



PUBLISHED }
SEMI-MONTHLY. }

The only Newspaper devoted to the Lumber and Timber Industries published in Canada

SUBSCRIPTION }
\$2.00 PER ANNUM }

VOL. 4.

PETERBOROUGH, ONT., OCTOBER 1, 1884.

NO. 19.

FORESTRY IN CANADA.

Among the papers read at the meeting in Montreal of the British Association for the Advancement of Science was one by Mr. A. T. Drummond, on "The Distribution of Canadian Forest Trees in its relation to climate and other causes," in which it was pointed out that there are ninety-five species of forest trees in Canada. The Province of Ontario has 65 species of which 61 are found in the districts bordering Lake Erie. Of these 65 species 52 extend eastward to the Province of Quebec, 35 are found on the easterly and westerly sides of Lake Superior, whilst only 14 range westerly into the prairie country at and beyond the Red River. Again, in British Columbia there are 33 species, of which only seven extend eastward beyond the influence of the Rocky Mountains, and with one exception these seven are well distributed over the whole Dominion. Only three of our Canadian trees are identical with European species, the chestnut, white birch and yew. Canada may be divided into four great forest areas or zones, which may for convenience be termed the zones of the (1) Douglas fir, occupying Central and Southern British Columbia. (2) Poplars, covering the whole country from the most northern limit of the growth of trees southward, east of the Rocky Mountains, to the South Saskatchewan, Qu'Appelle and Winnipeg rivers, Lake Nepigon and Anticosti, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. (3) White and red pine, extending from Lake of the Woods and Lake Nepigon to Anticosti, thence to the Georgian Bay, Lower Ottawa River and Nova Scotia. (4) Beech and maple, occupying those parts of Ontario and Quebec lying south of the zone of the pines. Along the shores of Lake Erie is what might be almost regarded a fifth zone, very circumscribed in area, but having within it several outliers of the forests of the Middle States. The frequent peculiarities in range of forest trees in Canada are due to physical conditions and differences in climate, resulting from differences in these conditions. The northern half of the American continent consists on the one side, of enormous stretches of continuous land and has, on the other in its midst, immense areas of water and widely and deeply indented shores—Labrador and the great section of country lying between Hudson Bay and the great lakes and the Gulf of St. Lawrence being virtually one immense peninsula. The double effect of a northern latitude, and the presence of these great bodies of water is very marked in the lower general temperature, the shorter summers and more severe winters. These influences check the northern range of forest trees beyond the outlet of Lake Superior, and, with the aid of the branch Labrador current, prevent their extension down the St. Lawrence below Quebec. The great chain of lakes from Superior to Ontario have not only their effect on temperature, but, by their great

width, create a barrier to the northward extension into Canada of many United States forest trees. A remarkable feature in forest distribution is the fact that immediately west of Lake Superior many of the most important trees, as white pine, basswood, red oak and sugar maple, are no longer found. The prairie appears to form a barrier to westward distribution. The prairies were probably at one time covered with trees which have been destroyed by fires. The effect of this has been to create a less rainfall, a quicker drainage from the soil, a dry atmosphere and constant exposure to high prairie winds, all of which appear to be inimical to many forest trees. British Columbia has a distinctive forest area of its own. The trees are largely of the pine family, and, with seven exceptions, do not range east of the Rocky Mountains. They are similar to those of Oregon and Washington, and the direction of the mountain ranges and similar moist climate has favored this. The white pine, yellow pine, and Douglas spruce are more or less known to commerce, but there are several other British Columbia trees which are as yet comparatively untried. In the near future the lumber trade there is likely to attain large proportions. Referring to the North West it was pointed out that the future cities and towns could exist only where abundant water was present and that thus the supply of water in the rivers was of vast importance. To preserve a constant and uniform supply it was absolutely necessary to have the source of each important stream examined. If forests already exist there, then reserve a large area of them from public sale, if they do not, then the Government should at once promote the planting of forests or institution of national parks at such points. There are numerous rivers requiring such attention.

The above paper was followed by one by Mr. G. P. Hughes on "Forests, their value meteorologically and as national reserves." The author, taking a retrospect of the primeval forest, and regarding it geologically, pointed out that civilization and the arts must ever remain indebted to the imbedded forests of proglacial times. He referred to some of the instances we have in Great Britain and America of forests perpendicularly fossilized by subsidence into tranquil water, thereby furnishing a means by which the age of the formation may be calculated, and the structure of tree be observed. He referred to the dependence of man in all ages of his history upon the forest for material for houses, ships, implements and the production of heat. Calling attention to the denudation of most eastern countries once famous for civilization and the arts, and to the hurtful destruction of valuable timber even in one day. The result has been greater climatic changes, and in the tropics a barren deadness, where once great states held sway. He advocated planting

the creek and reservoir margins in Northern Australia and tropical India, and quoted authority to back out his own opinion that among improvements to property planting offers the most certain returns in material, shelter and ornament. He gave a sketch of a course of study for a school of forestry and advocated state and a privilege to such institutions in order that our native forests may be supplied with scientific heads of departments. He made an appeal to British America to set aside forest reserves adequate for all future requirements.

The President announced that he had received a paper from Dr. Franklin A. Houghton on "The Future Policy of the Forest Management of the United States," the general conclusions of which were that the people needed instruction and that colleges should take the matter up, as well as schools, for which there should be teachers capable of giving practical instruction on the subject.

After a brief discussion Sir Richard Temple recommended Canadian foresters to visit the Norwegian forests.

PRACTICAL FORESTRY.

To the Editor of the Canada Lumberman.

DEAR SIR,—I have contracted for 6,000 black walnut trees, four feet high, to come from the Western States. The cost will, laid down free in Oshawa, including distribution, freight, duty, etc., not exceed twenty cents a ch coming in car loads. I bought them for the purpose of inducing the residents of Pickering, East and West Wharby, Reach and Darlington, including the towns and villages, to plant them in and about their homes. I will give them to anyone who desires them (not exceeding ten) at actual cost. They are a very rapid grower; make a beautiful shade tree, bear a delicious nut and are very valuable for lumber whenever it might be desirable to cut them down. I have thought that five or six of them planted in a circle, say 7½ feet in diameter and one in the centre, would make a very beautiful and desirable group of trees for shade for cattle. They will also add to the beauty and comfort of homes when planted in and about the houses and barns; but, I would suggest to those who plant them that they trim them when very young, by degrees, so as to leave the main trunk 18 or 20 feet high before any limbs are allowed to branch out. This will add to their value in the future for lumber. Three trees planted near Hamilton, 30 years ago, are said to be now worth \$100 each to cut down for lumber.

I will file any applications which are sent to me for them in the order in which they are received and fill them in the same order. They will come early in the spring, but I would like to know, at as early a date as possible, who would like them. I have taken the trouble to get these trees solely for the purpose of adding

to the beauty and comfort of the homes in this section. I am sure any one who plants them will feel repaid within a very few years and that his children and children's children will thank him for it. One planted in my garden bore nuts the third year after planting.

I am, dear sir, yours very truly,

F. W. GLEN.

WORTH SEEING.

The following letter is from the Hamilton Spectator:

DEAR SPEC.—Taking advantage of the last warm spell, and combining business with pleasure, I started from Hamilton by steamer Southern Belle for Toronto, where taking the steamer Passport I proceeded to Montreal. Staying over night at that city I took the 8.45 a. m. train of the Canada Atlantic Railway and arrived at Casselman, a distance of 87 miles from Montreal at 11.20. A very fine country is passed through and fairly timbered. At Casselman I was met by Mr. Mackay, the courteous representative of Messrs. Platt & Bradley, who showed me over the mill, which is well worth seeing. The mill stands alongside the Nation River, is substantially built and with machinery of the latest improvement, and everything about it so perfect that one is astonished at the rapidity with which the logs are handled. Stretching away to the south and to the east are the timber limits belonging to the firm, and here you see the virgin forest to perfection as not a stick has been culled from the land. Stately pines, of a growth to gladden the heart of a lumberman, magnificent oaks and other trees meet your view in all directions; and as you return your steps to the station from this almost primeval spot, now abounding with game, you say to yourself, in a few years all this will be smiling farms, and as you step into the cars and are borne along you turn once more to gaze at the mill, which stand a monument to the energy and enterprise of this well known firm.

J. T. ROUTH.

Reducing Expenses.

A novel project is on foot among the owners of lumber vessels in the Chicago and Michigan trade to reduce expenses. Says the Chicago Inter-Ocean: "It is proposed to arrange with certain tugs in Chicago and at Muskegon for the towing of vessels all the way across the lake from port to port. Tows of three vessels each are to be made up. A Muskegon tug will bring a tow of loaded craft half way across the lake, where she will be met by a Chicago tug with three light vessels. The tugs will exchange tows and return to their home ports." By this arrangement schooners can compete with steam barges, and the tugs, it is claimed, can also be sure of towing and can make some money out of it."