

The Red Pine.

Anyone who has travelled along the waterways of the northern part of Ontario must have noticed a coniferous tree standing here and there in groups on the bold shores of the rocky islands, or mainland, and apparently growing up from the bare granite where there seems to be hardly a foothold for the smallest vegetation. The red trunks stand out clear and straight against the background of rock, and, with the tufts of coarse needles forming the foliage which crowns the clear-springing columns, they make a contribution peculiarly their own to the unexcelled beauties of the scenery of the Canadian forests. This tree is the Red or Norway Pine (*Pinus resinosa*), so named from the red bark and the darker color of the wood which distinguish it clearly from the White Pine. The foliage is also much coarser than that of the White Pine, and a closer examination shows that the needles are longer and thicker and are grouped in pairs. The cones are short and thick, preserving the coarse character of the red pine. The contrast between the red bark and green foliage makes this a very ornamental tree, and it is frequently used for this purpose.

As a timber tree the red pine is not nearly so valuable as the white pine, but it grows to a good size, reaching a height of fifty to ninety feet, and as it flourishes better than the latter on bare rocks and poor soil it will always have its place in the economy of the forest. When the trees are of fit size they are taken out by the pine operators, and it needs no further demonstration to show that the handling of red pine is profitable even at the present time. The wood is resinous and dark in color, from which the tree gets its specific name (*resinosa*). It is stated to bear a close resemblance to the most resinous examples of the Scotch fir, and it is from this fact that it has been called Norway pine. In the early days of the lumber industry this resemblance gave the tree a temporary prominence and value which it was not able to maintain against the now much more highly appreciated white pine. The timber is strong and has a clean and fine grain. It is used for piles, bridges and works where heavy timber is required.

In the Royal Dockyards in Great Britain it is employed for dock work, masts, spars, cabin fittings, etc. It is shipped in logs sixteen feet to fifty feet in length and ten to eighteen inches, and in deals of mixed length, mostly sawn to three by four inches.

In Canada the range of this tree is practically that of the white pine, being from Nova Scotia to the western boundary of Ontario, but occupying usually the poorer soil.

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Forestry in Nova Scotia.

The subject of forestry is being agitated at present in Nova Scotia, and there is no question that is more worthy of attention. The provincial governments have already received so much revenue from their timber lands that it should surely be a matter of the greatest importance to them to make these lands as productive as possible, instead of allowing them to be bared again and again by fire or cut without regard to any future return. Nova Scotia is justly proud of her mineral wealth and her great coal and steel industries, but the lumber industry is a wealth producer which, if properly dealt with, is continually renewing its youth and will be an asset of the greatest value for all time. While there are considerable areas of forest still in existence in that province, the axe and fire have done their work so widely that thinking men are beginning to ask them-

selves the question whether there is not some way of making better use of the forest and preserving its beneficial effects.

This matter has been brought before some of the Boards of Trade. In May last the Annapolis Bay Board of Trade passed the following resolution:—

"Whereas, the subject of forestry is a most important one and there is no question but that it has been too long neglected in Canada, and, whereas, the manufacture of lumber has been one of the most important industries in the Province of Nova Scotia, and it is now anticipated that pulp mills will consume a very large quantity of standing timber, and, whereas, it is apparent to everyone that the depletion of standing timber of all kinds by forest fires and the axe is fast denuding our forest lands and rendering them of no value, and, whereas, it is believed that, with the prevention of fires, protection to the rapidly growing young timber, and the systematic cutting of trees for lumber, our forests will be of value for many years to come, therefore this Board of Trade suggests that the Boards of Trade co-operate throughout the province to induce the Government to take immediate steps to awaken public interest in forestry, and make such appointments that suitable overseers or inspectors will be put in charge of the timber districts in Nova Scotia, and, as an incentive to owners of private timber lands, guard and protect all Government timber lands, and reforest any suitable areas that may be found fit for the purpose. A copy of this resolution to be sent to the other Boards of Trade in this province."

The Boards of Trade at Kentville, Chatham and Halifax have taken action in the line of this resolution, and it is hoped that the legislature will give the matter consideration at its next session. Hasty legislation is not advisable, but all who have given study to the question of the world's lumber supply are agreed that the outlook is for increased demands with a diminishing supply, and therefore an enhanced value. As expressed in a recent work by Mr. Nisbet, one of the leading students of the economic questions concerned with forestry in England:—

"The economic conditions now already obtaining, and practically certain soon to become greatly accentuated, are such that the present sources of supply throughout the world are just able to meet the existing demand, and such enhancement can only be met by working out timber from backwoods and remote tracts which are at present unremunerative. Hence a general rise in prices throughout Scandinavia, Russia and Canada must be the direct result of competition between Britain, America and Germany."

In forestry it is inevitable that there must be a very long foresight, and it will be but a poor policy for any province to shut its eyes to the future when a comparatively small expenditure for preserving the means of reproduction will ensure an increasingly valuable supply of forest products and a stable source of revenue to the State. The more light that can be thrown on the subject from a practical point of view the better, and it is to be hoped that the discussion will not die out with the passing of resolutions, but that it may be kept steadily before the minds of the public and the legislators until some basis for a definite line of action can be worked out. No ready-made policy can be advocated. It must be framed from a knowledge of local conditions: the land; the forest products; the conditions of growth; the objects to be served. The advice of scientific experts is of the greatest value, but the data of local conditions must be made available if their knowledge is to be fitted for practical application. Taking stock is a necessary