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### MIRAMICHI.

The *Timber Trade Journal* commenting on the trade at Miramichi says:—

Miramichi (conversationally pronounced *Merrimaskee*) has always stood next to Quebec for the quality of its yellow pine produce, and some years ago its hewn timber sent here was esteemed by many, who were good judges, to be better on the whole even than that of Quebec, more free from small knots, and kinder to work (to use an expressive term in joinery); but it stood second to it usually at market, because it was not so well squared, nor turned out of hand so evenly. But, as that district has not so great a choice of interior forests to draw its supplies from as Quebec (which intercepts all the rafts coming down the mighty St. Lawrence, between it and Montreal), its timber gradually became of smaller average size than that of Quebec, and eventually it was found more profitable to convert it into deals, boards, and scantlings, and its hewn timber has therefore almost disappeared from our markets, as may be proved by the fact that, out of over 150,000 loads shipped there this season, 824 only were hewn pine timber and 883 birch.

Miramichi was one of the ports that were late in opening this year, or rather that vessels could not reach till some time after the port itself was free from obstruction on account of the drift of ice between Cape Race and the Magdalen Islands, and from subsequent information as to drought all along that coast, and the stoppage of mills for want of water—which was dwelt on by correspondents in August last as serious impediments to our further supplies from the lower ports—a diminished export was strongly insisted on from those regions. Even if supplies, contrary to expectation, should be up to the average there for shipment to this country, another difficulty was exhibited to us—there would not be enough ships to fetch it away. Late arrivals out, and long passages home, had thrown the bulk of the spring fleet into the month of August, and not many of them, it was argued, would be able to accomplish a second voyage. At all events few, if any of them, have completed their second voyage yet; but, despite these obstacles, we cannot accuse Miramichi of being any party to such deficiency, as may eventually appear, when the Board of Trade returns come to be made up at the year's end, as will be seen by referring to the statement issued to the 2nd

of Sept. last and compared with the exports of the two previous years. In 1878 the United Kingdom imported a great deal more timber than it had any need to have done of which Miramichi furnished us with the principal part of 78 321,890 M. feet, or 130,536 loads. But having large stocks in this country when the next season began, and trade going from bad to worse, in 1879 the export trade of Miramichi fell off in like proportion, and in that year the shipments only reached 69,686,919 M. feet, or 115,979 loads. But this last year of 1880, always reckoning each year from September to September 2nd, reached the total of 89,274,856 M. feet, or 148,791 loads, 14 per cent. more than 1878, and 25 per cent. more than 1879. So much for the anticipated shortage in the colonial timber, as far as Miramichi is concerned. The proportion of Miramichi exports to this country may be reckoned as four fifths of its whole production, if not something more, but we shall probably get more exact returns later in the year.

### OTTAWA VALLEY LUMBER TRADE.

A despatch from Ottawa dated, Nov. 20th, states, that the total value of products of the forest sent from the port of Ottawa in 1879 was \$1,199,844, as against \$1,518,623 for the first three-quarters of the current year. This was largely represented by lumber, the quantity being as follows: Last year 117,002,000 feet were exported and for the first nine months of the current year 139,056,000 feet. The total cut of lumber by the mills of this immediate locality this current year is about 235,000,000 feet, representing a value of nearly three million dollars. The following is the estimate; E. B. Eddy, 40,000,000 feet; Bronson & Weston, 37,000,000; Perky & Pattee, 30,000,000; J. R. Booth, 30,000,000; Gilmour & Co.'s mill, 30,000,000; Sherman, Lord & Co., 25,000,000; Capt. Young, 13,000,000; McLaren & Co., 15,000,000; McClelland & Co., 10,000,000. The price of stocks during last season ranged at from \$12 to \$15 per thousand and this year from \$12 to \$18. A leading lumberman says the prospects are that the market will rule about the same next year as it has this. No contracts have been made yet by any of the Chaudiere or Hull firms to his knowledge. The production of lumber will cost more the coming season than it has this owing to the advance in wages which will about cover the difference in price of

stocks this year over last. There were sixteen hundred thousand logs received this summer as against nine hundred and seventy thousand last year, being the second largest quantity ever brought down to the Chaudiere. In the history of the Ottawa Valley, 1873 was the best year, 1,750,000 logs having come down. It is estimated that 1,700,000 or 1,800,000 logs will be taken out this winter. The outlook regarding the lumber business and timber trade is most encouraging. Thirty-five rafts of square timber were brought down the past summer, as against thirty in 1879. Next year it is thought that ninety rafts will come down.

### DESTRUCTION OF FORESTS IN NEW ZEALAND.

Notwithstanding the fact that total the area of forest Crown lands in New Zealand amounts to no less than 10,158,870 acres, fears are being officially expressed that the destruction of trees is carried on so rapidly as to endanger the future supply of timber in the Colony. The report of the Crown Lands Department for the year ending June 30 last, states that the stock of some of the most valuable timber trees is being exhausted more quickly than it can be replaced by the natural growth of young trees, and in a wasteful manner which is, in the future interest of the Colony, much to be regretted. It is estimated, for instance, that, although the noble and valuable Kauri forests cover an area of 230,000 acres, and reckoning only two trees to the acre, and 5,000 feet of timber to each tree, contain altogether about 2,300,000,000 feet of timber, the whole existing supply will be exhausted within twenty-one years at the present rate of destruction. These Kauri forests are very susceptible to fire, and, when once started, will burn with great fury. Besides this source of danger, the young plants are liable to destruction by cattle, and their growth is thwarted in various other ways. The relative proportions of the various other timber trees in New Zealand are only imperfectly known; but recent examination has shown that, besides the Kauri, several of the more highly prized kinds are being rapidly exterminated. Such an event would be deplorable from many points of view; for, not only would the resources of the Colony be seriously crippled, but its climate must suffer from the denudation of its forest lands.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

This Western Province of the Dominion of Canada, including Vancouver and other islands, has an area of 330,000 square miles. It has a seaboard, and an air line, of 550 miles. Throughout the whole extent of the Province there is an abundance of forest land, the timber on which is of the most valuable description; one kind especially, says the Standard Atlas, the Douglas pine, yields spars from ninety to one hundred feet in length, without knots or branches. The diameter varies from six to ten feet, and in quality is about twice as strong as Canadian red pine, and being more gummy, is more durable. At Burrard Inlet, nine miles from New Westminster there are pine trees twenty-seven to thirty feet in diameter. The yearly exports of timber amount to about \$500,000, but the vast forests have hardly been touched.

The mineral resources of British Columbia are very great. Gold is found in great abundance in the Cariboo district, and along the Fraser and Thompson rivers. In 1870, the yield from the Cariboo district exceeded one million dollars, while the yield for the entire province for the past ten years has exceeded twenty-two million dollars. Silver and copper are also to be had in abundance, but the mines have not as yet been very largely worked. The true wealth of the province, however, is its coal fields, which are inexhaustible, easy of access, and easily worked. Bituminous coal is found on Vancouver Island. The latter has been sold in San Francisco at \$20 per ton. The annual exportations of coal exceed \$200,000.

### COMPLIMENTARY

We have to thank Messrs. Watrous, of Brantford, for the complimentary terms in which they have referred to the *Lumberman*. We are glad to notice from the *Monetary Times* of the 19th inst. that Mr. Peter Loggie's mill, Chatham, N.B., can saw 34,000 feet of lumber in ten hours, and that it has turned out 4,000,000 superficial feet in six months, between 18th May and 15th Nov. this year. The machinery of this 35 horse power steam mill was built about four years ago by the Messrs. Watrous, and has worked satisfactorily ever since.

—Estimated quantity of square pine timber to be taken out on the Upper Ottawa and tributaries this winter received, and will appear in next issue.