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HEMLOCK.

Of this wood, Mr. E. Jack, of Fredericton, says: "We are beginning in New Brunswick to pay a little more attention to the subject of hemlock than ever before, although the lumbermen of St. Stephens have been fully alive to its value for some time past. One of them informed me that last season he had received \$5,000 stumpage for the bark on two million feet board measure, of hemlock logs."

One of the principal builders in Fredericton, Mr. Mitchell, says of this wood: "For common kitchen furniture, I believe that the best of hemlock might be used very advantageously, indeed, I think it is the best soft wood which we have for such purposes, pine, of course, excepted. It does not warp nor shrink so much as spruce, and is easier worked. I have never made any cabinet furniture from it as yet, but I am sure that it might be used to a considerable extent for such purposes. For building material it might be used much more than it is. In 1851 I built a brick house in Fredericton, and put in hemlock for all the flooring joists, and I think that there are no better floors in Fredericton today. Hemlock is superior to spruce for rough boarding or for board fencing, as the board can be got wider than spruce, and do not require so many nails, and are not so liable to warp as are those made of spruce. It dries very fast and does not shrink quite as much as either spruce or pine. Hemlock might also be used for the inside finishing of houses, and is a very pretty wood when well oiled and varnished."

A GOOD EXAMPLE.

From advance sheets of the Report of the Department of Agriculture of the United States just received, we notice our go-a-head neighbors are taking the bull by the horns with regard to forestry. Finding the vast and increasing importance of this branch of the service has outgrown its limits, and requires so much care and attention, the Commissioner of Agriculture formed it into a distinct division, to be devoted entirely to the investigation of such subjects as will lead to the fullest development of the resources of the country in this respect.

This new office will have in view the best means of checking the wasting away of the large timber areas, the maintenance of the forest lands, by protection, replanting, and by the dissemination of such information as will assist as far as possible all the various interests involved in this industry.

In furtherance of this design, an agent of the Department has been sent on a mission to Europe to investigate the organizing and working of experimental forest stations, schools of forestry, private tree-planting, and the aid afforded by the government to the business of forestry.

It is perhaps unfortunate that at the time of confederation the timber interests of Canada

were handed over to individual provinces, instead of being retained under one head. A more united action and supervision could then have been had over this vast source of Canadian wealth. It is well known that Britain and the United States are large buyers of timber from this country, and the North West is also destined to require an almost unlimited supply. Already houses have been shipped from the Ottawa mills by rail to Winnipeg, ready for putting together when they reach their destination. With these considerations in view, it is impossible to foresee the result should our pine forests give out before they can be renewed. The large advances over former years given for timber berths at the sales this autumn already indicate that timber is getting scarce. Surely the approaching Ontario session will not pass over without something being done in the shape of protecting our pine lands from pillage and from bush fires, and in taking into consideration some method, or devising some means for replanting our lands already stripped of their forest wealth.

Mr. Burko's able prize paper on forestry, which we printed at the time, has already treated on these subjects, and we only wish to call attention in this issue as to what the Americans are doing, so that Canada may not be left behind hand in the preservation of her woods and forests.

TREE CULTURE.

The return of Prof. F. B. Hough from Europe is announced, and to the majority of readers the announcement conveyed their first knowledge that the Agricultural Bureau has a division of forestry, of which he is the head. For seven months he has been studying the schools of forestry in various continental countries of Europe, and, having brought back a large collection of material, he proposes to make recommendations to congress for planting, preserving, and maintaining forests on the prairie and desert lands of the west. Some progress has already been made in tree culture in this country. A few states, by exemption from taxes and otherwise, have sought to arouse an interest in the subject, but for the most part local and voluntary organizations have done all the work. In 1876, B. G. Northrop, secretary of the Connecticut board of education, distributed a circular among the schools of that state suggesting, as a good centennial movement—not to end soon but to be continued—an annual tree-planting on the highways. He said then, in a pamphlet reviewing the various educational topics, that George B. Emerson, author of the work on "The Trees and Shrubs of Massachusetts," had, during that year, imported and planted more than 30,000 European larches of two years' growth from the seed. That tree, long one of the chief timber trees of Europe, was pronounced by the Boston and Albany railroad,

after 15 years' trial of it in ties, as durable as red cedar, and the Illinois Central road ordered to carry the European larch gratuitously to any point on its line, provided the trees were to be planted near the line. Many millions of these trees and of the Scotch pine (said to be the best tree for poor soils) are growing in the west, and (said this pamphlet) "in the new arboretum belonging to Harvard college, situated in Brookline, and including over 130 acres, are now growing over 200,000 small trees started from the seed, including 93 varieties of evergreens, 450 of deciduous trees and shrubs, and 34 of oaks." Connecticut, in 1877, passed a law exempting from all taxation whatever, for a term of ten years after an average of six feet in height had been attained, any plantation of any eight trees named, provided that the lands so used had not heretofore been woodland; that it was not actually worth more than \$15 per acre at the time of planting, and that the trees numbered at least 1,200 to the acre. In Massachusetts a draft of a bill is ready for the legislature, which provides that whenever any town devotes, by proper legal form, any part of its area to tree culture, and whenever the appropriation for buying this tract, plus donations, equals the assessed value of the real estate included, the tract shall become a public domain, the title to vest in the commonwealth, but the tract to be perpetually held for the benefit of the town, subject to some restrictions unnecessary to quote; the act shall not apply to any tract of less than 500 acres, unless adjoining some other tract which will make that area of continuous public domain. A state board of forestry is also provided for.

The foregoing only shows the drift of feeling, and is by no means a complete sketch of the organized movement which has resorted to statutes and to work through fair and similar associations. The best work, because the speediest and most contagious, is probably that of the village improvement society. Thus, an item we have previously quoted from the Springheld Republican, a year or two old, reads that "the Williamstown Improvement Society finished last week its tree-planting, and there is now a continuous row of 450 elms for three miles from the village to the North Adams line. It asks North Adams people to continue the row to their village." It is natural for North Adams to do so, and for other villages to imitate the example set. Here is probably the most effective plan, needing only that some public spirited person in every village should start about and make the start. But, as we have already remarked, the tree lines should not stop where the village ends; they should be continued until all the highways become leafy lanes. The work is no very arduous one, requiring only co-operation and concerted action. "Tree planting day" may be made one of the most delightful in the year. That the mud will

not dry so quickly on a shaded road is true, but it is an error to assume the necessity of having the mud there. The trees will naturally beget a desire for good roads, which do not include mud and sand, and the farmer who has intelligence to value a tree except to fell it will not be long in discovering the economic value of good roads, even when they cost something.

Do trees pay? In part an answer may be had to this if we suppose wood capable of being mined, fruit and nuts growing on vines, and the earth to become treeless. Where trees are wanting is desert, where they will grow other vegetation will, and their cultivation is able to remove sterility in many places. Civilization makes a mistake in viewing the forest as an enemy merely because it had the soil first, and counts too much on the axe and faeces as a symbol of progress; trees are closely linked with high civilization, comfort, prosperity and education, and the rule should everywhere be that trees should be wherever the soil is not needed otherwise—this would allow all the room wanted by cultivation, while retaining forest and shade. The close connection between rain-fall, drought and trees is becoming seen, their intrinsic value is second only to that of minerals, and no improvement yields so well, for their first cost is unappreciable. Not is it necessary to base their culture solely on regard for posterity, which has never done anything for us, because a decade or so will make them useful to their planters. Hard and slow work as it is to start public movements which do not appeal especially to private interests—for example, in the matter of the Niagara Falls international park and the Adirondack reservation in this state—there is gratifying progress in tree culture. An evidence of it is the enlightened selfishness which has led some railroad companies to erect tasteful station buildings and to beautify them cheaply by little flower beds as well as to discover the practical utility as well as pleasanter appearance of a grassy road-bed. Trees are a good part of the original plan of the world, and it is sensible to discover that their destruction and repression are no improvement upon it.—*N. Y. Times.*

QUEBEC TIMBER VESSELS.

The following is a comparative statement of sailing vessels cleared at the Port of Quebec, for sea, (lumber laden,) in 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880 and 1881, from the opening to close of navigation, compiled by Mr. F. Johnston, Quebec Exchange:—

1874.....	854 Vessels.	.....	638,672 tons.
1875.....	642 "	.....	478,441 "
1876.....	780 "	.....	624,110 "
1877.....	796 "	.....	670,627 "
1878.....	476 "	.....	399,833 "
1879.....	483 "	.....	364,628 "
1880.....	634 "	.....	555,451 "
1881.....	460 "	.....	380,196 "