

something of the nature of a curiosity about it now:

**RISE OF PRICES IN BAL TIC WOOD.**—For some weeks there has been an enormous rise in the price of wood in the north of Europe, recalling that which occurred at the end of the year 1873. Taking for a basis the prices current at the beginning of 1872, the increase already amounts from 30 to 60 per cent. in Sweden, and 20 to 50 per cent. in Norway, varying according to description and qualities, and from all accounts we must expect from day to day still higher prices. That the price of wooden goods would infallibly advance in Sweden and Norway had been for some time expected, in consequence of the continually increasing distance of the forest districts from the coast, the difficulties always arising in cutting for sale and transporting the wood from the forests to the saw mills, the enhancement in value of the forests in growth, with the expense of maintenance and manufacture, and especially from the enormous increase of exportation to various countries, an increase which has now assumed such proportions as to exceed greatly the most favorable anticipations of the growers in the north of Europe. We must add that a belief prevailing in the Scandinavian countries that the total production of wood, however much it may be increased in 1873, will not in the presence of such numerous inquiries, suffice to meet all requirements, still exercises a certain influence, and tends to exaggerate the demands of sellers. At any rate, it is evident that unless the full prices asked are paid importers will not be able to get a single cargo for the opening of the coming season.

It seems so natural that as timber, which takes a lifetime to grow to merchantable size, but may be cut down in a few minutes, should become scarcer and less accessible, as the enormous demand for it increases, that the argument seems unassailable. But the facts of the day which are immediately before us demolish it altogether. In spite of all that has been and is done to destroy and consume the forests of Europe and America, the world is full of timber still.—*Timber Trades Journal.*

**THE AUSTRALIAN TRADE.**

Messrs. Gemmill, Tuckett, & Co.'s latest report, dated Melbourne, July 29th, says:—Deliveries from the store-yards have been above the average at this season of the year, indicating that a large consumption is still going on. Had shipments to this market continued on a moderate scale, there is no doubt prices would have continued remunerative to shippers; but the excessive quantities of l. and g. flooring, lining, and weatherboards from the United Kingdom, and advised coming forward from Norway, have had a most depressing effect on prices for these lines, and dealers now will only purchase for their bare requirements. American lumber.—Sales ex Emily F. Whitney, C. Shier, and Minnie H. Gerow. Prices realized fairly sustain last months quotations, white pine shelving being quoted at £10 2s. 6d. to £12 2s. 6d.; dressed 1 in. clear pine, £15 15s.; Michigan clear pine, 1 1/2 in., £12 17s. 6d.; 2 in. £15 15s. to £15 10s.; 3 in., £16 to £15 15s.; 4 in. £16 2s. 6d. to £16; 10 in. w. p. t. and g. ceiling, £8 2s. 6d. to £3 17s. 6d per m. ft. super. Stocks held by the trade are moderate. The cargo ex Monarch, DOM brand, is advertised for sale by auction on 10th proximo, and should realize an advance on its rates. Most of the trade, however, hold stocks sufficient to carry them on until the new season's goods arrive.

Messrs. C. S. Ross & Co. in their report say:—The sales of building materials have not been equal to the usual average per month, and prices for some lines are lower. The demand for consumption is reported to be much lighter than that of the previous month, and as the weather is not favorable for building operations the deliveries will not be large for the next quarter. Sales have been well attended, but the trade being heavily stocked the bidding has not been brisk, and a considerable portion of the offerings has been withdrawn. The stock of timber in hand is far heavier than usual at this season, and unless shipments cease very low prices must result. The arrivals have been the Blair Hoylo, Loch Vennachar, Mylomeno, Eaton Hall, Mermorus, Miltiados, Cuzco, Glen-

morvon, Kent, and Catania, from the United Kingdom, with flooring, red deals, &c.; Minnie H. Gerow from New York, and Scottish Prince from Boston, with spruce deals, &c.

**THE PACIFIC COAST.**

The San Francisco *Journal of Commerce* speaks as follows of the Pacific coast lumber business.

But very few of the people of the Pacific coast, unless it is those directly interested in it, are aware of the immense importance of the lumber trade. On Stuart street, from Market to the Pacific Mail dock, are seen lumber yards, and here and there are seen vessels unloading lumber at the wharves, and this is all, but these piles of lumber, these modest little camps of offices represent thousands upon thousands of acres of land, millions upon millions of capital, giving employment to thousands upon thousands of hands, all the way from Santa Cruz on the south to Alaska on the north. Here are represented, with few interruptions, a chain of forests of valuable timber mines of treasure to their owners mostly all owned by San Franciscans, operated from here, furnishing the people of almost the whole world with valuable lumber. This chain or range of forests begins with a span at Santa Cruz, and expands in Mendocino and Humboldt counties, widens into vast forests of white pine in Oregon and Washington Territory, and finally terminates in a wilderness of timber in Alaska. The magnitude of this great interest becomes apparent on investigation. White-winged vessels are silently arriving, bringing to San Francisco a portion of the treasure secured from these forests. There is no speculation in this trade, no digging and delving in dark holes for hoped for treasure, the forests are there, the lumber is needed, and the product is sure. The lumber business of the Pacific coast takes rank where it justly belongs—alongside of her wheat-raising industry.

California produces immense quantities of redwood, the only section on the known globe where this useful and even ornamental wood can be found. Here laurel equals the far-favored mahogany, while the sycamore is becoming known as a most useful and ornamental wood. Puget Sound and Oregon furnish pine and cypress, and all these woods are found in apparently inexhaustible quantities. In fact it is stated with, we believe, the utmost fairness, that the thirty years' consumption of lumber on this coast is so far made no perceptible impression upon our immense forests, and that not one-fiftieth of our lumber has been touched. It is asserted by some, but denied by others, that the redwood and pine on this coast will reproduce itself in thirty years, but be that as it may, there is no danger that the supply of lumber on this coast will become exhausted in the lifetime of our children, or our children's children, and the development of the lumber interest, the new forests opened, new mills erected, new markets for their product found, will afford ample opportunity for the safe investment of capital for years to come. In fact the lumber interest of this coast is in its infancy; we are but at its threshold, and its possibilities cannot be foretold. In it at the present day are men who have grown gray in the service, but we can safely say they are men of honor, honesty and probity; they are men who have assisted in developing and expanding one of the chief interests of the coast, and they are entitled to every praise for their indomitable energy, and are to be congratulated upon their success.

**Eric Canal Trade.**

The Tonawanda *Herald*, dated September 27, stated that an immense fleet of Western barges arrived the Sunday and Monday previous, lumber laden, with the docks already well filled because of the recent scarcity of canal boats. Freights went up a quarter, and the rate paid all week so far has been \$2.75 to Albany and \$3.50 to New York. This, with tolls off, is \$1 better than this time last year, and the boatmen are as happy as clams at high tide. No waiting for loads, and everything serene. Those who get loads now have cause to feel glad the coming winter.—*Northwestern Lumberman.*

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