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### SAVE THE TREES.

Whatever opinion may be held by the owners of the timber lands regarding the nearness of the exhaustion of the supply of pine and other available building timber, it cannot be a question says the *Lumberman's Gazette* with any intellectual person that it would be well if the woodman's vandal axe were stayed against every promising Norway, hemlock or whitewood tree which may now be regarded as of no merchantable value. It may be said, these trees are of no use for the manufacture of lumber, and they may be true when compared with our more desirable pine. But it is nevertheless true that they may be made available for many of the purposes for which white pine is now used. Norway is coming into use to a great extent for bridge timber and bill stuff, but not to the extent which it might be made available. While it is not so easily worked as white pine it is quite as enduring and in moist situations probably more so, being highly impregnated with pitch. For timbers, joist and scantling, there can be no objection to it, while its use for these purposes would conserve so much pine which is more available for other uses. Norway has been used for finishing lumber and presents a pleasing effect when finished in oil, the grain making it quite ornamental. Hemlock may be used for the same purposes as Norway pine, except it cannot be so freely exposed to moisture. Indeed it requires to be kept dry in order to secure its greatest durability. While not useful as a finishing lumber or available in so many situations as pine, there are many uses to which hemlock can be put which will answer the same purpose. For beams, joists and sills, roofing boards, sheathing boards, rough fencing, and the like, it would be found an admirable substitute, since its limited adaptability would necessarily make it cheaper than pine. It is a strong durable wood, and we have seen it made into very good lumber. There is a vast deal of hemlock in Michigan, but it is going the way of the pine, only in a more vandalish way. The timber is being sacrificed to the bark, which is stripped from the tree for tanning purposes and the trunk left to rot upon the ground. Whitewood is quite a desirable timber, but it is not very plentiful in the northwest. In the south it is abundant and known—in some parts, at least—as poplar, and is as highly esteemed. There is some of it in Michigan. If the lugubrious prognostications regarding the

near approach of the total destruction of "our" forests be well founded, even the apparently worthless-for-any-purpose—except-to-swindle-wood-buyers basswood may some day have a value as a lumber yielding wood—providing any of it is left standing after the pine has disappeared. If the present generation cannot be brought down to the use of any of the woods we have referred to, but must have the very finest grades of timber now growing in the forests, regardless of posterity, it would be only just to the future generations that the conservative policy be adopted towards the coarser products of the forest, to the end that our children's children may have a chance to shin around among them and put them where they will do more good than being added to the soil by rotting, or the atmosphere by burning. At the present rate of demolition it is certain the woods will not always be with us, and it were better to treat them so that we shall not be quite consumed by remorse when they shall disappear. It will be a sufficient source of grief that we can coin their stalwart trunks into ducats no more.

To the above, the *Northwestern Lumberman* replies, and states that while the article contains many suggestions which in their elementary character are useful and truthful, is yet laden with so many errors and mis-statements as to be deserving of severe criticism, coming as it does from a journal which is publicly supposed to speak intelligently upon subjects pertaining to the timber supply of the country. Its assertion that Norway, hemlock and whitewood have no merchantable value and are of no use for the manufacture of lumber, will strike the average lumberman with surprise, especially those east and west of the Saginaw Valley. Of the 1,608,000 feet of lumber constituting the receipts of the past season at Chicago, we believe we underestimate when we assert that fully one fifth, or 300,000,000 feet was Norway, which while not a prime favourite like white pine is still recognized as a prominent and indispensable article in the lumber trade, bearing a price but a trifle below that of white pine. Again the *Gazette* is in error in asserting that Norway is quite as enduring as white pine in moist situations. Exactly the reverse of this proposition is the truth. Norway is of little or no value except when perfectly dry, or else perfectly submerged. Moisture is a deadlier enemy to Norway than to white pine. For joist it is excellent and durable because in this position it is kept dry, but a Norway sill is avoided by every builder when any other material can be obtained, except when it is to be placed in a position where it has a perfect circulation of air around it. As bridge timber it is avoided, and is seldom used where a thickness of over six inches is desired, from its liability to dry rot when used as timber. Hemlock will stand more moisture than Norway pine which is the most liable to decay of any of the *coniferous* varieties of timber. The assertion that hemlock has no merchantable value will probably be read with surprise by the lumber dealers and manufacturers of Maine, Massa-

chusetts and Pennsylvania, the former of whom manufacture in the ratio of 17 per cent. of hemlock to 80 per cent. of spruce and three per cent. of pine. Hemlock is among the standard quotations of the Boston market at from \$11 to \$13 50, with spruce at \$13 to \$14, and coarse grades of pine at \$12 to \$18. Hemlock has to but a small extent as yet been utilized in the West, but this is simply because of a prejudice, induced by the greater plentifulness of white pine and its low value, combined with its quality of being graded and thus yielding a larger measure of profit, while hemlock costing equally as much to manufacture, presents no chance for "pickings" or speculative grades. If in this sense the *Gazette* refers to it as having no merchantable value it is measurably correct. Whitewood, in some sections termed poplar, is one of the most plentiful in the supply of timber woods of the South-western and Middle States, and one of the most valuable woods of local commerce. It is true that but little is found in the North, but it is held at a value equal to the best pine. The *Gazette* has but to scan its own pages of pine quotations to learn that in Albany, Philadelphia and Boston, whitewood or poplar ranks in value with ash, oak, maple and hickory.

The most astounding statement which the *Gazette* makes however, is in its allusions to "even the apparently worthless-for-any-purpose—except-to-swindle-wood-buyers basswood" which it asserts "may some day have a value as a lumber yielding wood." The demand throughout the United States today for this "worthless for any purpose" timber, so far exceeds the supply, that dealers are hunting for it in every direction. The wants columns of the *LUMBERMAN* have carried an advertisement of one Chicago firm for the past six weeks or more, soliciting parties who can supply it to make themselves known. In the city of Chicago alone probably 10,000,000 feet per year would be taken if it could be had. It is extensively used by the furniture manufacturers, it is an indispensable wood in carriage making and sleigh manufacture, and the sewing machine case manufacturers of this country would be glad to day to contract for 100,000,000 feet of this "worthless for any purpose" timber, and would not need much urging to double the order. The market value of this "worthless for any purpose" timber is today in Chicago from \$20 to \$30. Boston quotes it at 25 to 27, with it at \$20 to \$22. Albany \$20 to \$25. Milwaukee \$20 to \$30, in the light of which figures the assertion of "worthlessness" seems anomalous.

The *Gazette* is in error in characterizing either of the woods named as worthless or possessing no marketable value. Fortunes are quietly being worked out of all of them and the aggregate trade in each, even in the Northwest is something enormous. Even the despised black ash, formerly considered of value only when the straight grain of a central section of the trunk enabled it to be split into hoops, has of late years taken a high position as an ornamental wood, and we are aware of at least one vendor mill now being erected in the Northwest which

will make a business of supplying black ash veneers. The libraries of the Cornell University are fitted up with black ash, a goodly portion of which was cut in the swamps of Bay county, Michigan, for the late John McCraw, whose liberality has done so much for the University.

### HOW TO BE A SUCCESSFUL SAWYER.

The aim of every workman should be toward superiority in his particular employment. To reach this point experience is of course of the greatest value and absolutely the best teacher. Nevertheless certain rules may be stated, the following of which will greatly assist the aspirant after success in his calling. Other things being equal, a sawyer may reasonably hope to attain to superiority by observing the following directions: 1. Acquire sufficient knowledge of machinery to keep a mill in good repair. Remember that if a knowledge of machinery is a good acquirement one cannot have too much of it. 2. See that both the machinery and saws are in good order. A man cannot do the best work when he is ill-health, neither can machinery do the best work when it is in ill-repair. 3. Bear in mind it does not follow because one saw will work well that another will do the same on the same mandrel, or that even two saws will hang alike on the same mandrel. On the principle that no two clocks can be made that will tick alike, no two saws can be made that will run alike. 4. It is not well to file all the teeth of circular saws from the same side of the saw, especially if each alternate tooth is bent for the set, but file one-half the teeth from one side of the saw, and of the teeth that are bent from you, so as to leave them on a slight bevel and the outer corner a little the longest. 5. Never file a saw to too sharp or acute angles under the teeth, but on circular lines, as all saws are liable to crack from sharp corners. 6. See that each tooth will do a proportional part of the work, or if a reciprocating saw, keep the cutting points pointed on a straight edge. 7. Keep the teeth of your saws so that they will be widest at the very points of the teeth, otherwise the saws will not work satisfactorily, the tendency of all saws being to wear narrowest at the extreme points. 8. The teeth of all saws should be kept as near a uniform shape and distance apart as possible, in order to keep a circular saw in balance and in condition for cutting.

LA BANQUE NATIONALE.—In the *LUMBERMAN* of the 15th inst. the name of La Banque Nationale appears in the list of timber manufacturers. We are informed that the Bank is not manufacturing timber on its own account, although like similar institutions it has advanced funds to a few lumbermen.