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MORE lumber will be cut in Maine this winter than has been expected, owing to efforts to secure as much as possible of the large amount of timber that was blown down by recent heavy storms.

At Duluth, 400 buildings were erected during the past year, at a cost of \$1,527,121. The lumber output increased to the amount of 31,325,322 feet, and grain receipts increased nearly one half.

ONE of the largest cargoes of Southern pine ever brought into the port of New York came to Robinson & Booth, per schooner Nathan Esterbrook, Jr., from Pensacola, Fla., consisting of 580,000 feet.

A PARTY of loggers have gone into the woods on the head waters of the Yakama, W. T., under the direction of James Robinson, for the purpose of getting out ties and other timber for the Northern Pacific railroad.

THE Connecticut River Lumber Company, of Hartford, is intending to put into Connecticut river this season 20,000,000 feet of spruce logs: Geo. Van Dyke, of Melndoes Falls, Vt., will put in about 12,000,000 feet, and Capt. A. M. Beattie, of Lancaster, N. H., 5,000,000. A large number of smaller operators will swell the grand total to 50,000,000 feet to be cut from the forests of Northern Vermont and New Hampshire, to be run down the Connecticut.

THE *Northwestern Lumberman* says:—Mr. S. H. Webster, for many years an extensive lumber manufacturer in the Saginaw valley, who a few years ago effected a settlement with his creditors at 50 cents on the dollar, came to the front on New Year's day and presented every one of them with a check for the other half of the dollar. Always a genial generous gentleman as well as an enterprising business man, this last act of Sam Webster, as he is familiarly known, ought to make his name immortal. In this day and age such a deed is as rare as it is gratifying.

THE *Timber Trades Journal* says:—According to the United States papers pitch, or, as they term it yellow, pine, is to be the wood of the future, and men have been buying up timber lands expecting to realize an advance within a reasonable period; but we expect the time will be a long while coming when the demand for pitch pine supersedes that for wood from the Baltic ports. It is idle to talk about the exhaustion of the forests of northern parts of America as clearing the way for a more active consumption in timber from the south, for we have still got to deal with all the Russian forests besides those of Finland, Gulf of Bothnia, and Germany, besides Poland.

#### FOREST DESTRUCTION.

The following is taken from Mr. Sinclair Tousey's travels in Southern Europe:—

Much of France, nearly all of Spain, and large portions of Italy are entirely destitute of forests. The tourist can travel day after day in these countries without seeing standing timber enough to make a decent sized barn. The people in these sections are bothered to get the very little fuel they need, depending upon the trimmings of shade and fruit trees and vines for what they get; while the damage done to the country by heavy rains is beyond estimate, especially in the hilly regions, where the rain, falling on the ground, finding no trees with their wide-spreading roots to check its passage off the place, rushes with tremendous force into the valleys carrying all before it.

So destructive are these torrents, and so suddenly do they come down the river bed, that in many places heavy stone walls are erected to keep the sweeping floods within bounds. Within a few hours after one of these torrents have swept down a valley, the bed of the river will be as dry as if water had never wet it. Another evil is the scarcity of small running streams for the use of cattle and for manufacturing purposes.

The unchecked rain, finding nothing in its way, hastily passes from the surface and gets into the sea; whereas, if the land was sprinkled with forests, much of it would be absorbed by the ground, and by gradual percolation find its way to the streams and keep them alive to aid the work of man and give drink to animals.

I earnestly implore the owners of forests in our favored land to be careful of the trees and waste none. We can leave our successors no better legacy.

#### PROTECTING THE ADIRONDACKS.

The movement in favor of the protection of the Adirondack forests in the State of New York seems to be progressing rigorously. Mr. J. C. Parsons writes to the *Brooklyn Eagle* entering very fully into the advantages of perpetuating these forests as regards climate, the insurance of a water supply for the Erie canal, and the value of the revenue to be derived from the timber, &c. As to the question of purchasing lands in addition to those held by the State he says:—

"But why should the lands not be made in time to repay the cost of purchase. Setting aside other considerations, in respect to the general welfare of the State? If immense fortunes have been made in the lumber business why cannot the State, by establishing the same system in connection with the forests as in Europe and Canada, derive an annual revenue from the judicious thinning out of the timber."

We fully agree with the writer as to the propriety and the economy of the course he suggests, and willingly accept his testimony in favor

of such a system. We must, however, express our regret that the situation is not so favorable in Canada as he imagines. In Europe the Government forests are perpetual and yield a constant annual revenue without impairing the national property. In Canada though there are annual receipts from the Crown forests they are not in the nature of a yearly income from capital, but are obtained by the suicidal policy of "killing the goose that lays the golden eggs." Our forests are being destroyed, not cropped as in the European system.

#### SUPPLIES FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

The *Timber Trades Journal* says:—It must be kept in mind that the vast consumption of timber going on in America does not effect the European export market very much, because there is sufficient competition among the various timber shipping countries on this side of the Atlantic, to keep prices moderately low, even if the supply from North America to the United Kingdom were cut off altogether; and it is significant that among the causes periodically assigned for inducing us to believe in a shorter supply the succeeding season, no attempt is now made to persuade us that the Scandinavian forests are graduating towards early extinction, when no further use can be made of natural causes—the absence of frost and snow, the want of water in the rivers, or too much of it &c.—then societies, clubs, and conventions are either formed or forming, we are told, to prevent so much wood from being cut down, and to limit the supply to the requirements of the trade, with a fair profit to everybody. But somehow or other it always happens that, however large has been the export from the producing countries, there is a good deal more left in the hands of the shippers than it is agreeable for them to hold over when the season closes.

The letters of our Swedish and Norwegian correspondents, which we published last week, are both pretty much to the same effect. The one alluding to the mild season that had prevailed in Sweden up to that date (15th Dec.) adds: "There will consequently be no production of logs to speak of in the principal export districts till the second week in January." This may be remedied; but he says that it is intended to curtail the supply "unless a rise of price takes place before the end of February;" but in any case he thinks "it would be suicidal to make as many logs as of late years." Our Norway authority also is of the same opinion, stating "that it is pretty certain the number of logs will not be large, the cutting having begun so late."

But what we have to look at is the state of the supply on this side, and the general desire which is always apparent in the timber countries to get their produce turned into British money with the least possible delay, in obedience to a natural law which governs all trade—just

as we see in our own ironworks, where the manufacturers are quite as anxious to do business now that the price is about £6 per ton as they were when the same description was £10 and £12 per ton. And as there is something more than an average winter stock of wood goods in hand on our side, it is not likely that larger prices will find favor here for some time to come with those who are not likely to require their customary supplies very hastily from abroad.

#### THE CANADIAN POPLAR (POPULUS CANADENSIS.)

I have long thought that this tree deserved to be more extensively planted than it is, especially in situations for which it is more especially adapted, viz., moist water margins and similar places. Even when planted in elevated or dry situations it over tops everything else. I have in my "mind's eye" a belt of mixed trees that were planted about forty years ago, and the Canadian Poplar, as it is locally called, is nearly double the height of the other trees, of which a goodly proportion are spruce firs; the poplar far outstrips them all, both in height and cubic contents of timber. It is, however, as I have said, in damp ground that its rapidity of growth and inclination to produce timber is more especially remarkable. The timber, likewise, is not without value; but I do not fully endorse an old distich which speaks of it as outlasting that of the oak under certain circumstances. There are, however, purposes for which it is very suitable, being almost incombustible. In Kent there has been of late years a great demand for it for the joists of hop-kilns, which, being exposed to the action of a hot charcoal or coke fire burning openly a few feet below, are necessarily much exposed to the risk of being burned down. Poplar joists are, therefore, much sought after. Boards of poplar, as well as those of willow, are also useful for insides of stone wagons or carts, where a harder wood is not so good, being liable to splinter during rough usage. There are other purposes to which poplar wood may be turned to good account, but it is unnecessary to mention them here; suffice it to say that the rapidity of its growth is a sufficient reason for recommending it to be planted extensively by all who wish for immediate effect.—A. R. G., in "*Woods and Forests.*"

#### A Large Contract.

Mr. Oscar A. Droegge has just entered into a contract with the Mexican Government to plant 2,000,000 trees in the Valley of Mexico within four years. The contractor pledges himself to plant 80,000 ash, 33,000 willows, 120,000 poplars, 60,000 eucalyptus trees, 60,000 acacias, and 120,000 of miscellaneous varieties. The trees must be in plantations of from 20,000 to 100,000 each.