

## NORTH DAKOTA'S LUMBER.

"The lumber interests in northern Dakota did not cut much of a figure till the year 1877, when the tide of immigration set in this direction, said Mr. Shotwell, of Fargo, a few days ago. "The lumber used prior to that time was principally confined to building up the small towns and claim shanties. In 1877 Fargo was then, as now, the principal city in northern Dakota, and during the year about 1,000,000 feet were used here. The surrounding country consumed about a like quantity. Since that year there has been a steady and large increase in the demand for lumber, both for farm implements and for the building up of towns and villages that have sprung up along the lines of the Northern Pacific and the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba railroads. It is estimated that in the year of 1882 Fargo alone used 25,000,000 feet of lumber. A vast quantity was used in other towns toward the west and in the Red river valley. It is impossible to form any sort of an estimate of the quantity used."

"The farmers did not begin to put up substantial permanent buildings in any great number till about the year of 1880. In 1877-8 good buildings were to be found on no farms but the 'bonanza' farms. The proprietors of these had an abundance of money with which to make all the improvements they desired. Since 1880 the smaller farmers have had good crops and have got fair prices for their products, and have been able to add to their buildings from year to year. They have built a better class of houses, barns and granaries than before. And yet, one who rides over the vast prairies of northern Dakota will be impressed with the fact that there are comparatively few farms that are even now well fitted up with buildings. The observer will be struck with the thought that a vast quantity of lumber has yet to be used."

"The lumber business in this part of the country is still practically in its infancy. Our supply is obtained mostly along the line of the Northern Pacific as far east as Duluth. In the larger towns of northern Dakota, store buildings are being built to a great extent of brick. There is plenty of brick clay to be met with in different parts of the territory.

"Common lumber is now sold at different points in the valley for from \$22 to \$28 a thousand feet. Most of the dealers obtain their supplies from the mills along the line of the Northern Pacific road, but some of the larger dealers own their own mills. A lumber business needs some little capital to be carried on profitably and properly. Owing to the lien laws of the territory it is a very safe business to be engaged in. The contractor has a lien upon any building for the amount of his claim as against a third party or any incumbancers in good faith for 90 days after the completion of the building. He has a lien also against the owner at any time before the property changes hands. A sub-contractor that is a dealer who furnishes the contractor, has a lien against a building for the full amount of his claim if filed within 60 days after the last item is furnished.

"If a man desires to close out his lumber business through ill health or any other similar cause, he can do so without experiencing any material loss, as a stock of lumber, if well cared for, increases rather than decreases in value. It is about the only business that I know of where stock improves in value by keeping. The groceryman in closing out must of necessity lose on the original value of his stock for shop wear.

"There are excellent opportunities for lumber dealers to open yards at different small towns that are springing up along the line of the roads. This is especially the case on the Fargo & Southwestern road, which is now building. The country along the road is rapidly filling up.

"It is not advisable for a man to start in the lumber business without a fair amount of capital. If he has \$5,000 he can carry a good stock. As in every other business, the more capital a man can put into it the more economically and satisfactorily he can carry it on. In Fargo one lumber firm has a capital of \$100,000. The combined capital of the six firms in Fargo is probably about \$200,000.

"Sales are frequently made of lumber amount-

ing to from \$1,000 to \$7,000 in value. These are likely to occur in small as well as large places. The counties all through north Dakota are using a large quantity of heavy timber for the purpose of building bridges across the numerous river that water the country. Houses are mostly plastered, and, of course, there is a large demand for laths."

"How will prices rule during the coming season?"

"About the same as last year. There was a tendency in a downward direction—at least before the logging season begun, we thought that prices would be somewhat lower, as the cut promised to be very large. But the small-pox got into the camps and the work did not progress as was expected, and prices will probably hold their own. The fall trade last year was light and a larger stock of dry lumber than usual is on hand. It was hoped that there would be a decline in prices of about two dollars a thousand, but it cannot be expected now. There will be more dry lumber this year than there was a year ago. This will be a boon to consumers."—*Lumberman's Gazette.*

## CEDAR POLES.

The present season has showed a much increased demand for cedar poles. Chicago is the largest point for their distribution in the country, and probably markets half the poles that are cut. From the nature of the business, the demand being altogether with a certain number of telegraph and telephone corporations, a few parties control all the contracts. Up to four years ago, poles were received almost entirely by cargo, but since that time the practice of shipping large numbers of poles by rail during the winter has come in vogue. One large handler sold 125,000 poles during 1882, and up to date has handled 90,000 poles since January 1, and estimates that he will add 125,000 poles to the amount by the end of the year. He has received 400 car-loads this month, and 1,000 car-loads since January 1. There will likely be 500,000 poles used in the United States this year. There are always a certain amount of repairs necessary that call for poles, and new telegraph lines, or extensions of old ones, require a large number. But the heavy increase in demand is chiefly on account of the numerous extensions of telephone systems all over the country. The poles coming to this market are from the white cedar forests of Michigan, Wisconsin and Canada; the South uses considerable red cedar from Arkansas and Tennessee; chestnut poles prevail in the East, and sawed redwood on the Pacific slope. The buyers of poles are few, and there is considerable risk and hard work in getting them out, the effect being to keep the business almost entirely in the hands of old concerns. The supply is always regulated in advance by the requirement. When the demand is good as now, with prospects of future heavy consumption, the contractors spur up their agents to cut and buy largely, or to retrench when contracts are slow. Prices are influenced variously by the existing circumstances. Poles received by rail cost more than when received by vessel. Poles 25 feet long are quoted at from 85 cents to \$1.25 on cars in Chicago. Cedar poles are sold by Chicago handlers to go to any remote points, in all directions of the compass, as, for instance, to Arizona, Salt Lake City, Syracuse, St. Louis and New Orleans.—*No-thwestern Lumberman.*

## QUINZE PIER AND BOOM COMPANY.

Mr. Tasse moved in the House of Commons that the House go into committee on the bill to incorporate the Quinze Pier, Boom and Improvement Company.

Mr. White (Renfrew) said this was really a proposal to give two gentlemen, Mr. Allan Grant and Mr. O. Taggart, the right to construct works on a portion of the River Ottawa, which was declared by an Act of this Parliament to be a navigable stream. The portion on which these works were to be constructed was above Lake Temiscamingue, through which the timber from a very large extent of territory was required to pass. Although the names of five corporations appeared in the bill, they were practically only two, as the other three were men of straw in the employment of Mr. Grant,

and were simply inserted to make up the number required to apply for an Act. He (Mr. White), did not believe it to be in the public interest, that the control of so considerable a portion of a river like the Ottawa should be placed in the hands of private individuals. He was informed that licenses had been issued to the extent of 1,200 or 1,500 square miles above the point where these works were to be constructed. It was stated that the works, power to construct which was asked by this bill, extended over 200 miles from the head of Lake Temiscamingue, though the interests of these two gentlemen did not extend over more than twelve or fifteen miles, or at the utmost twenty miles. He was strongly of the opinion that these works ought to be constructed by the Government, and he suggested that these two gentlemen could not be in any way damaged by postponing this Act for a year, and if the Government, upon examination and due consideration, should come to the conclusion that they would not be justified in improving that portion of the river, he would offer no objection next session to a charter been given for the purpose to these or any other gentlemen. If, however, the House should decide that the bill should pass, he would move in committee an amendment giving power to the Government to acquire the works when they thought proper.

Mr. Tasse said the promoters of this bill had deserved well of the lumbering interest, as they had been the pioneers of the trade in that portion of the Ottawa Valley. He had letters from eight or ten of the most important lumbermen interested in that locality approving of the bill. He read extracts from letters from Messrs. Egan, D. Moore, Hisson, Allan Gilmour, Conroy, Dr. Church, Alex. Fraser and Richard Nagle. In committee he would propose to meet the views of his hon. friend from North Renfrew, by an amendment which would limit the operations of the promoters to an extent of thirty or forty miles. He would have no objection to the Government constructing the works if they were prepared to go on with them, but he did not suppose that they were at present. At all events he was prepared to accept the amendment giving the Government power to assume the works.

Mr. Bryson said he thought this bill was not in the public interest. This portion of the river required improvement, but the promoters of this bill were only two men who were lumbering near the Quinze Rapids. He suggested that the Government should send an engineer to make a report on that portion of the river, and if they were not prepared to improve it next year he would support the bill.

Sir Hector Langevin said the promoter of the bill had agreed to limit the operation of the bill to a small portion of the river between Lake Temiscamingue and the Lake des Quinze, where the petitioners had their works and their timber, so that the hon. gentlemen's objection on that ground would be met. He was not sure that the Government would undertake these works. Those on the Upper and Lower Ottawa now were not Government works, and he did not see why a company should not be incorporated to improve this portion. He thought it showed great enterprise on their part to do this without asking aid from the Government, and a clause was to be inserted giving the Government power to purchase the works at their value. The logs of the limit holders above Lake des Quinze would pass through these works and pay the tolls which had to be approved by the Governor in Council and might be altered by him at any time. The formal approval by the Governor in Council was also required of the character of the works, and the company would not be likely to construct them in an inferior manner, as the destruction of the works would be a great loss to them.

Mr. Blake suggested that the difficulty might be avoided by providing for the opening of stock books, so that all the limit holders would have an opportunity to attend to their own interest. After some remarks by Mr. Dawson, the bill was read the second time.

The House went into Committee of the whole, Mr. Kilvert in the chair.

On the motion of Sir Hector Langevin, a provision was inserted that, "after one month's notice in the *Canada Gazette*, a book shall be

opened at the chief place of business of the company in which any person may subscribe for shares in the said capital stock, and, in case a larger number than 500 shares shall be subscribed for, then there shall be an allotment of shares among the subscribers, so that no subscriber shall be excluded."

On the motion of White (Caldwell) a clause was added providing that "the Governor in Council may assume the works, or any portion of the works, on payment of the value to be fixed in case of disagreement by the Official Arbitrators of the Dominion.

The bill, as amended, was reported, read the third time and passed.

## DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

Michigan, it would appear, is not the only state in which the reckless destruction of timber is carried on. It is well known that in this state, Minnesota, and in fact in all the northern states which are recognized as timber furnishing states, the pineries, as well as some of the other timber bearing territory, are annually more or less devastated by fires which are in many cases the direct result of carelessness on the part of land-lookers, hunters, pioneer farmers, and others. A match, with which a hunter may have lighted his pipe, carelessly dropped, or the dying embers of a fire left by the land-looker, and fanned again into a flame by a passing breeze, or the charred remains of a burning log heap of the farmer, once more ignited by the bed of coals left thoughtlessly to smoulder, or even the burning wad from the gun of the sportsman, may be the means of the destruction of thousands, yea, millions of dollars worth of timber, or perhaps worse, hundreds of lives, as in the case of the destructive fires of Michigan in September, 1881. But it would seem that this reckless carelessness and seeming indifference to the safety of life and property is not confined to Michigan and the other western and northern States, which have heretofore obtained recognition as the great lumber producing territories, but is obtaining a foothold in the southern states, which if not nipped in the bud, by stringent legislation, will, when the scenes of activity and the conversation of pine timber of the forests into lumber shall have been more fully transferred thither from the north and west, as it inevitably must be, in the not very distant future, be the most disastrous and direful in its consequences, and it therefore behooves the law making powers of these states, while the lumber business is yet virtually in infancy, to demand a halt in the reckless methods which have obtained a foothold. In alluding to this carelessness in a late issue, the *Southern Lumberman* says that "this abominable and and wasteful custom holds sway in certain sections of our country, and as the perpetrators of the outrage do not heed kindly admonition, it would be well for the legislature to pass a stringent law with reference to it and attach thereto a very severe penalty. We have frequently received letters on the subject and in answer to them published articles relating thereto but to no purpose. Trifling white men and negroes or thoughtless boys are the perpetrators of these deeds. To destroy thousands of young trees is to them a secondary consideration to driving a harmless rabbit from a thicket. Others again fire the wild grass in order to hasten a new growth, never thinking that the timber destroyed or badly injured by the process is worth many times more than the pasture and the animals which feed upon it." It will be observed that the practices which prevail there, are not at all dissimilar to those which prevail in this state, and if not checked in the incipient stages, may yet prove as disastrous as they did in Michigan in 1881.—*Lumberman's Gazette.*

## SWEDEN.

The Stockholm correspondent of the *Timber Trades Journal* writing on April 7th, says:—For the first time during the present year, I am happy to have to chronicle a decided improvement in the position of the Swedish sawn wood trade. Very considerable sales have been effected of the better brands of redwood from the ports south of Sundswall to the Continent, at prices about 10s. per standard less all round than first open-water figures 1882. The sales in question (and this is the most encouraging fea-