

tion of their lumber in Canada and so check the exhaustion of the home supply that under the present circumstances is rapidly proceeding. The New York Post in directing attention to the subject thus states the case:—"Our forests are rapidly swept away by the drains now made upon them. They must be relieved, and their only possible relief is found in Canada. The \$22,000,000 which the tariff takes from the pockets of consumers of lumber is unimportant in comparison with the indirect damage this tariff causes to the country by hastening the destruction of the forests. We must look this matter clearly in the face; we must not deliberately allow our forests to be destroyed, and entail upon ourselves and our children all the evils which their destruction will bring, merely to make a few lumbermen rich. On this one point tariff reformers and protectionists can well meet on the common ground of public necessity. The future prosperity of the country is at stake." Taking the view that the conservation of our forests is of greater moment than their conversion into money, with the sources of employment which such conversion affords, it would be the course of prudence on our part to impose an export duty on all lumber sent out of the country. That is a proposition to which, however, scanty support would be accorded. We watch with concern the measure of our lumber exported, we trace in the expansion and contraction of that trade the measure of our commercial prosperity, we encourage in many ways the extension of lumbering operations, we are even eager to induce the United States to open its markets to the products of our forests free of duty, in order that we may more rapidly turn the fixed wealth of our forests into floating capital. It seems somewhat curious to find an influential journal in the United States urging the abolition of the duty on lumber, less because it conceives that consumers will thereby gain an advantage in lower prices, than because the American forests ought to be preserved by the sacrifice of those of Canada. Our own conviction is that the abolition of the American duty on lumber imported from Canada would check in an unappreciable degree the destruction of timber wealth of the United States. With American markets adjacent to Canada, but remote from the centres of the home supply, such as those of New York State, freedom of import would cause an enlargement of trade, but when it is stated that the import of Canadian pine and spruce lumber into the United States is only one-twentieth of the total quantity annually manufactured in that country, it will be seen how remotely the question of the preservation of the forests is affected by the duty. The importance of conserving of forest wealth is yearly becoming more generally recognized; it is being continually pressed upon the Governments of Canada and the United States by the press, and by the Forestry Congress, whose labors in this direction have been arduous and laudable. But it is a subject beyond the influence of tariffs; it is one which each country must deal with directly through legislation tending to prevent the wanton destruction and waste of the forests now prevalent, and tending to the encouraging of tree-planting. If due care is exercised in this direction by our governments, the abolition of the American duty will be a matter of congratulation to us, as contributing to the enlargement of trade with the United States, without causing a counterbalancing loss in the rapid exhaustion of our lumber supply.—*Montreal Gazette.*

**THE FOREST RESOURCES OF MEXICO.**

The New Orleans Times-Democrat, in reviewing an article from *La Patrie*, Mexican journal, gives the following concerning Mexican forests: "Hitherto the vast pine, cedar, walnut and oak forests that are scattered so plentifully along the slopes of the Sierra Nevada and the Sierra Madre mountains, and on the sides of the mountainous ranges of tall foot hills that corrugate the surface of the country, have never been utilized. The ports on either coast and the cities of the interior connected with said ports by wagon roads were, and yet are, supplied by the saw-mills of the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific coasts. But the mere cost of transportation to the Mexican seaports, and from thence to the cities of the interior, renders the

price of foreign lumber very high. For example, Orizaba, which is about 90 miles by railroad from Vera Cruz, consumes a fair quantity of lumber annually, yet sapless pine wood sells readily, at the railroad depot of Orizaba, for \$75 per thousand feet. At Chihuahua, the capital city of the state of the same name, which is distant about 100 miles from one of the grandest pine forest regions on the planet, fine pitch-pine lumber often brings as high as \$90.

It is a well known fact that the Mexican Central, the Mexican National and the Mexican Oriental Railroad companies have been compelled to purchase the vast quantities of timber consumed in their construction works, in the United States. Our southern mills have hitherto controlled this great traffic, but the time has at last arrived when Mexicans begin to appreciate the value of this business, and are making arrangements to secure by Government grant or otherwise, most of the timber lands of the Republic.

Notwithstanding the fact that the greater portion of Mexico lies within the tropics, such is the peculiarity of its topography that most of the several states may be said to enjoy all varieties of climate, comprising the different grades from tropic heat to extreme cold.

Where the land attains an altitude of 4,000 or 5,000 feet above the sea, pine, oak, larch, sycamore, walnut, hickory and hard cedar trees flourish to perfection. The states of Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Durango, Sinaloa, Michoacan, Jalisco, Mexico, Hidalgo and Vera Cruz, possess an almost inexhaustible quantity of these valuable timber trees, as well as forests of mahogany, cedar, ebony, etc., which are produced in the lands lying in a lower altitude.

In view of these facts, and in consequence of the rapid development of the country by American railroad enterprise, the general government—where it possesses timber lands—and also the state governments, have determined to grant liberal concessions to all capitalists who may desire to undertake the development of the vast lumber resources of Mexico.

The time is fast approaching when our southern timber dealers will appreciate the immense value of the forests of Mexico. This enterprise should be taken in hand by southerners. Mexico, for hundreds of miles, is divided from our southwestern territory by only a narrow, un-navigable river; and while American lumbermen can supply the American market with Mexican lumber, produced on Mexican soil, they might at the same time furnish our southern timber mart with the precious woods, so sought after by the furniture makers of this section.—*Northwestern Lumberman.*

**THE U. S. LUMBER DUTIES.**

The New York Sun has the following article: The intelligent discussion which the action of the Committee of Ways and Means in recommending the retention of the duty upon lumber entering the United States has excited in all parts of the country, is gratifying. It indicates that purely economic questions are growing in popular favor, and that everything relating to our forests or forest protection interests the people.

It is probably this interest in forest protection, rather than the desire for cheaper lumber for the consumer, which underlies this discussion.

It is the height of folly, of course, to tax foreign lumber. The duties collected in this way by the Government are insignificant in amount, and every dollar thus collected is taken, over and over again from the consumer of domestic lumber for the sole benefit of the manufacturers. These have not the excuse of a weak and undeveloped industry which must be built up at the expense of the consumer for the general good of the country.

The manufacturers of lumber are rich, prosperous, and strong. Their methods and facilities for carrying on their business are unsurpassed. No possible competition can deprive them of large profits. If there exists in the United States a single industry which is in the position to flourish without protection, it is the lumber industry.

From purely economic grounds this duty should be removed. It has served to build up

dangerous monopolies, and it represses the prosperity of the country. It is evident, however, that the wide interest manifested in this question arises less from the feeling that it is desirable to prevent monopoly than from the fact that the removal of this duty is the first, and an indispensable, step toward forest protection. The forest question is becoming one of the popular questions of the day, and every thing which relates to the extent and condition of our forests is eagerly read and discussed. It requires no great knowledge of the subject to understand that if Canadian lumber is excluded by the tariff, the drain upon our forests must be greater than if Canadian lumber was allowed to compete on equal terms with the product of our own forests. The people understand this; they understand that the destruction of the forests means something more serious than a dearth of lumber. They apprehend that the removal of the forests will be followed by severe climatic changes; that the rivers of the country will often be changed to torrents or reduced to streamlets; that springs and streams will disappear; that agriculture will perish and manufactures languish. They see these evils hastened by the retention of this protective duty; they ask themselves by what right the prosperity of the country is placed in jeopardy because it is the pleasure of a group of men to grow rich, and because Congress is too ignorant or too indifferent to stop this abuse. No more vital question can come before Congress; perhaps no Congress has ever been called on to decide an economic question of greater moment.

Is there no man who can join the discordant elements of the Protectionists, the Tariff Reformers, and the Free Traders; who can unite Democrats and Republicans on the broad platform of public necessity, to check this destruction of our wasting forests? Such a man will deserve the name of statesman and the gratitude of the country.

**Log Slide.**

The *Northwestern Lumberman* says:—Par-melee & Son, Malone, N. Y., are logging on the slope of a precipitous mountain, near Lake Titus, Adirondack region. To get the logs down the mountain they have constructed a slide one-third of a mile long. It is said that the momentum of cannon-ball is hardly equal to that with which the spruce sticks are hurled from the lower end of the slide. The *Courier and Freeman*, of Potsdam, in view of this device for denuding the mountain sides, gloomily exclaims: "This, and other similar items, shows that in a few years the Adirondack wilderness will be changed into a treeless scene of desolation. Its lakes, ponds and streams will dry up; but so long as money is to be got the havoc will go on."

**Devoted to Forest.**

Mr. M. C. Read, of Hudson, Ohio, says:—In the Dominion of Canada are millions of acres of land which from the nature of the soil must be perpetually devoted to forest growth. They constitute the natural sources of a supply of lumber for the productive arable and pasture lands to the south of them, in the United States, as well as in Canada.

The time is at hand when we shall be wholly dependent upon this source of supply, or upon the artificial growth of timber in our own country, if the present rate of destruction of our forests is continued.

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Mr. THOMAS W. RACE, Editor and Proprietor of the *Mitchell Recorder*, writes that he had a prejudice against Patent Medicines, but being induced to try Burdock Blood Bitters, for Biliousness that occasioned such violent headache and distress as to often disable him from work. The medicine gave him relief, and he now speaks of it in the most favorable terms.

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