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ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED ON APPLICATION

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interests of the lumber trade and allied industries throughout the Dominion, being the only representative in Canada of this foremost branch of the commerce of this country. It aims at giving full and timely information on all subjects touching these interests, discussing these topics editorially and inviting free discussion by others.

Special pains are taken to secure the latest and most trustworthy market quotations from various points throughout the world, so as to afford to the trade in Canada information on which it can rely in its operations.

Special correspondents in localities of importance present an accurate report not only of prices and the condition of the market, but also of other matters specially interesting to our readers. But correspondence is not only welcome, but is invited from all who have any information to communicate or subjects to discuss relating to the trade or in any way affecting it. Even when we may not be able to agree with the writers we will give them a fair opportunity for free discussion as the best means of eliciting the truth. Any items of interest are particularly requested, for even if not of great importance individually they contribute to a fund of information from which general results are obtained.

Advertisers will receive careful attention and liberal treatment. We need not point out that for many the CANADA LUMBERMAN, with its special class of readers, is not only an exceptionally good medium for securing publicity, but is indispensable for those who would bring themselves before the notice of that class. Special attention is directed to "WANTED" and "FOR SALE" advertisements, which will be inserted in a conspicuous position at the uniform price of 15 cents per line for each insertion. Announcements of this character will be subject to a discount of 25 per cent. if ordered for four successive issues or longer.

Subscribers will find the small amount they pay for the CANADA LUMBERMAN quite insignificant as compared with its value to them. There is not an individual in the trade, or specially interested in it, who should not be on our list, thus obtaining the present benefit and aiding and encouraging us to render it even more complete.

RESTRICT THE LUMBER PRODUCTION.

THE fact has been stated in this journal, and is borne out by almost daily reports, that the lumber business of the Dominion is in a most prosperous condition. There is scarcely a branch of the industry, from the cutting of the tree to the manufacture of the finished wood product, that is not employing more labor and more capital than was the case twelve months ago. The reason for this is the increased demand resulting from the generally improved commercial conditions in nearly every country in the civilized world.

Entering, as we seem to be, upon an era of greater prosperity, the tendency is for manufacturers to largely increase their production with a view to meeting the prospective demand and to making profits to offset the years of business depression, when, it is admitted, goods were frequently sold at the bare cost of production. This disposition on the part of manufacturers is only natural; nevertheless, this same disposition has more than once in the past been a strong factor in breaking down an otherwise promising market. These remarks are particularly applicable to the lumber trade, owing to the somewhat peculiar conditions surrounding it, and a word of warning at this time, when preparations for logging operations are being made, may not be amiss.

Present indications point to a large demand for lumber next year, both on local and foreign account. Notwithstanding this, our advice to

manufacturers is to restrict their production. By this policy there is everything to gain and little to lose. Prices are now moving upwards, and it would be a great mistake to so increase the production of logs this winter as to overstock the market with lumber next season. The log cut, taking the Dominion as a whole, should be little larger, if any, than last winter. The object of manufacturers should be to realize a fair profit on a limited output. It should be borne in mind, therefore, that the cost of labor has increased with the greater demand therefor, and that the lumber cannot be manufactured as cheaply to-day as it could be two years ago. Stumpage values are also higher. This we regard as an argument in favor of restricting the production of lumber.

As timber becomes less plentiful, it devolves upon the people of Canada to be more conservative in regard to its use, with a view to perpetuating the supply. In this aspect of the case lumbermen are quite as much interested as the public generally. Thus the advantage of manipulating the timber in such a way as to obtain the best possible returns from a minimum quantity of timber.

We commend for the consideration of saw mill owners the policy adopted by Mr. John Bertram, manager of the Collins Inlet Lumber Company. Mr. Bertram has fixed a certain quantity of timber to be cut each year, which must not be exceeded, the object sought and which he hopes to attain being to secure a permanent supply, after the forestry methods adopted in some European countries. Mr. Bertram has given the subject of reforestation much study, and for that reason we believe his course of action might safely be copied by other lumbermen.

To revert to the vital object of this article, we would strongly urge upon saw mill owners to pursue a conservative policy in regard to their output. Profit by the example of this year, when nearly every lumberman in Canada has done a successful business, even though not a large one. Let the world get hungry for our lumber and timber products, and in the end we will profit thereby.

SEASONING OF TIMBER.

MUCH interest is shown on this side of the Atlantic in the numerous experiments that have been conducted in European countries to preserve wood from decay. The attention that has been given to this subject in Germany, France and Great Britain is no doubt due in a great measure to the growing scarcity of timber in these countries, as with increased value naturally comes increased care and science in its use.

The usual way of protecting wood from decay is by impregnation with a preservative. The Southern Pacific Railway treats piles 110 feet long by evaporating the moisture at 230 degrees and filling its place by creosote at the same temperature. This process is said to be perfect. All microbes, bacilli and animalculae avoid creosote; and the teredo, which makes nothing of the hardest timber, is said by the Portland Oregonian to "stand off and gnash his teeth in rage as he contemplates the creosote treated piling" of the Southern Pacific. This process is expensive, one dollar's worth of creosote being required to preserve one cubic foot of wood. A cheaper process is under experiment in France, where engineers have succeeded in extracting the sap by electric osmosis and sucking into its

place an antiseptic mixture of borax and resin. This method is known as the Nodon-Brettonneau process, and is referred to elsewhere in this issue. Another inventor whose work is still in the experimental stage has examined extracted sap, and finding it to be albuminous and coagulable, has taken a hint from hard boiled eggs and solidified the sap in place. He claims that, without making the wood hard to work, he has removed the possibility not only of decay but of shrinkage.

The capacity for interminable shrinkage is the great fault of wood, and, for any fine and permanent use of the material, something must be done to overcome this fault. The trouble seems again to lie in the sap, so that woods treated with preservative after extraction of the sap should be comparatively free from shrinkage. The simple practice of soaking in a pond, which is practised in country places, has this end in view; and it is far more effective than kiln drying. The rapid swelling, when exposed to moisture, of kiln dried wood which has received no other treatment, as compared with the comparative steadiness of soaked boards, seems to point to the sap as the seat of the hygroscopicity of wood. To dry in a kiln a board with the sap in it is to deprive it temporarily of its moisture, so that it comes out of the kiln hungry, and paint cannot keep from it the moisture it craves.

It is of little use to specify a condition of dryness which cannot be made permanent. The wood is bound to attain the same proportion of moisture as the air of the house. The air of inhabited houses is found to contain usually about 10 per cent. of moisture. Flooring or other finish ought therefore to be brought into the house when the building has reached as nearly as possible its normal condition of dryness and temperature, and the wood ought to contain about 10 per cent. of moisture. It is easy to ascertain the proportion of water. If a piece is cut from the middle of a floor board, weighed, heated till dry and weighed again, the difference between the two weighings is the weight of moisture, and this should be ten per cent. of the weight of the piece when dried. If, as is usually the case, there is little hope of precision in the proportion of moisture in the wood, and good work is still sought, there remains the expedient of specifying quarter cut wood. It is the unequal consistency in the structure of the rings that makes tangentially sawn boards warp under shrinkage.

The summer wood in the annual ring is thicker than the spring wood, and takes up and parts with more moisture than the spring wood. In tangential boards these portions of the ring are often opposed to one another, and the consequence is warping. There may also be a great width of summer wood and consequently great shrinkage. If quarter cut wood is used the shrinkage will be much less and there is nothing to cause warping, for the structure is the same on both sides of the board.

There is this to be said in addition in favor of seasoning by soaking, that it is as effective to prevent decay as it is to prevent shrinking and swelling. It is the sap and soluble portions of the wood that form the food of the fungus of disease, and when these are washed out the liability to decay is gone.

In the matter of inflammability, much may be