



THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

DEVOTED TO THE LUMBER AND TIMBER INTERESTS OF THE DOMINION.

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PETERBOROUGH, Ont., JUNE 1st, 1886.

There are 5 500 miles of railway in Germany on which metallic sleepers are laid.

From fourteen to twenty car loads of square timber passed Mattawa eastward daily last week.

Mr. PRENEVEAN's saw mills in Belmont, Ont., were destroyed by fire last week. The origin of the fire is a mystery. No insurance.

The steamer Butcher's Boy will run on a line between Ashland, Wis., and Port Arthur, Ont., this season.

The Messrs. Patterson Woodstock, have given an order to J. E. Murphey, of Hepworth Bruce county, for 402,000 feet of lumber to be used in their new buildings.

An oak was recently cut on J. B. Vander-vanter's farm in Gilead, Mich., which measured five feet 10 inches at the base, and was 40 feet to the first limb, where it measured four feet.

The tannery owned by Geo. Hollings at Han-over, Ont., was totally destroyed by fire on May 20th. Insured for \$2300; loss not nearly covered by insurance.

GILMOUR & Co's drive of logs in Squaw river have grounded, on account of the floods washing out dams and allowing the water to escape. The logs will have to remain where they are until next spring.

It is circulating in Michigan papers that a syndicate is being formed in Saginaw valley, with a capital of \$1,500,000, for the purchase of \$600,000,000 feet of standing timber on Columbia river, Oregon or Washington, or both.

The first raft of the season, consisting of some cribs of oak, ash and pine belonging to Messrs. McConnell & Klock, has arrived in the canal

basin at Ottawa from up the Rideau. It comprises, says the Citizen, some remarkably good oak.

It is stated that the Siam Forest Company has been formed in Bombay, India, to work a large forest concession which has been granted to it by the king of Siam. The concession is of forests covering an area of over 2,000 square miles, and said to contain much fine oak timber.

A cargo of hardwoods from the Philippine Islands has been shipped to England, about two thirds of it being cedar. In connection with the above, when we read of regular arrivals at Melbourne, Australia, of lumber from the Baltic sea, the world-wide and complicated character of the lumber trade is faintly appreciated.

A despatch from Quebec says:—Mr. William Dobie, a young man in a lower town mercantile establishment, who arrived out from Edinburgh about two years ago, has recently fallen heir to over £380 000 by the death of his father in England. He intends returning to the old country to live, taking with him as a bride one of Quebec's charming daughters, Miss Eva Wilson, daughter of C. W. Wilson, the well known lumber merchant.

THE NORWOOD STEAM WORKS.

But too little notice, it is to be regretted, has been taken of some of the leading industries of the village of Norwood. In fact, it may be said of the enterprise now under notice, one of the most important industries in the county of Peterborough not on account of the wages disbursed in the factory, but on account of the useful and valuable material the product of the Finlay Works; or, as they are appropriately called, the "Norwood Steam Bending and Hub and Spoke Factory," owned and managed by Finlay & Son, the older member of the firm being a man of great business capacity, energy and ability, qualities which have enabled him to battle successfully with many trying commercial storms. Energy and enterprise stimulated by sound judgment and keenness of observation, generally leads to success, and such in a word, has been the career of Mr. John Finlay, though meeting with not a few discouraging obstacles.

The business of this factory, under the fostering care and push and pluck of the proprietors, has increased to immense proportions. A visit to the works recently, by the writer, found the large building, occupying extensive grounds, fairly alive with the hum of rapidly revolving machinery, and it was with pleasure and interest we observed the rough material passing from one piece of machinery to another till finally it came forth a useful and valuable article. Perhaps a brief description of the methods by which hubs are manufactured and the bending process is performed, may be interesting. The timber is brought to the factory during the winter in logs, and first passed over to the sawyers, who with large circular saws propelled by steam, cut them into blocks the different lengths required, these are passed over to a boring machine which bores the heart out of the blocks. The hub rougher comes next into operation, which pares the rough bark apparently with as much ease as one would pare an apple—this part of the machinery, by the way, sprung from the ingenuitive mind of Mr. Finlay himself. The turner now handles the hub, smoothing its surface and giving to it its beautiful rounding, symmetrical form. The mortising machine is now brought into requisition, which neatly and rapidly pierces the required holes for the placing of the spokes. The hub by means of a tramway passes over to another wing of the large factory, where the painters give the finishing touches, and the hubs are now ready for shipment.

In the second story of this establishment are the Bending Works. The timber for this department is also brought from the woods during the winter, and is first cut into planks, then passed to fine or small saws, which rip them into the different sizes required for cutters or sleighs; they are thoroughly planed and then placed in a large steam box, where they remain till they are bent to the required shape; and

now, after going into the factory a huge and unbarked log, are turned over to the spacious packing room a smoothly surfaced and gracefully turned cutter or sleigh runner, and ready for shipment to the numerous patrons of this great factory.

The proprietors have recently added the most approved machinery for the manufacture of the above wares in a very complete manner, and in a style and finish to compete with any factory of the kind in the Dominion. The hands are paid every Saturday regularly, a system which Mr. Finlay has punctually followed for a number of years. The cash paid out thus every week amounts to about \$100, but figures for wages are largely increased when stock is being procured for the succeeding season, thus giving employment to as many as 25 or 30 hands, besides many teams of horses, disbursing in this manner, annually, the large sum of \$8,000, or perhaps \$9,000, not, of course, including in this estimate the large amount of money paid out for logs and other raw material required for the manufacture of hubs, spokes, cutter and sleigh bents, &c.

The Messrs. Finlay certainly deserve their success and prosperity, and the elder Mr. Finlay the personal popularity he has attained in our community. His energy and enterprise has planted in our midst our principal "wage earner," in which considerable capital is invested, and through which a large amount of money is weekly circulated in our village. It is to be hoped that success and prosperity will long attend the works of John Finlay & Son.

HOW A LUMBER KING DIED.

A despatch from Dubois, Pa., to the New York Sun says:—The circumstances surrounding the death of John Dubois, the father and patron of this town, were very pathetic, and have left a deep impression on the community. Although not an infidel, he had lived a careless life. He seldom went to church, preferring to spend Sunday walking about his mills or his fine farm of 1000 acres. For a year or more, however, his mind had been strongly inclined to religious matters. He did not go to the preachers with his perplexities. He read his Bible and consulted with his lawyer about it. His lawyer was the Hon. George A. Jenks, who has just resigned the Assistant Secretaryship of the Interior in order to keep a promise to Mr. Dubois that he would take the place of the latter as confidential adviser to a young nephew who gets the vast estate.

A few days before his death Mr. Dubois sent for the Rev. Mr. Bell, and, after a long conversation with him, he was baptized and received into the Presbyterian Church. He immediately sent for the heads of all the departments in his works and as many of the men as could crowd into the sick room, to the number of about fifty. When they were gathered he gave them such an exhortation as had never been heard before in all this region. He told them he was dying, and that if he had been well assured of his eternal welfare a week before he would not have been living to talk to them. He could not leave go of life, he said, until he got that question settled, and he urged them not to put it off as he had done. He was willing now to die, but if it was the will of Providence that he lived one year longer, he would not wish to take up his affairs again. He would put in every day, he said, going about the mills telling his men the great truth that he had at length found out and trying to undo some of the evil his example had wrought in his long lifetime.

His voice and brain were strong, although his body was wasted almost to a skeleton and he could scarcely sit up in bed propped with pillows. The men had worked for him—some ten some twenty, some thirty years. They were rough, grizzly fellows from the logging camps and the mills, but there was not a dry cheek in the room as he talked to them and called them by name and bid them good-by. Three days afterwards he died. He was buried on his own arm where he lived. He picked out the spot himself. It is on the top of a gentle sloping hill, and overlooks his mills and the town he built. For the three days between his death and his funeral all hands in the town were as idle as his own. Not a wheel turned in any of the mills. Nobody did any business in the

stores. Three thousand people looked at him in his coffin and walked behind it to the grave.

Although his works were divided up into different departments, each under its responsible head, he knew all of the 800 men who worked for him, and always spoke to them as courteously as if they were all millionaires as well as himself. Some years ago, when times were hard and lumber fell at a low figure, the managers of the works agreed that there must be a reduction in the wages of the men, and so told him. He heard them through and took the figures they had brought him, but made no decision. The next day he summoned them to meet him again, and said:

"This will not do. I have examined the books at the store, and find that it takes about all these men earn to buy necessities for themselves and their families. If we must reduce wages I will begin with you, who are better paid. Say no more about it; I guess I can stand a loss better than the men can a reduction."

EXPORT DUTY ON LOGS.

We would again call attention to the subject of the export duty on saw logs, for it is a matter that should not be allowed to sink into oblivion and neglect. It is obvious that the duty on export logs should be raised to \$2 so as to counterbalance the United States import duty on lumber. Till this change is made the very least that should be done is to enforce the payment of the present export duty of \$1. It is absurd to suppose that this cannot be done. There are regulations for shipping, there are ways of dealing with smugglers that can be made effective, whether the offenders fly the Canadian or the United States flag. Saw logs cannot be smuggled like jewels or lace, and both they and the vessels concerned would be liable to seizure. The great risk of such a serious loss would check attempts to evade the law if its stringent enforcement were practiced.

The cost of collecting the duty, though it has been alleged as an obstacle, is not really a serious objection, for it would be recouped over and over again by the amount collected. But even if there were more than the amount of revenue sent in collecting it, the argument against enforcement would not be conclusive. Under such circumstances it would still be alike just and politic to protect our lumbermen from unfair competition, and our forests from devastation in order to enrich foreign mill-owners.

This is a matter which is becoming more and more urgent. Lumbermen from the United States have of late purchased a great extent of timber limit from the Ontario Government and others. The purchasers make no secret of their intention to convey these Canadian saw logs across the lakes to supply saw mills in the United States. Inadequate as is the present duty it should certainly be collected, and as soon as possible it should be doubled. The evil has already become of some magnitude and it is certain to be greatly increased ere long if proper precautions are not taken.

Since writing the above we are glad to learn that the export duties have been increased as follows:—Single bolts \$1.50 per cord, spruce logs \$2 per thousand, pine logs \$3 per thousand. This satisfactory as to the duties, and now it only remains to see that they are enforced.

BURNING SAWDUST.

Thos. Price writes as follows to the *Machinist* concerning wet sawdust, etc.: "I had a little experience in sooty flues and smoke-box from wet sawdust and bark, and used to have a burn-out often at noon when the fire was low. I have eight boilers, 48 inches diameter by 16 feet long, and at first built them with grates, eight feet long, thinking that the larger the grate area, the better the combustion. But I could not keep steam to run half what I drive now, and had to find a remedy. The draft was too sluggish. I could not change my smokestack, so I thought I would try less grate area. I simply laid fire-brick across the back end of the grate-bars, and raised the bridge wall within eight inches of the boilers. I made double the steam I could before, and the tubes and smoke boxes and breeching were free from soot, and have never burnt out since."