian neighbours, for the reason that the Canadian supply is too small in the aggregate materially to affect the markets of the United States. They assert that the yearly production of lumber in Canada does not exceed, upon a liberal estimate, one quarter the amount yearly taken from the forests of Michigan and Wisconsin, and that at this rate of production many of the Canadian lumbermen assert the present existence in the provinces not to exceed a five years' supply. Even if it be sufficient to maintain a present ratio of production for twenty five years, the prospects of denuding the American forests in less than ten years is ample justification for inviting the Canadians to assist us in building up and peopling our vast

country, by lengthening out the period in which our own pine lands will be exhausted.

The advocates of free trade point to the estimates of the present resources of the northwest, as presented by the census commission in 1880, and confidently assert that if, at that time, there were resources of but 81,000,000,000 feet of timber in the white pine regions of the only portion of the United States in which that article is produced, while the yearly cut of the same region is from 8,000,000,000 to 10,000,000,000 feet, it has become a matter of not exceeding one decade when the point of exhaustion shall have been reached, and that with an increasing demand of from 1,000,000,000 to 2,000,000,000 feet yearly, consequent upon the natural growth of population, the addition of the increased demand through importation from the Dominion of Canada will work no harm to the present owners of timber in the northwestern states, while lengthening the period of their labours and consequent profits. That the supply of the United States is growing perceptibly less is, they claim, proven by the rapidly advancing values of standing timber.

The advocates of the free trade policy assert that the general good being paramount to that of the individual, cheaper lumber to the masses is of greater importance than of increased profits to the few, and that if by the introduction of Canadian lumber free of duty the price was reduced, such a result would be for the benefit of the people of the country as a whole.

This latter argument is probably the weakest which has been suggested, inasmuch as the abrogation of all import duties on lumber and timber would but have the effect of leading American capitalists to possess themselves at once of all the Canadian timber, which is not already owned by them, and a realization of its true value, in view of the not far distant period of the extinction of the *pinus strobus* in the northwest, would forbid their placing it on the market at unremunerative prices. Free trade or protection will have but little influence over the prices which the people as a mass will be called upon to pay for their lumber in the future, and the all important consideration is in the question of lengthening out the supply. *Northwestern Lumberman.*

THE FOREST BABY.

There are "babes in the woods" which are both beautiful and of value to those who are seeking the best investment of time and money in transplanting trees.

Autumn is better than spring time for the usual methods of transplanting, but we have found a more excellent way than either of these times affords. All through the woods, and under the trees on the edge of the forests and along the road-sides, little forest babies, or seedlings, are springing up. They are cozied away under parent elms and maples, linden and ash trees. Any rainy day from the first of June till on in September is a good time to select these sylvan seedlings, and set them where you wish them permanently to stand. Take an ash pan and a transplanting trowel, with an old newspaper or two in your pocket, out under some hard maple of exceptionally fine form and size; one it may be which has been admired for its beauty. You pick out as many as you want of that kind. Take up plenty of earth with each, and wrap enough paper around the earth to keep it in place. The heads of the maple forest babies are from two to four inches high, and peep cunningly out from their nest in the ash-pan. They are snugly in among their cousins of other desired varieties, and in an hour or less you return with a score or more precious prizes. It may be well to set each one in the ground, with the paper still around the roots and earth. The paper—unless there is more of it than is necessary—will do no harm if left on, and taking it off might displace the soil around the tiny rootlets. We want of course to remove the forest baby from its old home to its new one without its knowing it has been moved. Thus with the expenditure of less time and money than is needed to transplant a tree, ten feet high, twenty or more are set. In ten years, the two-inch forest baby will be larger than its neighbor which was ten or twelve feet tall, and set, it may be, some weeks or months earlier. The baby during the life of both, will outgrow

the other. It will also continue to grow long after the other has reached maturity, as it never had one-hundredth part the root disturbance which has been suffered by the other.—*G. M. Powell.*

WOOD-CARVING.

It is remarked that the growing admiration for antique patterns in dress, furniture and house decorations has brought about the revival of a form of art that almost starved to death during the recent period of utilitarianism. Wood-carving is perhaps not a very exalted manifestation of the sculptor's art, but experts in it fifty years ago ranked among the foremost of artisans if, indeed, they fell short of consideration as artists. In older countries, where vested wealth, continuing for generations in families, made patronage of the arts one of the chief amusements of the possessors, stately mansions are filled with rare examples of the wood-carver's cunning, and in the older portions of this country similar objects are not wholly wanting, if not plentiful. Gentlemen of estates in revolutionary times thought their mansions unshaded unless the showy rooms were plentifully adorned with fanciful mouldings, panels and wainscoting done in hardwoods. Such fine workmanship was generally imported from the mother country, and little encouragement was given to aspiring youth of home growth to try their pretence hand in that field of endeavor. Some few found foothold in the eastern states, but their craft lost vogue, and about the only field for its exercise came to be the fanciful wooden figures indicating emporiums for the sale of tobacco, or adorning the prows of ships, and regarded as a sort of fetish by superstitious tars. There is said to be only three master wood-carvers in New York, and one of the prominent practical exponents of this art has directed his operations to the West, having some time ago dropped down in Chicago. He is 52 years old, grizzled, and so deaf that a slate is the medium of questioning him. His shop contains many specimens of the carver's art, in various stages of progress, from the rough hewed pine log to the finished and painted aboriginee, whose tempting tender of a wooden something supposed to resemble the Indian weed, is valued as the tobaccoist's trade mark. He has been all through the mill from the age of 19, serving his apprenticeship when the ambitious beginner had to pay \$100 to \$200 the first year for his preliminary knowledge. There was a time when ship figure-heads were in demand, and were carved to order at such prices as \$12,000 to \$15,000. A large business grew up in the manufacture of wooden figures of Indian men and maidens, and this is now an important industry. In the early stages of the hue and cry of circus humbuggery, when sensational display was more of a big thing than now—it having become an old story—the menagerie nabobs vied with each other in the securing of extravagant and fiery chariot and caravan-carvings. Barnum would sell his fancy elements of pageantry when they had been used a year, and order new ones. A band wagon built for Forepaugh, with a wealth of carving, cost \$2,225, and though made in this country, he advertised it as imported at a cost of \$90,000. The carving of effigies is a novel branch of the art. Some time ago Allan Pinkerton, the noted detective, had made the image of an old negro for whom he had a regard which prompted the desire to preserve his memory in that form, and the carving was executed from an old photograph.—*Northwestern Lumberman.*

NEW ZEALAND TIMBER.

Even in far off Australasia the people are waking up to the serious effects produced by cutting the forests from the hillsides. It is not a country of forests, it would seem, and the *Otago Witness* editorially says: "We who live in Dunedin, and who can recollect how much drier our climate has become of late years, owing, no doubt, to the hills surrounding us having become in great part denuded of the forest growth which for so long covered them, will not need to call in the aid of science to convince us. Our experience will be sufficient for that." It appears that one county (Lake) has officially made a move towards replenishing the forests,

and the legislature of that country has had the matter under advisement for some years. One of the enactments provides that any person planting one acre (presumably of his own land) with forest trees shall be entitled to receive a free grant of two acres of any land open for sale in the province. But it was first to be shown that the land had been devoted to the purpose of tree planting only for at least two years, that the trees were in a vigorous and healthy state; and that they had been enclosed by a fence which was sheep and cattle-proof. An amendment provides that certain crops may be raised among the trees, and that not less than 20 nor more than 250 acres could be taken under the grant.

This is in a similar direction to the United States law in relation to timber culture.

The move there is undoubtedly in the right direction, and will bring good results. The work in tree planting, and the nursing of wild timber in the west, is making itself felt perceptibly already, in various modifications in the climate. It will be more and more surely felt as the years go on. In some of our once treeless regions it is also found that tree planting pays in the value of the timber grown. In five years poles may be taken out of the young growth, and soon thereafter posts and large timber, and at the same time space is furnished to the timber left. The shade also becomes valuable, and the growing timber holds moisture in the soil to be gradually given out. Its benefit is also decided, not in increasing the annual rainfall but in a more equable and timely distribution of the same. There certainly is profit in the planting of timber in treeless regions.—*Lumberman's Gazette.*

Southern Pine in Northern Markets.

A perceptible increase is noticeable in the northern consumption of southern pine. In this city, where the more readily accessible and cheaper white pine has hitherto monopolized the demand, to the almost utter exclusion of the southern product, the increased use of the latter in the laying of floors in all kinds of buildings, and to other uses in which it is well suited, is strong evidence that the day is not far distant, when the use of the long-leaf pine of the south will rank favorably in the extent of its consumption with its northern rival.—*Northwestern Lumberman.*

So much complaint has been made by lumbermen about the Chippewa Valley & Superior railroad bridge, over the mouth of the Red Cedar river, Wis., that the company has decided to make a change in it so as to remove all possibility of delay or damage to rafts.

The *Northwestern Lumberman* says:—A. M. Elliott, from Canada, is considering the project of starting a tannery at Cheboygan, Mich. This may be the initial leather manufactory of a large number that are bound to go into operation in northern Michigan, whereby the vast quantity of hemlock bark in that region is to be utilized.

MR. H. DE L. ALLEN, of Duluth, is making preparations for starting an extensive lumber mill in the immediate vicinity of Prince Arthur's Landing. He has very large timber limits in the neighbourhood of Pigeon River, and he proposes to tow the logs from that point for the purpose of manufacturing his lumber at the Landing.

The exportation of fine household furniture from the United States is assuming large proportions. Last year the value of such exports reached \$5,000,000, an amount largely in excess of the exportations of the preceding year, thus showing that the business is increasing. On the other hand the importation of this class of goods is diminishing rapidly.

The *Emerson International*, of August 1st, says.—The river is again filled with floating logs. The drives belong to the Winnipeg Lumber Company. The logs come all the way from Clear Water on the Red Lake River. The quantity is about 10,000,000 feet. The logs are pine, and are as fine a lot as ever went down the Red River or any other stream.