

coal trade is about what has been foreshadowed in these columns. The proposed pool is a practical failure. The Pennsylvania Railroad Company would not join. Coal has been selling at \$3 alongside at New York (steam sizes) against an average of \$3.60 in 1884, and there is already talk of the disposal of 50,000 tons of coal at auction, as in 1876 and in 1879. The New York dry goods market is fairly firm. Commission houses report the demand from wholesale buyers to be steady and to have extended over a wide range. Cotton continued to decline during the early portion of the week, but the decreasing receipts finally stiffened prices. Kentucky tobacco is strong and active. Petroleum is dragging along at figures which are generally admitted to be very low when all the features of the situation are considered. The interior demand for grocery staples has sustained a slight improvement, but is still behind the expectation of dealers. Sugar is higher, and closes firm for raws. Coffee closes lower, and is weak. The consumptive demand for wool has been a little more active, and the market generally is firm at unchanged prices. Cash wheat closes where it did a week ago at 95½c, after having lost 1½c per bushel. The principal cause of the decline was a falling away in the export and speculative demands. Cash corn loses 3½c, closing at 53c against 56½c a week ago. Indian corn has been in much better demand within a day or two, and visible supplies are small. The forward movement of wheat and corn from the northwest and west is heavier and promises to continue so. Provisions and hog products are weaker. The latter have declined in sympathy with grain and a light home and foreign demand. Hog receipts west have been smaller and prices therefore higher. There were 386 failures in the United States during the past week reported to *Bradstreet's*, as compared with 445 in the preceding week, and with 310, 289 and 205 respectively in the corresponding weeks of 1884, 1883 and 1882. About 85 per cent. were those of small traders whose capital was less than \$5,000. Canada had 33, a decrease of 7.

### In the Forests of Northern Wisconsin.

Some two years since, in the month of November, the writer found himself at Ashland, Wisconsin, a small town near the head of Lake Superior, whose chief industry consists of the manufacture of pine logs into boards. These are carried by rail or water to their destination east or west. The population of this place at that time was about 2000. A walk of four or five hundred yards from the front street carried one into a small growth of red and white pine, which would repay its proper protection.

Looking up the lake from Ashland in a northerly or westerly direction, one sees a forest of white pine, the trees in which apparently stand as thick as they can grow. This forest is said to extend to a distance of seventy miles. Fires do not rage among these woods as they do in so many parts of Canada. The red clay lying upon the Potsdam sandstone, in which these trees grow, retains the moisture, and it is not favorable to the growth of

mosses, which serve so readily as fire-carriers, so much so that it will smoulder among them for days, showers often falling to extinguish the sparks, which a few weeks of dry weather may develop into a vast conflagration. The comparative freedom from risk of forest fire is very important, and adds much to the value of the country.

The land in the vicinity of Ashland and on the opposite side of the bay is by no means rough. It is of the moderate elevation of a few hundred feet. There are no mountains to be seen, the American side of Lake Superior differing from the Canadian in mineralogical and geological character. The future of Ashland cannot be otherwise than assured, from the fact that one can stand in its streets and see pine growing in one direction as far as the eye can reach. And we know that there are millions of these trees standing on the shores of adjacent streams, and which can be brought hither. Ashland county contains upwards of a million acres of land. One half of this is said to be covered with a growth of hardwood, the other with coniferæ. One hundred and fifty million feet of pine, board measurement, are said to pass annually over the Wisconsin Central Railway alone. From Ashland one can see the church originally built by Father Marquette on Magdalene Island: at least I could see its white walls glistening beneath the rays of the evening sun. A Jesuit priest is said to reside there and to attend to the duties of the mission. A few miles from Ashland the Chippeways have a reservation and village, the latter being called in the Algonquin language, "Odoná."

On the 6th of November, at 2 o'clock in the morning, our party of four embarked on the Ozaukee, an old tug which was lying at the wharf. The night was dark, and the wind swept mournfully over the gloomy waters of the "great sea," as the Chippeways call Lake Superior. As we slowly steamed out of the bay, the wind freshened, and our frail craft began to toss about in an uncomfortable manner. There appeared to be no berths, or, if there were, no one asked us to occupy them. In the miserable cabin there was one sofa, of which our worthy captain took possession, leaving us the floor. By daylight we reached Ironton, which consisted of a single hut, built for the purpose of storing provisions for the use of mining explorers, who are constantly prospecting for and finding large deposits of iron-ore in the great forests of Wisconsin and Michigan. The shores of Lake Superior for a distance of thirty miles—from Ashland Bay to Ironton, close to the mouth of the Montreal River, which forms one of the boundaries between Wisconsin and Michigan and the high banks consist of stiff red clay. Near the mouth of this river the red sandstone of the Potsdam formation is seen underlying the clay. The banks of the lake are about one hundred feet high: we pitched our tent on a little flat under them. The farthest point visible to the east of our camping-ground is called Girl Point. The growth of wood at this part of the lake shore consisted of white birch and poplar, mixed with scattered pines of no great size. During the afternoon we walked along the

beach to the mouth of the Montreal, which was about a mile from where our little tent stood. When we had travelled north at an angle, the beach in one place showed ripple-marks as plainly as they were ever seen on a sea-beaten shore. The breadth of the Montreal where it enters the lake is not more than fifty feet, but the water is very deep.

Clambering up the steep lake shore by means of a gully lined with stunted trees, we reached the summit breathless with our labors.

Travelling thence to Montreal over a piece of land intersected by deep hollows, in and about which grew many large hemlock-spruces in the distance about one hundred feet beneath us, the path swept over ledges of red rock, making a descent of eighty-two feet in half a mile. The bank is very steep. Holding on to the trees, we took a look into the gorge down the side of which one might possibly have clambered, but it would have been at the risk of his neck. The channel of the river was straight, and we could look up it for at least half a mile. The banks for this distance were lined with the dark-green foliage of the hemlock to the very edge of the water, or rather to that of the white foam; for so rapid was its descent that it might have been called a river of foam.

The white waters, the gloomy foliage, and the vast expanse of the great lake visible from where we stood, formed a picture of dreary grandeur not soon to be forgotten. As we wended our way back to our tent, we again examined the mouth of the Montreal, and found it so confined and narrow, that we came to the conclusion that there was no fit place or opportunity for erecting mills, or for building piers and booms to hold a sufficient quantity of logs or timber. The next morning early we took a track which led us to the head-waters of the Montreal and Black rivers. On our route we crossed two ranges of hills, one of these being called the Iron, the other the Copper range, from the occurrence in them of the ores of these metals. We did not find any quantity of pine until we had crossed these, the growth consisting very largely of sugar-maple and basswood, *Thuja aceroides*, and hemlock.

When we did find pine, however, the trees were large and sound. Indeed, on the head of the Montreal, we crossed a body of pines growing among hardwood, which were large enough to make timber that would square twenty inches. The chief growth on the Montreal and Black Rivers consisted, not of pine, but of the woods which I have mentioned.

The hemlock-spruce in many places was very abundant, growing, as this wood usually does, in clusters or benches. In many cases the bark was coarse and rough, and the wood consequently inferior in quality. *Thuja occidentalis* was also abundant, forming in many cases thickets in the swamps which were very hard to penetrate. The soil in this part of Wisconsin is in general poor and stony. Deer were abundant, as were wolves, whose voices were frequently heard at night.

After remaining in the woods until our provisions were nearly exhausted, we followed a track which led along and over the Pennoke