

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

VOLUME XVII. }
NUMBER 2. }

TORONTO, ONT., FEBRUARY, 1896

TERMS, \$1.00 PER YEAR
Single Copies, 10 Cents.

A PLEA FOR ECONOMY.

By "HERMIT."

I. WASTE OF MATERIAL.

I HAVE been much interested in articles upon forestry, woodworking and kindred economics in late numbers of THE LUMBERMAN. I seem to see a gradual evolution from the wasteful square timber business, waney or board timber, saw logs, box factory, shingle mill, match factory and pulp mill, to the latest uses of sawdust at Deseronto. Progressing further, I would call attention to remaining wastes, and sources of profit, in hope of seeing still greater improvements. Even if Mowat does not go, the consumer must, and the heterogeneous contents be all utilized. As a first suggestion, might not a lime kiln or brick yard be attached to each saw mill, and its contents sold to builders at the same time?

There is too much hurry in lumbering operations to realize the best results. From $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{10}$ more wood can be cut out of each tree in the woods and sawlog in the mill by using judgment and "making haste slowly." Enough to pay the time and secure a better class of log-cutters, as well as increase the aggregate wealth of the country, might thus be saved. Then, too, if slabs, edgings and trimmings were ground to pulp, saturated with fire and water proof chemicals, and pressed into roofing and sheeting, a great industry would spring up in Canada, and also economize much lumber now used for that purpose.

Hemlock might be milled more extensively to save the pine were it not for a mill man's prejudice against it. Cedar as cut and culled at present is another source of waste. If every dealer were compelled to buy all the cut of a swamp, instead of some one line of poles, posts or ties, and culling that to death, it would be better for the seller, buyer and the country at large. But unless the farmers combine, and have their own culler, or the government authorize a public culler and rules for cutting and selling, I suppose the present waste will continue till cedar will be in the same category with walnut and cherry—worth any money, but "can't be had."

The bark, with the best and most lasting fibre we have, is not only a dead loss, but a perpetual nuisance—it will neither rot, float or bury in the mud. Properly dressed it ought to be the best and most beautiful floor covering in the world.

Then our vast burnt lands, or brule, could be

used to save the older timber, by trimming the valuable shoots, pulping the inferior brush, and replanting the bare spots. The marsh hay, silkweed and other "annuals" would yield a coarse, but very tough fibre, which could be used in a thousand ways. In short, Canada will never realize the wealth of our back country till she has mills on our splendid water powers, utilizing the surplus growth of our forests, the waste of log cutting, and the power now running idle save to carry the logs to foreign mills and factories, at a fearful waste. To recognize our loss

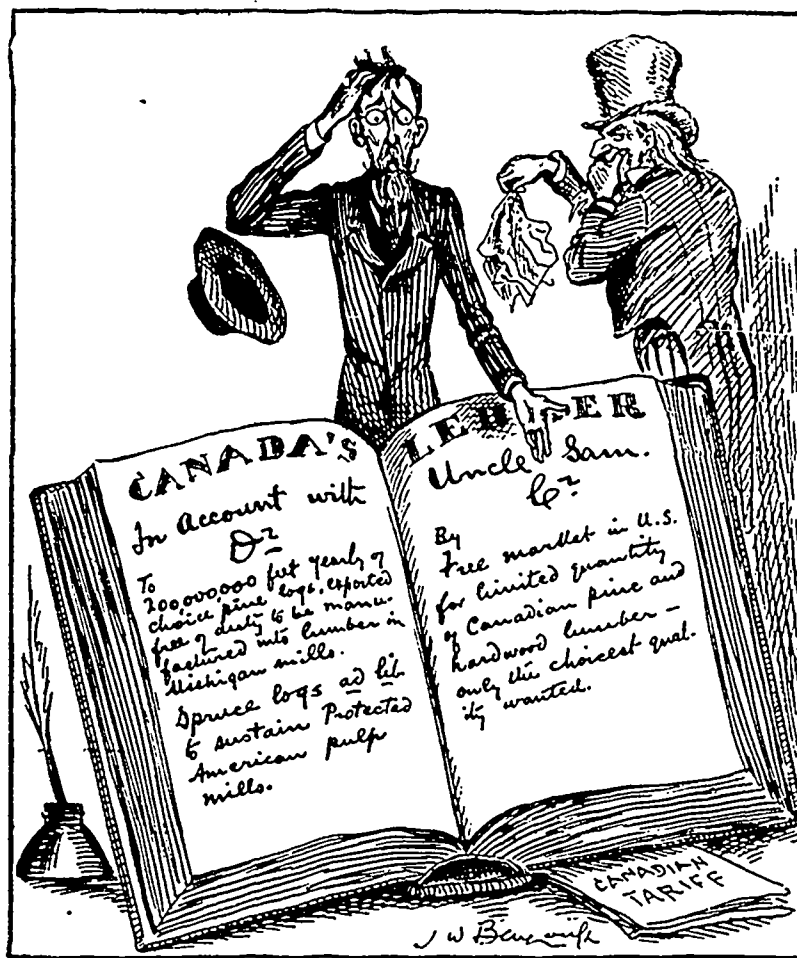
degrading the workmen. How many intelligent owners of local mills are now ruined, or have become employees of the capitalists, who crush every little man who comes within reach? How many men of family, who 20 years ago had steady employment in a local mill, are now toiling at lower wages, far from their families, and liable to be sacked at an hour's notice, to pay their way home at a time when local employment is impossible? But more of this anon! I am now dissecting the monster to discover the source and possible cure of its voracity. Concentration

overdone is destruction—in government, in mechanics, in study—in anything. It means one master with one interest, and many slaves, whose interests are all absorbed into his.

Now, I assert that a number of small mills, at the timber, cutting both logs and lumber to best advantage, seasoning and even planing it before hauling and shipping, will produce better lumber, train more intelligent operatives, and evolve more labor-saving inventions than the present cyclopean system. "But portable mills are a failure!" exclaim 1000 practical lumbermen. Well, so were velocipedes for at least 150 years. Steam carriages were also failures for 40 years after the first run from Glasgow to Edinburgh. The reaping machine was a failure in Britain till its true value was proven in Illinois. Friar Bacon's speaking head was doubtless the father of the phonograph and telephone. The locomotive grew in power till its 80 tons with a speed of 70 miles per hour became a menace to humanity when presto! every lane, turnpike, country road, and even the river and ocean wave sparkle with tourists, each on a locomotive propelled and controlled by his own will, free from the bondage, dust and roar of the railway train. A locomotive of 80 tons with

cars weighing 12 to 16 tons each may have to start or stop for one man, and may crush the life out of a hundred in a few seconds. A mill with 300 h. p. and 100 men may have to stop to replace a nut or tighten a bolt. A blade weighing 5 lbs. will cut off a board from a log by applying it properly, as well as all that machinery can. How to apply it properly and profitably, will be the next advance in mill improvement. A circular or even a gang need several times as much energy to cut off a board as the old whip saw did. Then what power is needed to carry the log twice its own length for every cut taken by the saw! The power which lifts the whip or

CANADA'S BOOK-KEEPER TAKING STOCK.



DOES IT PAY?

and to acknowledge our duty is a necessary prelude to retrieving the one and performing the other.

II. WASTE OF POWER.

The sawmill of to-day is a giant compared with the upright saws of the older time—a giant that devours alike the money of its builders, the fingers, and often bodies of its attendant slaves, the logs it "tears" into commercial form, and frequently the town reared in its shadow. It bolts a fearful premium to get insured, and makes a yawning cavern in the company's profits when it "combusts." Such mills are crushing the life out of the business, developing monopolies, and