

AMERICAN FORESTRY

It is both interesting and gratifying to see that there are representative men, occupying positions of influence and power, who are alive to the importance of preserving, and in some places restoring, the wood-lands of America. It is so natural and easy for men to become absorbed in the study of what seem to them, and are, great questions of state policy, questions affecting the interests of commerce, manufactures and national prosperity which have engaged the attention of statesmen in all civilized countries, and will necessarily engage it to the end of time, that when an effort is made to interest them in a subject such as this of forestry they are slow to be convinced that it is a matter that should engage their attention, and are disposed to look upon those who have studied the subject as enthusiasts. But men who can take broad views of national interests soon find that this is a subject which touches the national prosperity at many points. That it has most vital connection with commerce, with manufactures with the supplies of food, with the health and the life of a people. Among such men stand prominently then Hon. Mark H. Dunnell, of Minnesota, whose speech in the House of Representatives of the United States is replete with earnest words, most valuable information, and an evident, appreciation of the importance of the subject. From his speech we learn that in February, 1874, a committee of the American Association for the advancement of science brought a memorial from that body to the President of the United States, urging the duty of Government concerning the cultivation and preservation of forests, and recommending that a commission be ordered to mature plans calculated to meet the requirements of the subject. The President laid this memorial before Congress, which resulted, in 1875, in the appointment of Dr. Franklin B. Hough, of Lowville, New York, to the duty of ascertaining the annual amount of consumption, importation and exportation of forest products, the probable supply for future wants, and the best means for the preservation and renewal of forests; the influence of forests upon climate, and the measures applicable in this country for the planting of forests.

In pursuance of this appointment, Dr. Hough made two reports to Congress, one in 1877, the other in 1878-9. Of the first of these an officer of the Wurttemberg forest service says:—"It awakens our surprise that a man, not a specialist, should have so mastered the whole body of American and European forestry literature and legislation."

From this speech we also learn that the quantity of pine lumber produced in the State of Maine has steadily declined from an average average of 100,000,000 of feet per annum in 1851 to 1855 to an average of 11,800,000 per annum in 1876 to 1881; that the timber supply of the upper peninsula of Michigan, at the rate of production in 1879, will last *eighteen* years; that of the lower peninsula will last seven years; that of the State of Wisconsin scarce *twenty* years; and that of Minnesota about *eleven* years; and that at the rates of present consumption in the North-West, the whole supply of the timber of the United States would last about *seventeen* years. Hence he concludes that it is the duty of Government to inquire how far it can withdraw remaining timber lands from market and place them under regulations that shall secure the greatest present benefit from the use of timber now fully mature, having regard to the requirements of the future, and to ascertain how to impress upon private owners the importance of planting, and how far and in what manner it may encourage this object. To this end he advises the establishment of experimental stations for the careful study of the requirements and capabilities of soils, and of the several kinds of trees, and publish the results in a form particularly calculated to impress their importance, and to teach the simplest rules for securing success. He concludes his very interesting and instructive speech by saying:—

We are using up the capital which nature had for centuries been providing for us in the growth of forests, and we are doing nothing to restore them. Under skillful management the supply might be so arranged that in twenty-

or sixty years for others, a new crop would be furnished by growth; and if only a twenty-fifth or thirtieth part of the former, or a fiftieth or sixtieth part of the latter, were taken yearly, the supply would be perpetual. But instead of this, we are taking a tenth or twentieth part every year, while the growth from our neglect is not a fourth part of what it should be where any growth is allowed.

"We shall only too soon be reminded of the consequence of this improvidence in the growing prices of lumber, which in some kinds have already doubled within a very few years, and which are advancing every day. These advances may be ascribed by some to speculation, and doubtless to some extent they are, for the speculator never loses a chance to turn a penny in his favor, it matters not who suffers; but when these advances are steadily going on from month to month, and year to year, at an accelerating rate, it means that the intrinsic value of the commodity they represent is becoming greater under the combined effects of diminishing supply and increasing demand. It will inevitably lead to the realizing conviction that there is profit in growing timber, and the sooner this is understood and acted upon the better will it be for the country and for the future."

The large gatherings of influential and representative men which recently took place in Cincinnati, embracing not only scientists, whose special duties have led them to understand the importance of this subject, but also members of state and national legislatures, leading agriculturists, and the chief of the national Agricultural Bureau, this gathering is a cheering evidence that our neighbors across the border are becoming aroused to the importance of this subject, and that steps will be taken to prevent the needless destruction of their forests, and to secure the planting of woodlands as a branch of economic industry.

It is very gratifying to us as Canadians to know that the Honorable the Commissioner of Agriculture for Ontario is fully alive to the great importance of this matter to us, and that he is using every means at his command to procure and diffuse information on this subject, and to encourage the planting of forest trees for timber, shelter and fuel, wherever it can be done with advantage.

Doubtless our own forests are disappearing as rapidly as those of our neighbors under the united ravages of the woodman's axe and the devastating forest fires. Already some parts of Ontario are beginning to suffer from want of a due proportion of the woodland in the diminishing volume of her springs and streams in protracted summer drouths, and in the unbroken sweep of frost-laden winter winds. It is time, full time, that public attention be turned to this matter; that something be done to limit the annual cutting of lumber, so that it shall bear a proper relation to our present supply and present needs; that measures be taken to prevent wholesale destruction by forest fires, and that planting be commenced without delay on lands suitable for the purpose, with a view to keeping up the supply perpetually, and of preserving the proper proportion of woodland, so as to save us from those climatic changes which are sure to follow the denudation of the country, bringing in their train drouths, excessive floods, sterility, famine and pestilence.—*Canadian Horticulturist*.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

The *Northwestern Lumberman* says:—A good deal of the lumber which the mills of the northern states are turning out goes to meet an already active and developing demand in the Dominion, with which the comparatively few Canadian mills cannot keep abreast. So much emigration has tended to Manitoba, and other provincial sections, that the results of the emigration boom which has been so marked this year, have not been so much felt in the north-western states. That there is a building boom in Canada there can be no doubt, for there are facts in open view which demonstrate it. As things are conditioned now, however, what affects the Canadian lumber trade has a healthful influence upon the markets of the United States, and this benefit may be more widely operative than may be thought. For instance, the upper Mississippi supplies are drawn on

quite extensively, and we have already noted a large sale of dry lumber going from Chicago to Winnipeg, which was recently made. The enterprise of constructing portable houses is still actively prosecuted in Canada, the industry being particularly prominent in Quebec, Ottawa, Belleville, Hamilton, and other main points, and among them competition is lively. So great, however, is the need for shelters that there is almost an enormous demand for tents, which are used in lieu of better habitations. It is told that in and about Winnipeg alone there are more than 3,000 people living in tents, and the plan has been adopted to move a less extent over a wide section. This is all very well during the summer weather, when Old Sol makes things genial, and sometimes red-hot, but persons can not successfully abide here in tents during the winter months, and Canada is still farther towards the north pole. This fact is, all these tent-abiding people must be provided with structures before the cold weather sets in, and we opine that a very respectable share of those provincial prospectors will sleep under American pine in the future. On account of the growing scarcity of dry stocks, what building is now prosecuted consumes largely green lumber, and it is often a case of Hobson's choice.

A LARGE PURCHASE.

The *Lumberman's Gazette* says:—The American Lumber Company has purchased from the Detroit, Mackinac and Marquette Railway Company the standing pine on its entire land grant, except Mackinac county and the east part of Chippewa county. This comprises some 500,000 acres, and it is expected the yield will amount to several hundred million feet of pine. This company has also purchased of the same company about 75,000,000 feet of pine on the Tiquanawagon river, in Chippewa county. It has also purchased about 150,000,000 feet on the waters tributary to Ontonagon river. This gives the company the entire control of the largest body of pine in the northern peninsula.

A mill with a capacity of 100,000 feet per day is now being erected at Newberry, Chippewa county, on the line of the railroad, and it is the intention to cut about 14,000,000 feet during the coming winter. Another large mill near Escanaba is contemplated. The American Lumber Company is composed of Scotch and Canadian capitalists. The head offices are in Toronto. H. H. Cook, M. P., A. MacKenzie, Robert and John M. Dollar, and J. S. Lockie, all of Toronto, are resident directors. The headquarters in the northern peninsula will be Marquette. Robert Dollar will be general manager at that point.

OBSTRUCTING MILL STREAMS.

The *Bay City Lumberman's Gazette* says:—This bit of law comes to us through Bradstreet's: A, the owner of a mill, filed a bill to enjoin B, who had a mill to manufacture lumber and clothes pins above that of A on the same stream, to prevent him from discharging his saw dust, shavings and refuse into the stream, so that they were carried by the current into A's pond in such quantities as to cause him considerable expense to remove this waste, and interfered seriously with the profitable use of A's mill. In this case the supreme court of Vermont granted the injunction, the Chief Justice (Royce), in the opinion, saying: "While it is true a manufacturer has the right to appropriate and use the water of a stream in a proper manner, it is equally true that he must respect and regard the rights of riparian proprietors below him; and while such owners must submit to such inconvenience and injury as may result from such use, they are not compelled to submit to injuries which are not necessarily occasioned thereby. Such injuries as are incident to, and necessarily result from a proper use of the water, must be borne, but the manufacturer has no right to do any act that in its consequences is injurious to others, because it is a matter of convenience or economy for him to do so. It is as much the duty of a manufacturer to so dispose of his waste as not to injure others, as it is to refrain from injuring others by any other act. No one is allowed to deposit any substance in a running stream that will pollute its waters, to the injury of riparian proprietors below. Neither has anyone the right to deposit any

other substance in such a stream, beyond what is absolutely necessary to a beneficial use of it, to the injury of mill owners or the lands through which the stream may run. It would be manifestly unjust to hold that a manufacturer could so conduct his business as to seriously impair the value of the rights and property of manufacturers on the same stream below, and injure or perhaps ruin the lands of riparian owners, without accountability, upon the showing that it was more convenient and economical to him thus to conduct it. The acts of the defendant in depositing the waste made at his mill in the manner we have found it has been done, were illegal, and a perpetual injunction will be issued enjoining him and his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns from so disposing of it in the future.

AUSTRALIAN TIMBER TRADE.

Messrs. O. E. Ross & Co.'s latest report from Melbourne states that the arrivals of timber and building materials continued heavier than the demand for consumption, and prices had in consequence declined, especially in American lumber and British shipments of red deals. The arrivals for the past month have been per *Alderprose*, *Macbeth*, *British Enterprise*, and *Gulf of St. Vincent*. The parcels ex ships from Great Britain (which were landed in the usual bad order of such shipments) have been sold at prices which leave a heavy loss to the importers, and this result will always follow, as our buyers require timber in bright condition. The *Pacific's* cargo from Gelfo was ordered on 12th May, resulting in the sale of 4,000 pieces at from 6d. to 1-16th d. per foot 9 x 3, the balance being withdrawn at the latter figure. The stocks in hand are much larger than usual at this season, and as they are weekly being added to from Great Britain, the prospect for shipments on route are not favorable to profitable results. The *British Queen*, from London, arrived at Adelaide last week with a cargo of 38,000 pieces red deals and battens, and was ordered on to Sydney. Our advices from Sydney reports sales of small parcels of London shipments at 3½d. to 4½d. per foot 9 x 3, for 3rds. The *Ravenwood* from Glasgow, *Mistley Hall* and *Ann Millicent*, from London, and *Hospoda*, are reported at the Heads.

A Good System.

The census office at Washington has just issued a bulletin, giving some interesting figures showing the estimated amount of merchantable pine and spruce standing in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, May 31, 1880. The statistics for Maine show that 475,000,000 feet of pine and 5,000,000,000 feet of spruce, board measure, were standing in the census year, and that 138,825,000 feet of pine and 301,020,000 feet of spruce were cut that year, including 6,000,000 feet of pine and 49,000,000 feet of spruce cut on St. John River, but sawed in New Brunswick. Considerable areas in Southern Maine are covered with second growth pine not included in the above estimate, furnishing a large proportion of the pine sawed in the state. Pine has been cut in every township, and the largest spruce has been removed from the state, except from the inaccessible region about the head waters of the Allagash River. The system of cutting only the large trees and carefully protecting the remainder prevails in Maine and allows the forest to be profitably worked at stated periods, varying from fifteen to twenty-five years. Their permanence is thus insured.

The Superintendent in Love.

Supt. E. J. O'Neill, of the Dominion Police Force, Ottawa, Canada, thus spoke to a representative of one of Ottawa's leading Journals: "I am actually in love with that wonderful medicine St. Jacobs Oil. I keep it at home and likewise here in my office; and though my duty should call me hence in an hour to journey a thousand miles, St. Jacobs Oil would surely be my companion. It is the most wonderful medicine in the world, without any exception, I believe. My entire family have been cured by it. We have used it for twenty different ailments, and found it worth half a score of doctors. My men here on the Dominion Police Force, use it right along and very justly think that there is nothing like it. I believe it is the long sought *Elizir Vitae* and possesses the power of making the old, young again. I know it often enlivens me, and although I am past fifty years of age, I am, thanks to that wonderful agent, a lively man yet."