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NEW BRUNSWICK'S WOOD TROPHY.

The St. John, New Brunswick, *Telegraph* says—If one may judge by the numerous acclamations of surprise and pleasure from the visitors at Messrs. Howe's ware rooms on Saturday as the wood trophy was nearing completion, it is undoubtedly a success both artistically, and from a more practical commercial point. It will no doubt form the chief feature in the New Brunswick display at the exhibition. Much uncertainty was felt as to the effect of this undertaking, but it is gratifying to note that it has surpassed the most sanguine expectations. A more pleasing combination of nature and art could not be well desired, considering the limited grant and the shortness of the time allowed for completion. It has also been an object in this case to economize space and the largest display has been made in the smallest space possible, endeavoring to combine every natural condition of the wood as well as every artificial application.

The main portion of the trophy embraces all the larger or commercial woods, which are sufficiently abundant to form an important item for trade. These are divided into three sections. The left wing comprises the evergreen or coniferous specimens, including hemlock, red and white pine, black and white spruce, hackmatack, cedar and fir. The central section is made up of the dense woods, such as black and white birch, rock and scarlet maples and beech. The right wing consists of black and white ash, red and grey oak, elm, butternut, basswood and poplar. At the base of each of these fifteen large panels there is a log of the same wood, 20 inches in diameter and three feet one inch in height, while the sides of the panels are formed with saplings or young trees of the same woods, resting upon turned bases and surmounted with carved capitals representing the foliage and fruit or flower of these trees. These again are surmounted by a scroll saw and carved bracket, all of the same wood.

Between the large panels and the logs an inclined case or frame, made of ash, has been placed, and contains thirty small panels showing the smaller woods, and, also, several of the larger kinds, which are not sufficiently abundant for commercial purposes or of sufficient importance for the large panels. All of those embraced in these panels are, however, useful in the arts and for ornamental trees. Many of them are comparatively unknown, and their beauty and utility unappreciated. Some, valuable for economic purposes, are used for tool handle, bobbin stocks and novelty work, and are susceptible of a very high degree of polish. These panels consist of sumach, aspen, poplar, ground or pasture ash, choke cherry, wild red cherry, wild black cherry, witch hazel, red hornbeam and hop horsebeam, thorn-plum,

maple, mountain maple or whitewood, black alder, swamp alder, yellow birch burl, gray birch and matted birch, billbury, May cherry, rowan tree or mountain ash, swamp rowan tree, dogwood, slippery elm, white willow, balm of gilead or balsam poplar, wild crab apple and princess pine. Each of the panels is framed with strips showing the back and the corners are transverse sections showing the end grain. The aim of the whole design is to show the woods in all forms, which will interest practically wood workers; therefore the combination in the large panels shows the slash of the grain, as well as an end section showing the density of the grain. These last named sections or quarters show at the base of the panels, also convey a better idea of the size of the growth of these trees being taken from more fully developed trees.

The cornice which surmounts these panels forms a very pleasing feature in the structure, and is composed chiefly of bark and specimens of each wood in mouldings. Above the central section is placed a poplar board with etched letters bearing the words "Woods of New Brunswick." The whole of the top will be surmounted by stuffed specimens of the best game of our forests, which is now being prepared by Mr. J. H. Carnell. A fine moose head will ornament the centre, with a caribou head on the right and a red deer head on the left. Foxes, coons, beaver, porcupine, partridges, etc., are to be added. All of the panels, as well as much of the surrounding woodwork, have been highly polished, showing the capabilities of the woods in their different applications in the arts and manufactures.

An important point in the close grained woods, and those free from resinous tendencies, is their adaptability for staining, and, to illustrate this, oblique bars have been stained across the tops, showing the effects of satin wood, cherry, mahogany, walnut, rosewood and ebony.

The foliage, flowers and fruit have been beautifully painted on both large and small panels, by Mr. John C. Miles, A. R. C. A., and the work does him infinite credit, although laboring under numerous disadvantages as to hurried work and obtaining appropriate specimens to work from. This forms the most attractive feature, from an artistic point of view, and will be a very valuable addition in other ways. So near do the pictures approach nature that many have expressed doubts as to their being painted, and thought them the original foliage.

Messrs. Geo. F. Matthew and Geo. U. Hay, of the Natural History Society, of New Brunswick, rendered valuable assistance in the botanical arrangements, etc., while the society kindly loaned the floral specimens. Mr. Jas.

information. Several of the logs for the base were obtained by Mr. Gabriel Merrit, of Moss Glenn, Kings county, showing that some fine timber still exists in the vicinity of this city. Mr. Thos. Crothers, of Upperagetown, Queens county, secured the handsome specimens of oak, elm and many of the smaller woods. Mr. Alex. Henderson, furniture manufacturer, of Woodstock, Carleton Co., also obtained some good samples.

Mr. George Draper, an experienced woodsman, of Southampton, York County, contributed many of the small woods. The carved capitals on the upper portion of the columns, or young trees, are the work of Edwin F. Erazier, John Rogerson, Lawrence Barry and Silas Hoyt.

The original idea as well as the design and construction, is due to the establishment of Messrs. J. & J. D. Howe, furniture manufacturers of this city. It may not be out of place to mention that the grant, which was made jointly by the Dominion and Local Governments, was only sufficient to cover the cost of collecting material and other expenses incurred. Therefore the work may be considered a donation from Messrs. Howe, who have spared no pains or expense to insure the best results, and have utilized to best talent in every department. The firm express themselves as most gratified at the hearty spirit shown by all interested in endeavoring to make it worthy of the Province. Too much credit cannot be given to Hon. Mr. Blair and the Local Government for the spirited way in which they undertook this work, even before assistance was secured from the Dominion Government.

THE AGE OF FOREST TREES.

Royal Forester Gericke, of Breslau, in a recent treatise on forestry, gives expression to the opinion that the age of a thousand years attributed to German forest trees is fabulous, that it is impossible to prove a higher age than 700 to 800 years for even the so-called historical trees, and that no German tree can reach that age in a sound condition. Trees of so great an age are always hollow and only continue to grow as ruins. In connection with the question of the limit of endurance of our trees, it is evident that it will vary not only with the variety of the wood, but also with the climate and soil. Forester Gericke, through his own investigations as well as through communications received from German, Russian and Austrian schools of forestry on the age of the oldest woods to be found in their collections, arrives at the following conclusions. The highest age which a sound tree can reach is not reached by leaf-bearing trees, but by needle-bearing trees. After the highest point is reached the needle-bearing trees decay rapidly.

a long time after passing their limit of existence in a sound state. The highest age of trees obtained by actually counting the yearly rings is from 500 to 570 years, and the firs in the Bohemian forests and the pines in Finland and Sweden actually reach that age. The next highest age seems to be reached by the white fir in the Bohemian forests, which shows 429 years. The larch in Bavaria reaches 274 years. Of the leaf-bearing trees the oak appears to endure the longest, and the red oak of Aschaffenburg, the oldest healthy example, counts 410 years. The oldest long-stalked or white oak was only 315 to 320 years old when evidences of internal decay became visible. Notwithstanding this difference in endurance the white oak is much stronger than the red oak. The old red beeches were 226 to 245 years old. The maximum ages of other trees are as follows:—Ash, 170 years, elm 130, birch 160 to 200, red alder 145, common maple 224. The most frequent among the historical trees, the linden, is the most seldom found in the collections. Perhaps this fact may be taken to mean that it is very seldom possible to find a very old and sound linden. The most celebrated of the historical lindens is that in Neustadt, Wurtemberg, the branches of which were so long ago as 1448 propped up by 67 pillars.—*Exchange.*

THE MORRISON TARIFF BILL.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—The Ways and Means Committee resumed consideration of the Morrison Tariff Bill to-day. Mr. Maybury of Detroit offered a substitute clause, changing the phraseology of the provision in the Bill subjecting the wooden articles placed on the free list to an import duty when the country from which they are imported levies an export duty, and his substitute was adopted. It reads:—"Provided that if any export duty is levied upon the above mentioned articles or any of them by any country whence imported, all said articles imported from said countries shall be subject to duty as now provided by law." It was stated that the provision was intended to cause a relaxation of the export duty now levied upon Canadian logs sent into the United States.

A Timber Reserve.

The Quebec Provincial Cabinet have, it is understood, decided to reserve an extensive tract of country to the north of the Province for future timber supply. Forest rangers are to be appointed to watch and guard this domain. Hon. Mr. Joly has been the active agent in securing this from the Government.

On March 18th Round's saw and planing mills, Welland, were burned. O. H. Round's loss is about \$4,000; Ed. Round's loss is about