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AND MILLERS', MANUFACTURERS',
AND MINERS' GAZETTE.

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We ask the indulgence of our patrons for the want of completeness in the management of the LUMBERMAN this week.

This copy of the LUMBERMAN is sent to several parties on whom our agents have not had the opportunity of calling. We will be pleased to have them all become subscribers, and to receive their subscriptions by return mail.

THE TANBARK TRADE.

This is a large and important industry, which concerns the general public more than would appear without close examination. During the present year, in the provinces of Quebec, and Ontario, as well as in the Maritime Provinces, there has been great briskness in the hemlock bark-trade. The expansion of other leather trade has created a larger demand for tanbark, than usual, for home consumption, and a very large traffic has been going on in the export of this article. It is reported that over eighty thousand cords of hemlock bark have now been sent across the lines from the Provinces of New Brunswick and Quebec, whilst our neighbours are saving their own hemlock forests for future use. Large quantities have also been exported to Chicago, Detroit, Buffalo, &c., for Ontario. The result of this is evident, namely: The extinction of our hemlock forests in a very few years, and the consequent closing of tanneries, with increased price of leather. The question is well worth the attention of the Dominion and local Governments. It has been suggested that an export duty should be placed on bark exported, and that the local Government should impose stumpage dues on hemlock trees cut for the purpose of having its bark exported, and also an export duty on extract of hemlock bark exported.

A New Brunswick paper speaking of the export trade, says: "We would press upon the Local Government the expediency of doubling or trebling the stumpage on bark for export purposes. We would urge this because at the rate at which our hemlock bark is now disappearing, there will soon be none left for our own tanners. But these do not we believe use the extract, the latter which being exported, and fetching something like \$25 per barrel. There are several parties engaged in New Brunswick stripping our forests of the bark, and some of these, we may instance the Shaw Brothers, come over here for bark, with which they supply their tanneries in Maine, while in that state there is yet much hemlock. Of course so long as they are allowed to strip our forests, they will do so, and when they have left nothing even for our own local tanners, they will then turn to what is standing in Maine; they will be able to undersell our tanners in the leather market, because our manufacturers then will have either to bring hemlock bark from afar, or use the inferior article. We cannot impose an export

duty, but we can treble the stumpage on bark for extract purpose, which is the bark for export.

Another writer says: "It is claimed that hemlock, which will ultimately be of value as a commercial wood, is being destroyed; also by being left where peeled it offers a means of fording forest fires and is, therefore, a source of danger to the more valuable standing timber. While admitting that there is some force in all this, it is well to look at the other side of the question. The objections hang upon contingencies, such as the prospect of our ever being obliged to fall back upon the hemlock for commercial purposes, and the risk of forest fires. On the other hand, we have the positive benefit to a large number of people which the bark industry undoubtedly is."

The *Moncton Times* remarks: "When the tree is stripped of its bark, it is left to rot in many cases. Of course the traffic in the bark is a source of profit to the shippers, but it may be questionable if it is wise to destroy our hemlock woods in such a wholesale manner, largely for the supply of the foreign markets. A correspondent suggests that an export duty be placed on the bark, which would be calculated to lessen shipments, and create new tanning industries in the province, thus keeping all the profits in the country."

"LOSS ON SQUARE PINE TIMBER."

The Commissioner on Crown Lands for Ontario in his able report for last year, says:—

The following will show the estimated loss to the Province and the Revenue from waste in getting out square pine, from 1868 to 1877, both inclusive:—Total quantity taken from public and private lands during the ten years, 110,250,420 cubic feet; waste, one-fourth of each tree, equal to one-third of the total mentioned, viz.: 39,750,140 cubic feet, or say in round numbers 477 million feet board measure, which may be valued one-half at \$10 per 1,000 feet, and one-half at \$5 per 1,000 feet, representing relatively the prime timber beaten off and the inferior timber from the upper part of the tree, average value say \$7.50 per 1,000 feet, equal to \$3,577,500 loss to the Province for the ten years, or an annual loss in material wealth of \$357,750.00.

The quantity taken from public lands during the ten years is 87,620,135 cubic feet, the waste on which on the basis given being equal to 29,206,711 cubic feet, or 350 million feet board measure subject to crown dues at \$750 per million feet equal to \$262,600 lost to the Revenue during the ten years, or at the rate of \$16,160.00 per annum.

The loss to the country and revenue from timber destroyed by fires which might have been confined to a limited area, and possibly extinguished, before great damage had been done to the forest, had they not been fed by the debris of trees left to rot and dry, is incalculable."

NOVA SCOTIA CROWN LANDS.

The law regulating the prices of Crown Lands in the Province of Nova Scotia, passed 10 April, 1880, is as follows:—

1. The distinction between Crown Lands applied for for lumbering purposes, and Crown Lands applied for for agricultural purposes, are hereby abolished, and the price of all Crown Lands is reduced to forty dollars per hundred acres, and twenty dollars for any quantity of fifty acres or less.

2. The price of Crown Lands which have been improved and occupied for two years and upwards previous to the passing of this Act shall be twenty dollars for each hundred acres, or for each tract of less than one hundred acres, provided such price be paid on or before the first day of May, A. D., 1881.

While boring for water at Beeton Station on the Hamilton & North Western Railway, last week, at the depth of 40 feet an inflammable gas was reached, which took fire at the well's mouth in the evening, as a party was igniting a match to light his pipe. A pipe was placed over the bore, and the gas continued to burn, with a pale bluish light. It is expected that petroleum will be found on digging deeper.

LUMBERING ON THE PACIFIC COAST.

A correspondent of the *Muskoka Herald* says this is the way they do things on the Pacific Coast (Puget Sound.)

The potato crop once gathered, the ravages of frost and rot are checked by drying, the machine known as the "Plummer Dryer" being the most effective for this purpose. A bushel of potatoes will produce thirteen pounds of the dried article. They are bought in immense quantities to go to the mines and saw-logging camps. No ship leaving that coast is considered "well found" unless they have a quantity on board for the use of the ship's crew. It is said that at present prices, which I have been unable to learn, a good margin is left for both grower and dryer.

Saw-logging in that region is carried on somewhat differently to what it is here. When all orders have been filled, stock lumber is cut pretty much as follows: Butt log, 24 feet; second, 32 feet; then 40 feet, until stopped by knots. The roads are graded 16 feet, with a skid let in across the road every 8 feet. The logs are barked when the sap is up—falling this they are "rosed" on the running side. Four yokes of oxen constitute a team, the hind yoke having a torque and dog chain. The logs are strung one behind the other, with dogs and chains; one log, however, containing 6,000 feet, being considered a load. The greaser goes ahead of the team, with a swab and can of dog flail oil, and greases the skids. With regard to the wages paid, the chopper, who stands on a spring board while working, receives \$75 a month and board; hook tender, who snips the ends of the logs, drives the hooks and attends to snatch blocks and snubbing lines, gets \$50; sawyer, \$60; barker, \$35; head skidder, \$40; second skidder, \$35; teamster, \$75; swamper, \$40; greaser (a boy), \$20. All payments are made in gold. Land that has less than 200,000 feet to the acre is not considered pine land. A stock was lately cut out of a saw log in the mill at Tacoma, which measured 34x14 inches, and 120 feet long.

The *Mail* in arguing that additional facilities are required for prospectors obtaining reliable assays of ores, adds that a correspondent had written to Buffalo on the subject, and found that it would be necessary to obtain a consular certificate before minerals could cross the line. American authorities charge a fee of \$16 for an assay and certificate, and our correspondent says they require a statement of the locality in which the mineral was found. Of course such information would be quickly acted upon by American speculators, who already own the bulk of our mining properties. There appears to be a lack of mining authorities qualified and willing to furnish assays, and it would be in the public interest if the Provincial Government would appoint an officer to perform this necessary work for moderate fees.

England vs. Australia.

Outside "the Derby" no such national gathering—estimated at from two hundred and fifty thousand to five hundred thousand—was ever assembled in England as at the great cricket match of England vs. Australia. Kensington Oval, where it took place, is a large space about four times the size of Tompkins square. Around this space, at a hundred feet from its outer circumference, was a solid ring of beholders, dozens deep. The inner rows squatted, the next knelt, the next stood, while the outer fringes formed the highest tier by scaffolding run up impromptu. Then the old and picturesque houses surrounding the oval were ridged and fronted with spectators, as was Rome when Coriolanus marched in. The gate money was five shillings. The receipts were enormous, and were divided between the teams. The colonials were badly beaten. Spofforth, their best man, was prevented playing by a wounded wrist.

Indian Farms in the North-West.

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EXPERIMENTS.

(Saskatchewan Herald.)

The following figures show the progress made in some of the Indian farms and reserves in the west:—

At Fort Walsh there are two reserves—one of Assiniboines, numbering a thousand souls, under Chiefs Man-thet-Stole-the-Cat and Long Robe; and one of Saulteaux, also a thousand strong, and Chiefs Little Child and Pie Pot. On one of these reserves there are fifty and on the other thirty-five acres under crop, chiefly potatoes and barley. The instructors here have no farms of their own to look after, but devote their whole time to teaching the Indians. These Indians also do a good deal for themselves by catching fish in winter.

At Fort Macleod there is a Piegan reserve on which there are about nine hundred of that band. They are settling down to work, having a number of houses up, and from 70 to 80 acres under crop. The cattle to which this band is entitled under the treaty are being given to them. The Rev. Mr. McKay has settled amongst them and established a mission of the Church of England.

The Sarcoes are settled at Blackfoot Crossing, and although few in number are doing well.

At Morleyville, Bow River, there are about six hundred Assiniboines, who have some excellent farms, doing credit to the practical instruction by their missionary, the Rev. Jno. Macdougall, in former years. Cattle were also being given to this band and to the Sarcoes. The quantity of land under cultivation is from sixty to seventy acres.

The supply farm near Fort Calgary is expected to show good results and to fulfil the expectations formed of it. It is under the management of Mr. Wright, and contains two hundred and twenty acres, chiefly under wheat and barley.

Mr. Bruce has charge of another supply farm thirty miles south-west of Fort Macleod, on which he has under cultivation two hundred acres of as fine land as is to be found in the North-West. Three miles off, on Pincher Creek, the Government has put up one of the Waterous Company's portable grist mill with which to grind the grain grown in that locality. It will in the end be cheaper than to freight in flour.

Many of the Indians at the south are surrendering some of the cows to which they are entitled and taking agricultural implements in their stead.

On Mr. Delaney's farm, Frog Lake, were planted 100 bushels of potatoes, 14 bushels of wheat, 20 bushels of oats, 30 bushels of barley, an acre of turnips and carrots; and on the reserve, 190 bushels of potatoes, 20 of wheat, 40 of barley, and a quantity of small vegetables.

On Mr. Williams' farm, near Fort Pitt, were planted 58 bushels of potatoes, 5 of wheat, 26 of oats, and 18 of barley; and on the reserve 240 bushels of potatoes, 14 of wheat, 38 of barley, and two acres of turnips and carrots.

We are without the exact figures of the Eagle Hills reserve, but understand that they are about the same, as in Mr. Delaney's district.

In order to prevent explosions of gas on board steamships, the Inspector of Mines for South Wales, Great Britain, suggests the employment of two pipes leading from the dock to each surface of coal, one of these pipes to carry down an adequate supply of fresh atmospheric air, and the other, by means of some suitable contrivance, such as a fan, to draw up what gas may accumulate below.

The project of a canal for ships from the Baltic to the North Sea, between the Bay of Kiel and Brunsbüttel, in the estuary of the Elbe, appears likely to prove a success. Its depth throughout is to be 20 feet and 9 inches, its width at the surface of the water 160 feet, and at the bottom 84 feet, the banks thus having a gentleslope. Provision is also to be made, by means of a peculiar system of locks and reservoirs, for increasing the depth of water to some 26 feet, whenever it may be desirable to do so, this depth allowing of the passage through the canal of the heaviest German ironclad afloat, namely, the *König Wilhelm*, a vessel of nearly 10,000 displacement, but drawing only 26 feet. In this canal will not compare unfavourably with the Suez, the latter being 172 feet wide at the surface of the water, 70 feet at the bottom, and about 26 feet deep.