

and bear hardly a relative value to the great white pine forests of the West, the three last mentioned no estimates having been made by the census of the forests in New York) contained, according to the census of 1880, 7,365,000,000 feet of spruce timber, with an annual cut of 653,281,000 feet, which would amount in ten years to 6,532,810,000 feet, and leave but 732,190,000 feet on hand, or a little more than one year's supply. The larger portion of it lying on the head waters of the river St. John in the State of Maine, that part of Canada so generously presented by Lord Ashburton to the Maine lumbermen, together with the right of using the St. John river through Canada to get these logs to market, which would otherwise be valueless, together also with all the privileges enjoyed by Canadians for sawing them, and shipping the product to market. These Maine saw logs owned by American Citizens, amounting to about 100,000,000 feet annually, and which though sawn in Canada into lumber, the sawing being restricted to American citizens and would be "taboo" if a Canadian laborer was to saw a board, and are a continuous nuisance to the Canadian lumberman from the time they enter the country to and after they leave it, having free entry into the U. S. markets, equal to an annual bonus of \$200,000 to the Maine lumbermen—are the sawlogs so frequently referred to and mis-called free American log exports, by American lumber journals, when misstating the condition of sawlog exports between the two countries; when Canadian sawlogs, taken from adjoining territory, driven down the same river through Canada, sometimes sawn at the same Canadian sawmill, and shipped on the same Canadian vessels, have a duty imposed upon their products of \$2 per M. upon reaching the same market in the United States. So that the Canadian lumberman is handicapped in the east to the extent of \$2 per M. on his spruce lumber, and in the west \$2 per M. on his pine lumber, and still the greed of the American lumberman is not sated.

We have a right to suspect that this whole affair is a piece of political bunkum, to be used at Ottawa as a lever to get some reduction in the duties on sawlogs, without removing the duty from Canadian lumber, for it is well known that efforts are now being made in that direction, and that an offer has been made of reducing the lumber duty to \$1 per M., if the sawlog duty is removed; but such an arrangement would be disastrous, as we have no more timber than we require for our own milling industry, and should offer no inducements whatever for getting rid of it. It would be against our interests to agree to remove the sawlog duty in exchange for free lumber and logs all round, yet for the sake of getting rid of all difficulties, and to relieve our American lumber friends from the intolerable worry these duties appear to give them, it might be advisable to consent to such an arrangement; but the matter is purely one for the people of the United States to deal with, and except on their account we should feel no concern about it. If this Bill was intended to increase the Revenue, one might have some patience under the necessities of the case, but even then one has a right to enquire why the whole community on both sides of the line should be sacrificed, to further enrich a few lumbermen, who are already too powerful for their country's good, but since the ostensible object is to reduce it, the solution is quite simple. "Free logs for free lumber." "Only this and nothing more."

Our people are beginning to learn that their true interests lie in conserving their forests, and are not so desirous of sacrificing their remaining stock of timber as to force it on unwilling purchasers. Nine out of ten Canadian manufacturers would be better off if they had not cut a stick of pine for the American market in the past five years, as the enhanced value of the timber, if standing to-day, would more than compensate for any profits realized during that time; and now that the United States forests of white pine and spruce are so near their end, a fact which the census will clearly establish, unless the lumbermen prevent the investigation, we may soon expect the entire removal of duties from lumber. Consequently Canadians are not at all nervous over the outlook, and if the American people wish to impose upon themselves the excessive rates of duty proposed, it will be their own loss and not that of the Canadian lumberman.

The writer does not wish it to be inferred that he is in favor of export duties, or of a restrictive policy of any nature in our intercourse with the American people, for he has always advocated the freest trade relations between the two countries; believing, as he does, that the general conditions are so nearly alike, that any advantages possessed by one would be fully counterbalanced by other advantages gained by the other, and the general result be beneficial to both, but, until we have freer trade, let us have that which is measurably fair, not that which is all crow on one side and all pigeon on the other.

WILLIAM LITTLE.

—About 30,000,000 feet of logs were shipped from Canada the Saginaw river last season to be manufactured in American mills, but it is estimated that the figures may reach 50,000,000 feet this present season.

FOREST TREES.

TO THE EDITOR. It is not easy to procure young forest trees worth planting. The trees raised in the nurseries can generally be relied upon, and they are sold at moderate prices, but, owing to distance, want of easy communications, delays in forwarding and delivering (which are often the cause that the trees when received, are unfit for planting, and to the cost, however moderate. It is very seldom that farmers have recourse to the nurseryman for the forest trees they intend planting (I do not allude here to fruit trees.)

They generally go to the woods for them, often a distance of several miles. Those who have tried it know how hard it is to find such trees as they want, how much time and trouble it takes to dig them up, and how impossible it is, even with the greatest care, to avoid wounding and tearing off the roots. They know, too, how little satisfaction they have generally derived from all that work. Trees taken out of the forest and transplanted on the open are placed at a great disadvantage, they fail so often that people get discouraged and many give up tree planting as too difficult an undertaking.

Nothing is easier, in the proper season, with soil fit to grow the kind of tree you wish to plant, if the tree is in good order, with a little care you ought to succeed. But the trees you dig out of the woods are seldom in good order, and they cost you a high price in time, if not in money. If you wish for good trees, in great number, safe to grow, without trouble or expense, procure them from a nursery, but let that nursery be your own.

Any farmer can start in a corner of his garden a nursery of forest trees by sowing the seed of the trees he wishes to plant. With a little observation it is easy to find out when the seed is ripe; for instance, towards the end of June, beginning of July, the seed of the elm and of the soft maple (*acer rubrum*) is ripe, by sowing it at once it will sprout and the little trees grow nearly one foot in height this summer.

The maple, oak, ash, birch, butternut, etc., ripen their seed in autumn, better sow it at once than winter it in the house. Sow in straight rows, with a garden line, leaving a picket at each end to guide you when weeding. Sow, say half an inch deep, for the maple seed and for other kinds, in proportion to the size of the seed, two or three inches deep for butternut and walnut. Thin after the first year, if needed, and transplant further on the little trees removed in thinning. After three or four years, more or less (the time will depend upon the rate of growth of each kind of tree), plant your young trees where they are destined to stay. Choose a cloudy or rainy day in the spring, and without leaving home, with no trouble, without breaking any roots, you will take up and plant at once, without allowing the roots time to dry, one hundred young trees, certain to grow, in less time than it would take you to go to the woods and dig up ten trees, with a poor chance of their taking root and living.

These young trees will cost nothing, your children will soon learn how to weed them and take care of them, especially if you set them the example. Our own children when quite young, took pleasure in sowing acorns and watching the growth of the young oaks, as they came up. By sowing you can procure, with no expense, any number of young trees and rewood, by degrees, all the land which is not fit for cultivation and ought to have been kept as woodland.

But do not forget to fence carefully your nursery and your plantations so as to keep out the cattle. No use planting trees without fences, the cattle will destroy everything.

In many cases nature will spare you the trouble of sowing where the ground is favorable, in July and August, along the ditches, the roads and fences, on the moss on barren patches, wherever there is a little dampness in the neighborhood of the elms and soft maples, you will find hundreds of young elms and maples just sprung up from the seed fallen from those trees, plant them in your nursery. Try it this summer. The seed of the elm is so minute and delicate that it is better to pick up those young seedlings than to attempt sowing the seed.

In a maple groves the ground is covered with a

regular carpet of young maple seedlings. You can pull them up easily by hand in the fall or early spring when the ground is still damp without breaking any of the small roots. Plant them at once in your nursery.

It is very difficult to collect pine and spruce seed. Early in the spring, when the ground is still soft and spongy, in the pastures near where those trees grow you will see a number of young pines and spruces that you can pull up very easily. Plant them at once for that kind of tree you must shelter from the sun until they are well rooted.

Whenever the ground of a garden has been dug up and worked in the fall, if there are any maple or ash growing in the neighborhood, it will be noticed that the ground in the spring is more or less covered with maple and ash seedlings, grown from the seeds fallen from those trees. It takes a very little time to pull up and replant hundreds of them, and scarcely any one of them will fail; of course, they must not be pulled up too roughly or it may damage the delicate roots; if the ground is too hard, use a trowel. As much as practicable, they ought to be pulled up when they have only got their two first leaves, which are easily known by their peculiar shape, long and narrow, from one inch and a half to two inches long and about a quarter of an inch wide.

For several years past I have been seeking the cheapest and, at the same time, most effective mode of restoring the woods, where they have been completely destroyed, many of our old settlements are completely denuded of trees, and I recommend this simple mode as the best, from my personal experience. Let those who suffer for the want of fuel, of timber for building, of trees for shelter and ornament, and those who would look to have a sugar maple grove at their door—let them start their own nurseries this very summer; it will entail no expenditure of money, take but very little time, and repay them bountifully. It will be a pleasure for me to give any further information and advice to all those who may apply for it.

H. G. JOIV DE LOTBINIERE,

Leclercville, P.Q., May 1, 1890.

NEW BUNSWICK LUMBER COMMISSION.

Commenting on the proposed Timber Lands Commission to be appointed by the local government, the *Miramichi Advance* says: It will have a very important subject to deal with one in which there is a large public interest, as well as questions affecting the greatest of all our local industries. A misapprehension seems to prevail to some extent in regard to the range of the commission's work and its functions. It is not to be as some suppose, a body to present to the government an array of facts and conclusions in the interest of the lumber industry, but a court of enquiry into the whole subject of the Crown Timber Lands of the province, for the purpose of reaching conclusions which may assist the government in so amending the present system of administration of those lands as to secure the best obtainable results in the equitable interest of the people on the one hand and the lumber trade on the other. The enquiry will embrace such branches of the subject as the rates of stumpage that should be exacted; the situation of the different tracts of crown lands, relatively to streams, and their value dependent thereon and upon the other facilities available in connection with them for marketing their products; the improvement of streams as a means of increasing the value of lands for public revenue purposes; the merits or demerits of the long lease system, the best methods available for preserving the timber lands, the management of provincial fishery rights, etc.—the general result to be the adoption of as perfect and satisfactory a system as possible of administering the public domain of the province.

The commission is not to exceed three members, and it will have power to summon and examine witnesses under oath. As its functions are quasi-judicial and the interests involved in its inquiry of great consequence, in both their fiscal and trade aspects, it is important that the gentlemen selected to compose it shall be chosen especially with a view to their fitness for the discharge of their duties, having due regard for the public interest on the one hand and that of the people engaged in the lumber industry, in all its branches, on the other.