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TRENT VALLEY CANAL.

There have lately been a great many inquiries made here for lumber for the South American market, and we have also noticed that the export for last season, of lumber to that market from Montreal, was double the quantity exported the season before. The importance of the early completion of the Canal to this section of the country, and to the North Shore and Georgian Bay districts cannot be overestimated, as lumber can then be easily shipped in barges through the Canal to the Bay of Quinte and thence to Montreal, where it could be loaded into vessels, and the freight so far would not be as much as the duty charged on lumber going into the United States. If the Montreal people would only see this matter in the right light they would use every effort to forward the completion of the Canal, as Montreal would then become the point to which lumber would be shipped for the old country and South America, which latter trade is rapidly increasing. Another point in favor of the Canal is that the route from Lake Superior to Montreal is 600 miles shorter than from the same district through the Erie Canal to New York.

QUEBEC.

It is reported that Grant's raft, the Scotch Syndicate timber, has been sold, 100,000 feet of square white pine, 50 feet average, two year old timber, at 25 cents; also, the same waney board timber, 20 inch average, at 34 cents. It is said that last year only 20 cents was offered for square timber.

It is reported that some of our merchants have made fair sales of timber on the other side of the Atlantic, and that several of the old traders have been chartered, amongst them the Gladstone, Monarch, and Premier.

Also, the following Norwegian ships have been chartered for first open water:—Persia, Craigallion, Royal Visitor, Price Eugene, Festalante, Almedia, Norway, Chatham and Sicchar.

Several large sales of timber and deals are said to have taken place recently, but the prices have not transpired.—*Chronicle*.

IN MUSKOKA DISTRICT

The Georgian Bay Lumber Company is taking out about 20,000,000 feet of lumber from the Muskoka district this season.

The *Banner* gives the following figures of the output of saw logs this season. The Muskoka Mill and Lumber Company will take out 6,000,000 feet which will be floated to the Muskoka mills. The company has about 14,000,000 of logs left over from last season. Mr. Thompson & Baker will cut 3,000,000 feet. Mr. I Cockburn is taking out 4,000,000 feet of logs, and 50,000 cubic feet of board timber. Thompson & Baker's operations:—1,600,000

from township of Muskoka, delivered at their mills by their own teams. McLean and Oakley—100,000; Macaulay—Richard Pipor, jobber—300,000; Utterson firm are purchasing 100,000 from Mr. John Faulkner. There is also 100,000 stuck in Mary Lake from last year. Aggregate 3,000,000. I Cockburn is taking out 4,000,000 as follows: Township of Cardwell—own camp David Curtain, foreman—1,000,000; township of McMurrick, own camp, Wm. Smith, foreman, 1,500,000; township of Chaffey, own camp, D. B. McDonald, foreman, 1,000,000. Several small jobbers, aggregate 500,000. Township of Sinclair, Cruihart and McAllister, 600,000, and in addition 50,000 cubic feet of board timber.—*North Star*.

HOW TO MAKE HARDWOOD LANDS PROFITABLE.

Until recently pine has been the king of woods in Michigan and Wisconsin. Whenever the lumber industry in connection with those states has been spoken of it has always been understood to mean the manufacture of pine. Although it has been well known that there were vast areas of hardwood lands in the northern parts of Michigan and Wisconsin, they have considered of secondary importance, while pine has absorbed the most attention and commanded the greater share of effort. Lately, however, owners begin to realize that there is value in their hardwood lands. It has been demonstrated that the northern counties of the lower peninsula of Michigan are well adapted to farming and to the support of a dense population. The same is true of large portions of the upper peninsula, and sections of northern Wisconsin. It has dawned on the minds of men who own large areas of these hardwood lands in connection with their pine, that the time has come when something can be done to make them profitable.

A gentleman connected with one of the leading pine manufacturing companies on the upper peninsula, which also owns a large area of land in that part of Michigan, lately remarked to a member of the same concern that the time had come when the company should begin the sawing of hardwood as well as pine. His plan was to enter upon a tract and clear it of all standing timber, convert all the available stuff into lumber and square timber, and use the residue for making charcoal. He said that the iron industry, already large in that section of the state, would increase, and charcoal was what was required for that purpose. For this reason he thought that the demand for charcoal would constantly enlarge, and that all that could be made would find a market. His idea is that money can be made out of the timber in the process of clearing, and then the land will have become valuable for farming purposes. Good hardwood lands in the upper peninsula, in their

wild state, may be said to be worth now from \$1.25 to \$4 an acre, according to location. After they are thoroughly cleared and made fit for farming, they will be worth \$10 to \$25 an acre. Thus it will be seen that if a profit can be realized in first utilizing the timber, the resulting value of the lands would be enough to induce their owners to lumber and clear them. In the case of pine lands it is generally considered that the denuded areas are nearly worthless for any purpose whatever; though this has been found to be a mistake in portions of the lower peninsula, where very good farms have been made of stripped pine lands. But there is no question about the agricultural value of land that has produced a growth of maple, elm, basswood, and other woods that are characteristic of northern Michigan and Wisconsin.

To capitalists that are tired of speculation, who seek a solid and safe investment, and who, withal, have a love of the soil, like to own and manage it, and receive their revenue from it—a disposition which still lingers in some of our people, as a heritage from English and continental ancestry—the possession of tracts of the magnificent hardwood timber lands of Michigan and Wisconsin cannot but be satisfactory in future results. An estate of such a character, rightly managed, cannot fail to afford a fair income—first in timber, and then in agricultural products. This conclusion is based largely on the situation of the northern counties of Michigan and Wisconsin, much of their area contiguous to the waters of the great lakes, and thus accessible to the most active markets in the country at a low cost of transportation. The lumber operations on a tract of land thus owned for revenue should be conducted wisely and carefully, with a view to the prevailing market for forest products. Nothing should be slaughtered merely to get it off the land. It should always be borne in mind that a thrifty tree had better be left standing for a few years than marketed at no profit. By thus judiciously husbanding forest resources much could be made of them in a course of years. A few years ago the elm and maple of the Grand Traverse region in Michigan was thought to be of no value when land was to be cleared; these timbers were remorselessly cut and turned in log heaps to get them out of the way. Now such timber, that is at all accessible to water, has a market value, and is being turned into money. Small farmers who raise crops or starve cannot afford to wait years for their timber to come into market, but capitalists can, and they can devise means for accelerating the coming of the market. An owner of a timber estate for revenue could often add the manufacture of wood in various forms to his industry, and thus not be wholly dependent on the sale of the raw products. In one way and another he could utilize all his timber as a source of revenue, and clear the land for farming purposes only when

the last staddle had been turned into money. He could also pursue a course of practical forestry, and devote to perpetual woods those portions of his domain better adapted to forests than anything else. The scheme as a whole would be simply an economical management of a wooded estate, handy to markets, for the purpose of realizing all possible profit from it.—*Northwestern Lumberman*.

PROTECTING SAW MILLS FROM FIRE.

A correspondent of the *London Timber Trades Journal* suggests the following precautions for preventing fires in saw mills and other wood-working establishments:—

“In the first place keep the whole of the mill clean and free from shavings, sawdust, oily waste, etc. Put your glue heater outside the mill. Have your boiler-house completely shut off from the mill, and strictly forbid smoking inside the building. If you have a pressure of water you should have half a dozen hydrants in various parts of the mill, or, better still, introduce a system of pipes fitted with “automatic sprinklers” overhead; these are now being rapidly introduced into this country. They are arranged to come into action by the heat of the fire itself, and require no one to work them; they are, therefore, especially valuable at night. They can at the same time be made to give a fire alarm, by sounding a gong, and they may be arranged to act in a gradually increasing temperature in 15 to 18 seconds, at 155 degrees of heat. Failing in this plan, you should have a supply of either extinguishers, hand-pumps, or buckets, and see that they are constantly used.”

A Splendid Foundry.

The St. John, N. B., *Sun* publishes a description of Messrs. T. McAvity & Son's foundry in that city. Through many years and from a small beginning the McAvity Brass Foundry has grown up into vigorous life and a great working concern. The structure is adapted especially for the brass founder's and steam-fitter's business. The different flats of the building make an area of 20,000 superficial feet, on which compacted space 60 workmen are employed and with a twenty horse-power steam engine, 30 lathes, and other great mechanical appliances produce the articles called for daily to use in mines, steamships, engine rooms and gas or water arrangements. The detailed description given in the *Sun* shows the establishment to be a thoroughly equipped as well as a progressive one.

ROBERT DARRAH, while felling a tree at Britton, Lenawee county, Mich., was instantly killed by the tree falling on him and nearly cutting him in two.