

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

AND MILLERS', MANUFACTURERS',
AND MINERS' GAZETTE

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A. BEGG, - Proprietor and Editor.

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TORONTO, ONT., JANUARY 15, 1881.

HEMLOCK TREES AND BARK.

In view of the fact that the pine is being rapidly stripped from the districts of Muskoka and Parry Sound, a Bracebridge correspondent thoroughly familiar with the subject, calls our attention to the great destruction of hemlock, which is taking place in those districts to supply tan bark. He estimates that there are about 10,000 cords of hemlock bark peeled annually in that region, and assuming that seven trees of an average diameter of 13 in., and 36 feet in length will furnish a cord of bark—would equal 3 saw logs of 13 inches diameter, which by Scribner's rule gives 219 feet of lumber: or 10,000 trees would make 15,320,000 ft. This has been going on for the past four years, so there must have been 61,320,000 feet of lumber felled during that time, but not more than one million feet of this large amount has been manufactured into lumber. The balance has been left to rot in the woods, or which is far worse, to make kindling-wood for the first bush fire which may happen to break out near by, and which might destroy the greater part of the valuable pine or hemlock left standing. As long as pine stumpage is cheap, and as long as pine can be obtained, no one cares to go into manufacturing hemlock lumber; and as tanners must have bark the waste will go on and the wood left useless. A portion of this bark is peeled on patented lands, but the greater portion, our correspondent says, is cut on Crown Land, without leave or license, and it is about time the government took some steps to stop this waste, as the day is not far distant when hemlock will be of more value than the pine now is. In some places, the bush is so slashed down that the refuse seriously interferes with getting out the pine.

We trust the local member for Muskoka will give the matter his attention. Hemlock may yet be required to form a plank of the Commercial Union with the United States, advocated by that honorable gentleman.

GENEROUS.—Messrs. Rathbun last summer, when the men in their employ at the Eagle Mill, Ferry Point, threatened to strike for higher wages, promised if they would not do so, to divide \$500 among them at the close of the season. The promise was kept, and the money divided among two men at Christmas.

DYES FROM SAW DUST.

Mr. John Blair, of Ardrea, near Orillia, writes to the *Times*, and says he noticed in a late issue of that paper, an article devoted to the description of a new process whereby certain waste products, such as sawdust and decayed wood are converted into dyes of various shades. Some three years ago, he continues, I discovered and perfected a process for the manufacture of dyes from sawdust, wool, hair and horn. At that time I furnished several leading chemists with samples of the new substance, which on account of its close resemblance to certain products formed from indigo is of considerable interest. This compound (which I have termed xanthogen) can be manufactured in large quantities from sawdust, or from almost any organic material. One ton of sawdust when transformed into xanthogen would be worth at least \$500; and the same weight of old woollen rags when subjected to the same process would be worth more than \$2,000. The above estimate would seem incredible were it not that I am in a position to verify its truth. It will be seen from these figures that there is a mine of wealth in sawdust and old rags for the enterprising capitalist. There are many other ways in which sawdust can be utilized, as for instance in the formation of Prussian blue. A mixture of sawdust, iron filings and a small percentage of potash if heated in an iron retort till all the volatile products pass off, and then if the retort be cooled so as to exclude the air and the heat raised so as to fuse the contents, and then if a current of pure nitrogen gas be passed through it the iron will at once be converted into Prussian blue. The nitrogen gas can be easily obtained from the atmosphere by passing a current of air through ignited charcoal and afterwards through a column of iron ore which is to be kept heated to a temperature of 2,200 Fahr. After the heated gas passes through the ore the carbonic oxide is converted into carbonic acid and the ore is reduced to a spongy metallic state, and we have now a mixture of C.O₂ and nitrogen, which when stored in a gas meter through which lime water is circulating, removes the carbonic acid and pure nitrogen gas remains. This gas can be used as above stated, and the spongy iron, after it ceases to act on the carbonic oxide is then in a fit state to be converted into Prussian blue.

DEFERRED NOTES.

Before the Christmas holidays we had occasion to make a trip westward as far as Windsor, and being so near that great and beautiful frontier city—

DETROIT,

we crossed to see how our cousins were getting along. Business was lively in almost every branch,—manufacturing, building, buying and selling. Uncle Sam was gay and happy. Immense quantities of provisions and lumbermen's supplies were being sent north. The train for Bay City was loaded with shanty-men. The local prices of lumber had not changed much from former quotations, but were firm. Returning to

WINDSOR,

the people there, too, were full of business. The ferry boats are doing a large business, transporting teams loaded with cordwood and other produce from Canada for the Detroit market. A few manufacturing firms from Detroit, as will be seen by reference to our advertising columns, have established branches of their business in Windsor. This is to save the import duty, which with the improved and increased manufacturing facilities in the Dominion enables our manufacturers to compete on equal terms with those in the United States. About a mile up the river is

WALKERVILLE,

founded, and in a great measure sustained by H. Walker, Esq., the extensive

distiller there. His establishment is only second in Ontario, to that of Messrs. Gooderham & Worts, of Toronto. Every department of the distillery is in the best of order and condition. The machinery for grinding, mashing, pumping, &c., and a magnificent engine of 200 horse-power with a fly wheel weighing nearly eleven tons—crank shaft 12 inches in diameter, a 20 inch cylinder of 42 inches stroke were manufactured and put in by the Kerr Brothers of Walkerville, who have a foundry near by. The water works of the distillery, worked by a 100 h. p. engine, has three large pumps, said to be capable of drawing from the river 900 gallons of water per minute. The establishment has eight run of millstones in operation, and pays about \$350,000 per annum duty into the Dominion treasury. There is considerable traffic in this neighbourhood in stave timber, and some oak is brought in.

CRATHAM

was our next stopping place. This town has grown rapidly within the past few years. The large lumber yards are well stocked with lumber and shingles. The largest is kept by Messrs. H. A. Patterson, & Co., who also manufacture sash, doors, &c. There are several manufacturers of engines, boilers, brass castings, &c. Mr. D. Park has invented a machine for making barrels, including the heading. We expect to be able to explain this machine more thoroughly with the aid of a cut or drawings, shortly. Mr. R. Parkinson's establishment, the Reliance Engine Works, is also worthy of notice. Chatham can boast of some excellent flouring mills, which supply "the staff of life" to the population, whether white or coloured.

Again aboard the comfortable but somewhat crowded cars of the G. W. Railway, and

THE CITY OF LONDON

is soon reached. Here again all is bustle and activity. Building to a considerable extent is going on. The lumber yards are tolerably well stocked. Prices are keeping well up. A visit to the lumber dealers and some of the manufacturers filled up all the time at our disposal. The people seemed contented and prosperous. We met Mr. McRae, of Glencoe, who is getting out a large quantity of oak timber this season. He reports the season's work well advanced. A short run on the branch line brings us to

ST. THOMAS,

a thriving town, the proposed terminus of the Credit Valley Railway. The town is growing rapidly, and will continue to increase in importance. It has a large number of planing mills and manufacturing establishments. The Dexter Manufacturing Co. of best carriage and sleigh work are enlarging their premises; C. Norworthy & Co. have constructed a tramway engine, to draw logs and timber on pole roads. It is to work in Essex Centre, where 14 miles of track has been laid. We have no doubt the flange driving wheels carrying the locomotive will work well. They are constructed to slide on small steel rollers along the axle to accommodate irregularities in the width of the track, but at the same time are stationary on the axle as far as revolving with it is concerned. The stock of lumber on hand in St. Thomas is large, but as the demand is good both in town and country, it will be all required before next year's stock comes in. The farmers in the neighborhood generally are wealthy. We had a pleasant visit with one of them, whom we had not seen since we crossed the Atlantic with him from Aberdeen, over 34 years ago. Resuming our journey by way of Harsburg, we stop at

THE CITY OF BRANTFORD,

when limited time only enabled us to visit

the works of the enterprising firm of Waterous & Co., whose steam engines, saw mills and other numerous and excellent manufactures are known all over the Dominion. Next we call at

DUNDAS,

which presents a beautiful view from the railway station. With the exception of the cotton factory, Messrs. McKeechie & Bertram's establishment, which turns out all sorts of machinery, and has just been enlarged; an axe factory and planing mill, there does not seem to be much going on in that town. Its proximity to

THE CITY OF HAMILTON

has perhaps something to do with this. Business is good in Hamilton. Manufacturers say they have orders on hand to keep them employed until spring. Building has been continued during the winter. Merchants are in good spirits. Workmen have plenty of work, and some new manufacturing industries are about to be established.

A run by the Northern Railway brings us to

ORAVENHURST.

This is a lively village and prosperous. Its prosperity is chiefly owing to the number of saw and shingle mills in the vicinity, and to its being the terminus of the Northern and Northwestern Railway, where, during the winter season, all freight for the northern region is reloaded, and drawn by teams. The summer trade is mostly carried past by the steamers, to Bracebridge and Rosseau. Several lumbering establishments have branch offices here. Some idea of the quantity of supplies required may be formed from the following list of lumber to be got out this winter in the Muskoka and Parry Sound Districts:—

	Logs.	Square.	Shingles.
Georgian Bay Co.....	70,000,000		
British Canadian Lumber & Timber Co.....	20,000,000		
T. Smith & Son.....	15,000,000		
Rich Power.....	17,000,000		
Muskoka Mill and Lumber Co.....	12,000,000		
J. C. Miller.....	15,000,000		
Ontario Bank late Guelph Co.....	9,000,000		
J. Thompson.....	12,000,000		
Dom. Bank, late Sillemann.....	8,000,000		
Toronto Lumber Co.....	7,000,000		
Wm. Tait.....	6,000,000		
T. Melkie.....	4,000,000		
J. M. Dollar.....	4,000,000	200,000	
Messrs. Cockburn.....	4,000,000		
Woodstock Lumber Co.....	5,000,000		
G. W. Taylor.....	11,000,000		
Wm. Heatty.....	3,000,000		
S. S. Cook.....	1,000,000	200,000	
Barton Bros.....	2,000,000	90,000	
F. H. Hull.....	2,000,000		
Abel Marshall.....	1,000,000		8,000,000
Boyd Caldwell.....	3,000,000	100,000	
O. F. Wright.....	1,500,000	100,000	
G. Chase & Co.....			
Thompson & Baker.....			5,000,000
Haath & Tait.....			1,500,000
W. Strathcarrn.....			2,000,000
R. Robinson.....			2,000,000
F. Bartholomew.....			4,000,000
Other manufacturers.....	10,000,000		10,000,000
	238,500,000	600,000	82,500,000

Messrs. Thompson, Smith & Son are also getting out 25 million feet at their Duncan City mills, Mich. Last season they cut 15 million feet at their Bradford mills; 2 million at the Barrie mills, and 22 million at Duncan City mills. Their stock on hand is Bradford mills, 6 million; at Duncan City mill, 10 million; Barrie, all shipped. They employ about 600 men and 150 teams. The Muskoka Mill & Lumber Co., last season cut 15 million and have on hand 4,500,000 in lumber and 6,000,000 in logs.

BRACEBRIDGE.

This is the winter head quarters of the British Canadian Lumber & Timber Co.,