

LOSS OF LIFE BY FOREST FIRES.

MILWAUKEE, Aug. 11.—Though the forests in the northern tier of counties in this state are still ablaze, and are likely to remain on fire until rains quench the flames, the danger to the villages and towns is over unless heavy gales should swoop down upon them. While not over a dozen cases of human cremation are reported, it is believed that many backwoods men and families remote from settlement cannot possibly have escaped. The fatality to live stock has been terrible. Hundreds of charred bodies of cattle lie on the blackened track of the devastating cyclone of fire. It is estimated that in Calumet, Clark, Marathon and a few adjacent counties 500 families are rendered homeless and will suffer unless immediate relief is sent them. Many of these people had narrow escapes from death, having hidden in wells or submerged themselves up to their necks in streams with wet blankets covering their heads until the fire passed. In some places the fire swooped down so suddenly upon the people that they barely had time to take this method of safety. In other places the roar of the flames was heard for miles, and the terror-stricken people fled madly before the flames to neighboring villages and towns. The loss cannot even be estimated. Hundreds of homes, dozens of saw mills, lumber camps and millions of feet of lumber are in ashes. Acres upon acres of ripening grain were laid waste.

To-night's advices are that the fires are abating considerably by running into clearings and because the wind has died out. However, fears are entertained of a repetition should high winds prevail again before rain appears. Along the valley division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway, heavy rain to-day extinguished all the flames, saving the largest cranberry marshes in that section. To-day the suffocating clouds of smoke from the burning forests were borne by north winds as far south as Milwaukee. On the lakes near Green Bay, Sturgeon Bay, and even further south, the smoke clouds are so dense that the sun is obscured, and vessels experience extreme difficulty in navigating it being impossible to see 400 feet ahead at midday.

CIRCULATION IN A STEAM BOILER.

The great influence which the circulation of the water in a steam boiler, when it is in operation, exercises upon its efficiency, its tendency to foul up, and its liability to various annoying defects, does not seem to be fully understood or appreciated by many to whom it is of the greatest importance. Were it not for the fact that heat applied to the under side of a body of water is communicated to it, thereby expanding it and causing it to rise through the colder water above and producing a circulation, it would be practically impossible to generate steam in the ordinary manner. The efficiency of any given area of heating surface depends almost wholly upon the perfection of the circulation of the water in contact with it. This will probably be better appreciated when it is stated that the experiment has been performed of immersing a cubical metallic box in water and heating it from the inside. The horizontal upper surface of the box generated more than twice as much steam per square foot of surface as the perpendicular sides while the bottom or lower side generated none at all. This was due to the fact that the steam bubbles or vesicles formed in contact with the upper surface, had nothing to interfere with their prompt liberation from that surface, the heated water was equally free to rise its place being immediately filled with a fresh supply of colder water thus forming a rapid circulation; in operation went on with greater difficulty in contact with the vertical surfaces, while with the lower horizontal surface, the steam as formed could have a tendency to hug the surface, and prevent the contact of water with it, thus effectually preventing any circulation. When these facts are appreciated it will be readily seen how essential it is to the proper performance of a boiler that the water spaces should be large and free from obstruction as possible, in order that the water may have opportunity to circulate freely, and the steam when formed be disengaged as freely and quietly as possible. Comparatively few years ago, it was the universal practice to crowd as many tubes into a

horizontal boiler as could be gotten into it. They were set in zig zag rows, to enable the greatest number to be put into a given space, on the theory that the more heating surface the more steam the boiler would make, and the natural consequence was the spaces between tubes and shells soon became filled up with scale and sediment, the result being overheated plates and leaky seams and tubes, while the steaming capacity of the boiler was greatly reduced. Of late years however the fact is beginning to be appreciated that tube surface is not heating surface unless it has plenty of room to act as such, and consequently the number put into boilers of any given size is less, they are arranged in a more rational manner and as a natural result the boiler steams better, and is more easily kept clean, less repairs are necessary and the life of the boiler is greatly prolonged. — *Locomotive.*

THE LUMBER TRADE.

A *Free Press* representative visited the different mills on the Chaudiere this forenoon to see how the lumber trade was progressing. After conversing with the different lumbermen and managers it was ascertained that the business was more active this year than last season, and prices were on the whole better. For the past few days there was a lull in the trade and sales were few. Little or nothing has been done in square timber, but a few sales of lumber were effected. An effort is being made to raise the export duty from \$2, which it is at present, to \$3 per thousand feet. It will be remembered that last season the duty was raised \$1 which made it \$2, and therefore equal to the duty imposed by the United States on sawn lumber entering there. Canadian lumbermen have discovered that \$2 on logs is not sufficient to meet the \$2 imposed by the United States on lumber. It is for this reason, a few thousand feet are never missed in logs, while the lumber can be exactly measured. In this way the correct number of feet is taken as regards lumber while it is the very reverse respecting sawn lumber. Our lumbermen therefore think that it will take \$3 export duty per thousand feet on logs to meet the imposition of \$2 per thousand feet import duty by the Americans on sawn lumber. On the Georgian Bay there are quite a number of American lumbermen operating there. They take their logs across to the States by paying the export duty of \$2, and in this way to the work of sawing it away from Canada. The \$2 American import duty on sawn lumber cannot check this. The Canadian lumbermen think that the \$3 export duty on logs will meet the whole trouble. At all events representations to the Government will be made to this effect.

All the mills are working full time. Messrs. Bronson & Co. have opened up a new limit on the Desmoine, and operations will commence there this winter. Their yard was entirely cleared out this summer, and now they have nothing to dispose of save this summer's cut. Taking it all in all the lumbermen are particularly happy over the result of trade so far. — *Ottawa Free Press.*

ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING.

The *Builder*, a London, Eng., journal, thus refers to one of the machines in the exhibit of the Wm. Hamilton Manufacturing Company at the Colonial Exhibition:—"The Hamilton Manufacturing Company, of Peterborough, Ont., have in motion one of Covel's Patent Automatic Saw-sharpening machines for circular and mill webs. The sharpening is done by an emery wheel in the usual way but when the saw is once fixed it requires no further attention till completed. An additional advantage in this machine is that the depth of gullet and sharpening of each tooth is absolutely the same—a result quite unattainable in machines guided by hand. Any desired depth of gullet or rake on tooth can be obtained at will. This machine can be used for sharpening large band-saw blades and taken altogether, it must be pronounced one of the most interesting machines in the exhibition."

Several gangs of men have arrived at Montreal, Quebec, en route to the upper depots of Messrs. Hamilton Bros., and Messrs. Gilmour & Co.

CROPS IN MANITOBA.

WINNIPEG, Aug. 9.—Hon. S. C. Wood and party have returned after travelling five or six hundred miles in the Province. They report that they found the crops in Springfield and north-east of Winnipeg pretty light in the straw and well-headed, and an average as far as the yield is concerned. In Birtle and Shoal Lake districts and around Minnedosa they found the grain well headed, good length of straw and more than an average yield. In Portage la Prairie district they found a very large average under wheat and the crop very good. It was a little shorter in the straw than usual, but will undoubtedly yield well. The same remarks would apply to the Carberry district. In the neighborhood of Brandon, north and south of the track for about four miles, the wheat crop is very poor, the straw being very short. Passing on to Plum Creek settlement the crops are very good, the wheat crop especially. From Plum Creek to Delawara they found an average crop, the grain being well headed, and the yield will doubtless be large. The crops around Boissevain and vicinity are good, and also at Nelson and vicinity, where they will be better than an average. Around Morden and on the Mononite reserve they are light, the straw being very short, but the head is good and the yield will be fair. They noticed wherever they went that where wheat was sown on backset land or summer fallow the crop was good and little damage had occurred from the dry season, the only injury being the shortness of the straw. Wherever wheat was sown on stubble land the straw was very short. In districts where they saw the best crops they also found a very large acreage of summer fallow being prepared for next year. They unanimously reached the conclusion that this year's crop will be the most profitable one that this Province has had for many years. They found the farmers wherever they went hopeful and cheerful. — *Mail.*

ATTEMPTED MURDER.

BRANTFORD, Aug. 7.—Yesterday afternoon, between five and six o'clock, a man called at the residence of Mr. Geo. Massecar, Wellington street, rang the bell, which was answered by Mrs. Massecar, and enquired if Mr. Massecar was home. Mrs. Massecar replied no, but she expected him shortly, and requested the stranger to wait till he came. He said he would call again, and asked for a glass of water. Mrs. Massecar turned to get the water, but no sooner had she turned than the stranger shot her. She fell to the floor unconscious. On regaining consciousness she found the door closed and the man gone. She managed to alarm one of the neighbours, who came to her assistance and a doctor was immediately summoned. The ball struck the thick part of the left arm between the shoulder and the elbow. No serious result is anticipated. The stranger was about 35 years of age, dressed in black clothing. None of the neighbours nor children playing around the house saw the man nor heard the shot fired.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

BOSTON, Mass., Aug. 10.—P. F. Williams, Russel, Sheen, & Co., lumber dealers have failed, and the following firms have failed in consequence: Allen & Noble, hardware dealers; Gorrie & O'Brien, furniture dealers; Thos. F. Brown & Co., furniture; L. E. Pierce, furniture, all of Boston; and the Lewiston steam mills, of Lewiston, Maine. The combined liabilities are \$500,000.

WASHINGTON, D.C., Aug. 10.—The spring wheat returns of the Department of Agriculture for Aug. 1st show an improvement in condition in Iowa, a small decline in Wisconsin and Nebraska and a heavy production in Dakota. The causes of deterioration are drought and chinch bug. The heat has been excessive in many districts that have produced a fair yield.

COBOURG, Ont., Aug. 10.—A party of young men left here yesterday for a week's camping in Rice Lake, and to-day one of

them, named Joseph McCulloch, of this town, took his boat out into the lake with the intention of having a swim, and after jumping into the water was unable to reach the boat, and was drowned before help could reach him. His body was brought in by train to-night. This is the fifth drowning accident in this vicinity this season.

PALMERSTON, Ont., Aug. 10.—Licence Inspector Fisher paid an official visit to town to-night. While putting his horse up at one of the hotels a stranger came up and asked him if he was the Licence Inspector. Being answered in the affirmative, he dealt him several blows with a club, cutting him on the head and shoulders. His injuries are not serious. The stranger, whose name is at present unknown, escaped.

MONTREAL Aug. 9.—Cure Maréchal, of the parish church of Notre Dame de Graces, at the morning service yesterday advised his flock earnestly at the approaching elections to vote for the best candidate, and expressed a sincere hope that no other considerations would weigh with them than a solemn desire to do their duty to the Almighty. He took occasion to revert to the fact which he extremely regretted, that some of the parishioners had a picture of Louis Riel with a rope around his neck in juxtaposition to sacred pictures. He also stated that Louis Riel could not be a martyr, as he had persecuted both the priests and the Church.

Wanted.

THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND feet of dry inch basswood culls.

BELDEN & McDOWELL,
Syracuse, N. Y.

TIMBER LIMITS.

ENDERS for timber limits on Georgian Bay, Muskoka, Black and Trent Rivers, Canada; nearly 270 square miles containing about 260,000,000 feet pine, also for four saw mills on Black and Trent Rivers, will be received up to the 8th September, 1896. For details and terms apply to J. D. SMITH, Port Hope, Ont., or the BANK OF TORONTO, Toronto or Port Hope, Canada. 3116-6w33

For Sale at a Sacrifice.

A SAW MILL

SITUATED in excellent locality with an attachment of 300 acres of well timbered land through which flows the Nottawasaga river. Best water privilege in Simcoe. Capacity of mill eight thousand feet daily. Enough custom work to pay running expenses. Satisfactory reasons for selling. Box 60, Alliston, Ont. 3118

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WHOLESALE and RETAIL

HARDWOOD LUMBER

MERCHANT

Car Lots sold on Commission, railway switch in to yard and plenty of room for storage. Yard corner of Stachan and Wellington Ave. Office, 9 Victoria St., Toronto. Telephone Connection.

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