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AMERICAN WOODENWARE IN NEW ZEALAND.

REPORT BY U. S. CONSUL GRIFFIN, OF AUCKLAND.

Nearly all the woodenware imported into New Zealand is of American manufacture, and it is gratifying to me to be able to state that about three-fourths of it is brought here direct.

The value of the imports of woodenware into the colony of New Zealand for the year 1881 was \$45,075 against \$25,015 for the year 1880, an increase of \$30,030. This of course, is exclusive of certain articles of ironmongery combined with wood, doors, window-sash, and all kinds of office and household furniture, such as chairs, writing desks, tables, &c. If the latter articles were included in the imports the amount would be increased to about \$620,000. The woodware trade proper embraces such articles as tubs, pails, buckets, washboards, oars, axe handles, brush and broom handles, shoe-pegs, wooden screws, clothes-pins, rolling pins, butter churns, cheese molds, step ladders, bread boards, trays, platters, mallets, croquet and lawn tennis sets, chessmen, checkers, checker-boards, shafts, oak rings, felloes, poles, shade and blind rollers, &c. It is now very generally admitted by dealers and importers that, with few exceptions, all these articles can be manufactured much cheaper in the United States than anywhere else. The choicest wood for such purposes can be obtained in America at very low prices, and there is no other country in the world that has so many ingenious machines for the manufacture of all kinds of woodenware. There are several firms in the United States that have extended their trade here with very little effort.

All the adjustable wooden shades used in Auckland are of American manufacture. Hartshorn's patent shade roller has been introduced in every city and town in the colony.

GERMAN AND ENGLISH WOODENWARE.

The small fracture of woodenware imported from England and Germany into New Zealand consists of bread platters, butter prints, egg cups, forks, spoons, wooden faucets, knife cleavers (cylindrical and board), cricket and lawn tennis bats, ninpins, chessmen, checkers, checker-boards, pepper grinders, &c. Of the articles named above the chessmen, checkers, and boards come from Germany, the rest are of English manufacture. The chief characteristic of English and German woodenware is that they indicate a maximum of labour with a minimum of material, which, of course, is just the reverse of those made in the United States.

PRICES OF WOODENWARE.

The cost of freight, customs duties, and other charges make the price of woodenware here much higher than in the United States. The duty, however, on woodenware, is only 15 per cent ad valorem, and some articles, such as brush, woodware, buggy shafts, bent wheel rims, carriage shafts, spokes, felloes and navels,

saddle trees, butter churns, axles, axle arms and boxes, ship's blocks, &c., are admitted free. There is no demand here for wooden buckets; galvanized iron ones are used instead.

NEW ZEALAND WOODWARE.

New Zealand has developed the largest timber industry in the southern hemisphere. The immense forests of kauri, kahikatea, puihi, and rimu, in the Province of Auckland, are fully appreciated by her enterprising inhabitants. The annual output of sawn timber in this province alone is about 70,000,000 feet in addition to 2,000,000,000 feet of planed timber, 6,500 doors, and about \$75,000 worth of other products. Of the different kinds of timber for manufacturing purposes, the kauri pine is the most valuable. The kauri forests of the province of Auckland cover over 26,000 acres, exclusive of the land still in the possession of the Maoris or natives. The kauri tree, as I have mentioned in former reports, is not found outside of the province of Auckland.

There are 43 saw mills in the province of Auckland, and about 250 in the colony. The value of the lands and buildings in connection with these mills and factories is set down in the last government returns at \$1,885,420. Over 8,000 persons are employed in connection with the timber industry of the colony.

The kauri pine, of which the chief products are made, is more apt to shrink than the pine imported from America. The factories excel in the manufacture of doors, window sash, and various kinds of household furniture, but make only limited quantities and to special order which is known to the trade as woodenware. Their articles of coopers are worthy of praise, especially their butter kegs, which are made of kauri, totara, and pariri (the last is known as New Zealand oak). Amongst the native woods suitable for the manufacture of woodenware may be mentioned tawa (Larus tawa), used like ash, taraire (Laurus taraire), white birch, rowarowa, honeysuckle (Kinghtia excelsa). These goods are used in considerable quantities for axe-handles and small cabinet work. Agricultural implements and oars are sometimes made of mangia, but these articles are not as good as those imported from America. Mapau is another excellent New Zealand wood; it is very tough, and is occasionally used in the manufacture of carpenters' tools.

The great disadvantage the wood manufacturers experience in New Zealand is the high price of labor, and the duties charged on American pine and other timbers.

AMERICAN WOODWORKING MACHINERY.

American woodworking machinery is employed to a greater or less extent in all the principal timber and wooden factories in New Zealand. The Auckland timber company uses by far the largest number of American machines in the colony. It would require a good size volume to enumerate all the various kinds of American

machinery used in these establishments.—*Lumberman's Gazette.*

ANCIENT PLEA FOR THE FORESTS.

The *Lumberman's Gazette* of Aug. 8, says:—In the sixteenth century we find a note warning against the evil consequences likely to follow the wasteful destruction of the forests "An Historical Description of the Island of Britain, by Mr. Hamsen," given in Hollnshed's *Chronicles*—of which a reprint appeared in 1807. In a curious chapter on Woods and Marshes, the author complains of the rapid decrease of the forests, and adds:

"Howbeit thus much I dare affirm, that if woods go so fast to decay in the next hundred years of grace, as they have doone and are like to doo in this, * * * it is to be feared that the ennie bote, broome, turfe gall, heath, firze, brakes, whinnes, ling, dies, hassacks, flags straw, sedge, reed, rush and al o seacole will be good merchandise euen in the cite London, wherunto some of them euen now haue gotten readie passage, and vp their innes in the greatest merchants' parlours. * * * I would wish that I might liue no longer than to see foure things in this land reformed, that is: The want of discipline in the church; the couctous dealings of some of our merchants in the preferment of the commodities of other countries, and hindrance of owne; the holding of fairs and market^s vpon the sundaie to be abolished and referred to the wednesdaies; and that euery man in whatsoever part of the champaine soile enioieth fortie acres of land, and vpwards, after that rate either by free deed, copie held or fee farms, might plant one acre of wood, or sowe the same in oke maat, hasell, beech, and sufficient provision be made that it may be cherished and kept. But I feare me that I should liue too long, and so long, that I should either be wearie of the world, or the world of me.

Again, in the time of Charles II., the importance of conserving and replenishing the woodlands in the forests, as a means of saving timber for the navy, was perceived, and were adopted accordingly. And in 1664 was published the first edition of Evelyn's *Silva*, a work which contributed much to the extension of arboriculture in England.

Hitherto it was chiefly the demand for wood for naval purposes which excited the anxiety of statesmen, but several authors in the 16th century expressed fear of serious evils following the wasteful destruction of woods for domestic fuel, and meanwhile there was gradually manifesting itself a new source of danger. In the forest of Dean and elsewhere, mines of iron ore were being exploited with more and more energy. For the smelting of the ore fuel was at hand, and trees were recklessly felled for the work. Coal had been found, but coal fires were not found appropriate to the purpose, and the consequent destruction of the woods threatened to bring the

country into a condition not unlike what is now the case in many districts of the Ural mountains in Russia—what were richly wooded lands being devastated.—[Brown's "Forest of England."

ENGLISH LUMBERMEN IN FLORIDA.

The new company just promoted, says the *London Timber Trades Journal*, under the title of the "East Florida Land and Produce company (limited)," to acquire land in that profitable region of the great American continent. In their prospectus dwell on the large resources of timber. The property they are about to acquire contains yellow pine, cypress, orange, and other valuable wood being distributed over its surface. The swamps so intimately connected with Florida are stated to be absent from this property, which lies in the northern part of the state, the swamps being in the southern portion. The cypress is said to be very valuable for railway timber, sleepers, ties, &c., and the so-called yellow (pitch) pine, from the nature of the soil, presents a fine color. That the resources of the southern timber lands are comparatively in their infancy we have plenty of evidence of, and a contemporary, writing about Texas, says: "The timber lands of Northern Texas will be, in the course of a few years, the most valuable of any lands in the state. Lumber can be bought, delivered at our doors for \$1.50 per 100 feet, while in the western counties the same will bring from \$4 to \$6. Thus far little timber has been called beside the pine and walnut, while the thousand of acres of white oak ash, hickory, bois d'arc, sweet gum, etc., remain in their virginity, not a stump showing that the destroying hand of man has ever been lifted against them. As the state develops it is believed that these forests will necessarily be drawn upon to supply a demand for building purposes, railroad ties, etc., which the timber of the north would be totally unable to meet."

An \$80,000 Fire.

RAT PORTAGE, Aug. 20.—The Rainy Lake Company's mill here was destroyed by fire on Saturday midnight. It was caused by fire working through the brickwork of the boiler-room into the sawdust. The watchman must have been asleep, as he got burned getting out. A fire caught in the same place before. Loss, \$80,000; insurance, \$30,000.

In Olympia, Washington territory, the nights are made lurid on nearly every side by the roaring forest fires now raging in that immediate vicinity. The atmosphere is so loaded with smoke that the sun at noonday is shorn of its glare, and assumes the appearance of a great ruby in the sky. As a law has been passed whereby parties who carelessly or otherwise set fire to government timber may be punished, wouldn't an example or two cause a decrease in the frequency of forest fires?