



THE well-known lumber veteran, A. R. Christie, was just in from the Georgian Bay district when I met him a few days ago. "Oh, yes," said he, "the mills are somewhat busy; those that have anything to cut; but we are not so terribly in want of lumber as some people would make one believe. We will make a mistake if an excess of lumber is again cut by the mills. Prices are better than they were; they had need to be; but an overplus of stocks will not help prices."

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"We are well pleased with the business situation," said Mr. John Donogh, of Donogh & Oliver. "Local business is, of course, quiet enough. You will have noticed how building permits have fallen off in the city; but outside business is satisfactory. We are doing a good business with the States. We have taken over the business of the Proctor Lumber Co., of Buffalo, and made that a branch of our business. Mr. Charles W. Playter, who is well known to the American trade, is our representative. Our Mr. Oliver, who was north among the mills lately, reports the larger part of the season's cut as having changed hands. Prices are stiffening and all signs point to better times for the lumber business."

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Mr. Wm. Palmer, of Random, Trinity Bay, Newfoundland, is a lumberman of the distressed colony, who has been visiting relatives in London, Ont. Mr. Palmer has been peculiarly unfortunate in his losses by fire. He had suffered considerable loss by forest fires in the early part of the month, and had just reached St. John's to market a boat load of lumber when the great fire broke out by which the product of his season's operations went up in smoke. He says it is impossible to describe the sufferings of the ten thousand homeless people of all ages, sexes and conditions, who are encamped in the parks and waste places of the city with no means of support other than what is sent them by the charitable people of the world. Mr. Palmer is on his way to the Northwest to see what are the prospects there for a new start in life.

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Among the many summer visitors to Toronto the present season was Mr. Francis E. Lloyd, professor of botany and forestry in the Pacific University, Forest Grove, Oregon. It was my pleasure to meet Mr. Lloyd during his stay here, and our conversation, it was to be expected, turned on the subject of forestry. I was interested in learning that forestry will be made a subject of considerable importance in the curriculum of the Pacific University. The soil is congenial, and I have no doubt that reflectively, if not directly, the lumbermen of Oregon will be influenced by the teaching of the university on this subject. I suggested to Mr. Lloyd that his teachings would probably be more theoretical than practical, remarking that I supposed this was the position of botany as a subject of university teaching. "Botany, it is true," said Mr. Lloyd, "has a strong esthetic side, and it is natural, as it is ordinarily taught in our schools and seminaries, that we should view it in this light. It also occupies an important place as a scientific subject, and this ought not to be forgotten. But it has a decidedly practical, business, every-day side in what we term economic botany. Treating the question in this light we think of a plant like cocoa as one eminently adapted for domestic uses. How can it be made more productive? In what way can its virtues be strengthened? What treatment needs be accorded it to improve its growth? These and many other questions have to be considered in a study of the economic relations of cocoa. So with scores of other plants used for domestic, medicinal and mechanical purposes. And it is as an economic question I shall teach forestry. Every year gives impressiveness to the

question. Because of the immensity of the timber resources of this continent we have been wickedly prodigal in their destruction. But if the history of European countries is worth anything to us, we can only continue this waste at a terrible cost to generations yet unborn. Briefly, my aim will be to show up in clearest possible light that a knowledge of the principles and practice of forestry will pay."

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Prof. Saunders, Dominion Commissioner for the World's Fair, in an interview has said that timber will be one of Canada's greatest displays. Four thousand feet of space has been set apart for this country and a good slice will likely be used by the lumbermen. British Columbia will be well represented in timber products; probably 1,000 feet will be given up to lumber exhibits from that province. It has been decided that the sections of logs to be shown are to be of a uniform height of three feet six inches. They will stand on a platform eight inches above the floor, so that they will be at the most convenient height for people to inspect them properly. They will be shown in the rough and polished, some cut so as to show the tangential appearance of the wood, and so on. The uniformity in height will allow of ready comparisons of the timber from different parts of the country. What was specially wanted was a good representation of specimens of our commercial lumber. Mr. Nicholas Awrey, M.P., Ontario Commissioner to the Chicago Fair, has sent out 600 circulars to the lumber dealers of this province, and is meeting with a ready response from them. He is anxious that the province should make a display of its finest woods. In the exhibit of wood and wood products there is good reason to expect that Canada will make a large and noteworthy display at the Columbian exhibition.

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Mr. Wm. Davies, the well-known provision merchant of this city, who spent some time in the vicinity of Lake Joseph, Muskoka, this summer, is authority for the statement that wide-spread damage is being done to the hemlock forests of that district by a voracious little animal that completely strips the limbs of leaves, rendering the tree almost lifeless. A branch of a blighted tree was shown to Dr. Wm. Brodie, of this city, a prominent entomologist, well versed in conditions in this country. He has expressed the opinion, without having seen a specimen, that the destructive work is chargeable to the larvæ of the saw-fly. He thinks, however, that it must be closely related or identical with the species (*lophyrus-abietis*) that has destroyed the foliage of evergreens in several of the Eastern States and in Quebec. In New England the larvæ of this fly has been especially destructive. The male is about a quarter of an inch long and two-fifths inch in expanse of wings; black above, brown below, the wings with changeable tints of reddish, green and yellow. The legs dirty yellow, antennæ like short black feathers curled inward on each edge. The female is three-tenths inch long and one-half inch in expanse; yellowish brown above, with blackish stripe on each side of thorax; dirty yellow below; antennæ short and tapering, nineteen-jointed, serrated on the outside. The larvæ, which are about half an inch long, live in large swarms, curling the hind part of the body around the leaf while feeding. The head and anterior parts are black, body pale green with longitudinal stripes, below yellowish; they become almost yellowish at last. From this description anyone may identify the fir sawfly.

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"One must stick close to the cushion these days," said Mr. Meaney, city manager for Robert Thompson & Co., "if he is to make business pay. I have done very little holidaying this summer. Present business is quiet; local trade is dull as ever; but throughout the country the outlook is undoubtedly hopeful. So soon as farmers can get over harvesting we may expect them to engage in building operations, which many of them have been deferring for years, because of hard times. At the mills we have had a busy season, particularly in deals for the British market. Our Mr. Thompson is in Glasgow, Scotland, at the present time, where we have a branch house." Mr. Meaney told me a good story to show how local builders will scheme to do up the lumberman. It is not an easy matter for the specu-

lative builder to secure credit these days. Toronto lumbermen have had their own experience of that kind of business. "But some of them will try all sorts of methods to get the best of us," said Mr. Meaney. "A good square lie gives no worry. A certain individual made application for credit a while ago. He was putting up two or three houses. He wanted rock bottom prices, as everything would be paid, he said, inside of 30 days, which would give time, if necessary, to put a lien on the property. When our bill was something under \$100 I considered it best to look for some money. I found bricklayers and others were on a similar mission. Enquiry was made only to discover that the property had never been transferred to the individual in question. The owner of the property claimed lumber, bricks, and all other material on the ground as necessary to protect himself, leaving everyone else out in the cold. The culprit himself skipped the town, and then had the gall to send back an affidavit saying that he and Mr. Owner had deliberately planned to defraud every man from whom they could secure material of any kind. Of course, it was a clear case of fraud, but our amount was too small to make it worth while putting on costs. One needs to be wary of Toronto speculative builders; don't you think so?"

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"The question of how best to promote the material progress of Canada," says Mr. R. W. Phipps, the well-known Forestry Commissioner for this province, "is one to which much attention has been devoted. It is felt that in the past the development of the country has not been in proportion to the resources at our command, and the manifold attractions offered for settlement. Various proposals have been from time to time submitted with a view to the more rapid expansion of our commercial and industrial interests. It seems not a little singular that while this problem occupies so prominent a place in the minds of Canadians they should suffer one of the principal sources of national wealth and prosperity to be wasted. I refer to our forests which, apart from the present and prospective value of the timber supply, are indispensable to the continued prosperity of our yet more important agricultural interests. It ought to be generally known the indiscriminate cutting down of the timber tends greatly to impair the productiveness of the soil. A certain proportion of wooded country is necessary to ensure a steady water supply and prevent the land from becoming parched and sterile owing to the want of moisture during the summer season. Ignorance or indifference to this great natural law has always resulted in National ruin. The process is gradual, extending over a lengthened period, but none the less sure. Climatic changes set in which render the labor of the cultivator less productive and the crops less abundant. The country is no longer able to support the population which formerly derived their subsistence from the soil and famine drives many to seek homes elsewhere. Scientific forestry explains the function performed by the forest as the great natural storehouse of moisture, large quantities of which are absorbed and retained by it after every heavy rain, and given out gradually into the water courses or by evaporation into the atmosphere. Where no trees exist the water runs rapidly off the torrents and in a day or two the ground is as dry as ever. It follows that the reckless clearance of the country has inflicted great injury on agriculture besides diminishing the sources of our future supply of wood. It is time that this destructive process was arrested—the remaining woods, especially in our frontier countries, carefully preserved—and measures taken to redeem in some degree the mistaken recklessness of the past by replanting. I am glad to note the fact that the Provincial Government has set apart a forestry reserve of considerable extent in the back townships where some of our principal rivers and streams have their source, which will prevent them from drying up to mere rivulets owing to the destructive process. But much more remains to be done in this respect. The private effort of the farmer and land-owner ought to be encouraged as well as his duty to do what he can for the benefit of the country. The planting of bush as well as by re-plantations of soil and climate will result in a prosperous agricultural country."