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CONTENTS.

Editorials	681
(a) Mine Timber	681
(b) The Origin of Petroleums	682
(c) The New Chairman of the Transcontinental	683
(d) Stock Value and Mine Value	683
(e) West Shining Tree	683
(f) Tube Mill Practice	683
(g) More About the Giesecke Mill	684
(h) A Correction	684
(i) Editorial Notes	684
Correspondence	684
Timber Used in Mining Operations, by H. R. MacMillan	685
Stock Value and Mine Value, by Dr. A. C. Lane	691
Personal and General	695
St. Anthony Mine, by J. Houston	695
The Vipond Mine, by H. P. Davis	697
Condition of Turtle Mountain, Alberta	699
West Shining Tree Report	700
The Sturgeon Lake Gold Field	701
Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co.'s Report	707
Special Correspondence, etc.	709

MINE TIMBER.

The serious consideration of the fact that Canada's available supplies of mine timber are rapidly vanishing is forced upon us. The data collected by Messrs. MacMillan, Robertson, and Boyce for the Dominion Forestry Branch, represent the first attempt to define the present situation.

During the past year, mine timber to the value of \$827,337 was used in Canada. 52,848,000 linear feet of round timber, valued at \$523,339; and 22,305,000 board feet of sawn timber, valued at \$303,908, made up the total. The average cost of the former was \$9.90 per thousand linear feet, and of the latter \$13.63 per thousand board feet.

Of the round timber, British Columbia used 55 per cent. The average cost per thousand linear feet was \$7.01. Nearly all this was Douglas fir, 20,000,000 feet of which was of four to six inch diameter, used as lagging in coal mines. This accounts for the low average cost.

Nova Scotia used 30 per cent. of the round timber, or 15,653,000 feet, the average cost of which was \$10.74 per thousand. Most of this timber was five inch spruce.

Alberta's consumption, 7,484,000 feet, consisted largely of lodge-pole pine, supplemented by spruce and small quantities of Douglas fir. The average cost was \$17.75.

Ontario's mines are credited with only 549,000 linear feet, costing \$26.83 per thousand. About one-half of this was five to seven inch spruce; while one-third was pine of small diameter.

Although twelve species of wood are reported, only two are used in important quantities. These are Douglas fir and spruce, used respectively in the coal mines of British Columbia and Nova Scotia.

As regards sawn timber, practically the same proportions hold as for round.

Timber used in mining has shorter life than when used overground. Underground conditions are conducive to decay. The danger of fire in coal mines is an added risk. Hemlock has a life of about five years in its natural condition. Spruce lasts only three years. When treated with creosote or zinc chloride the durability of all species is increased from 100 to 300 per cent. An added argument in favour of such treatment is the fact that inferior woods may be successfully used.

The use of preservatives has got far beyond the experimental stage. Particularly in the United States has the subject been investigated. Practical applications have been made of results obtained. Hence,