



VOL. I.—NO. 3.

TORONTO, ONT., NOVEMBER 15, 1880.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

PROSPECTUS.

The CANADA LUMBERMAN is now introduced to its patrons, and so far has met with a favourable reception.

Before its publication a large number of lumber and timber merchants and mill owners in the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, and manufacturers whose line is to supply machinery for mills, saws, axes, files, oil, belting, sleighs, &c., were consulted in reference to the advisability of publishing such a journal.

Their opinion was that such a publication could be made highly useful to parties engaged in the various branches of trade above alluded to, as well as to those more directly interested in the mines and minerals of Canada.

Acting on their suggestions, THE CANADA LUMBERMAN has entered on this extensive and important field, with an adequate sense of the responsibility of the undertaking; and whilst craving leniency until fairly under way, we may repeat a portion of our introductory, viz: nothing shall be wanting on our part to make this journal a full and complete record of the lumber business, and all that relates to the trade in Canada. To this end the latest market reports, the contributions of trustworthy correspondents, trade circulars, etc., will be freely used, to give our readers the best, the earliest, and most reliable information that can be ascertained, concerning the important branch of business to which the journal will be especially devoted; while the mining, the milling, and the manufacturing interests will receive attention proportionate to their great claims on the public.

In short, it will be our endeavor to make THE LUMBERMAN worthy of its title in every respect; and, while giving special attention to the great staple industry to which it is devoted, it will also furnish a carefully selected amount of general reading that will make it a welcome visitor in every family.

Advertisers, especially those dealing in mill, mining, and lumbering supplies and machinery, will find THE LUMBERMAN a very favourable medium of reaching their customers, as it will circulate among these classes, and receive more attention from them than they have the time or inclination to bestow on a general newspaper.

The success of the LUMBERMAN must depend on the support it will receive from the classes above referred to; we trust, therefore, that they will overlook shortcomings at the commencement, and accord to the enterprise their generous and hearty support.

MORE TREES.

Scribner's Monthly says:—We do not remember any article in this department of the Monthly which has proved so prolific of beneficent results as one which was published four years ago, on "Village Improvement Societies." It was responded to from Maine to Texas, gave rise to a great deal of enquiry, and resulted in the establishment of a large number of associations for the beautifying and improvement of village property and life. One of the most important of all the improvements inaugurated was the setting out of trees for shade and beauty and profit; and this is so important a matter, from an economical point of view, that it deserves a special article. The appearance of Mr. B. G. Northrop's papers on "Tree-planting" and "Forestry in Europe" makes the writing of the article both easy and pleasant. Mr. Northrop has done a great service to the country in collecting and disseminating information upon these subjects, and we know of no man who has done, or is doing, so much as he to beautify and enrich the State which honours him with the charge of her educational interests. Such a man is a treasure to Connecticut, at any price, and he will not fail to be remembered, when the results of his foresight and enthusiasm shall become apparent and established, as a great public benefactor. More than fifty village improvement societies have been established in Connecticut, mostly through his agency, and he has gone up and down the State, making public addresses on the topic, until the public mind is fully awakened. We can do our readers no better service than in turning over the pages of information and statistics he has furnished, and quoting freely from them. In illustration of the great interest attached to forestry abroad, it is stated that, previous to 1842 there had appeared in Germany 1,815 volumes on the subject of forestry, and that an average of one hundred volumes on that subject are published in that country every year. There are more than 1,100 volumes on forestry in the Spanish language. In America, the great question has related to the best and quickest methods of getting our forests out of the way. We have done nothing but cut and burn our wood. Destruction has been the end aimed at, and the end has been only too well achieved. In the Old World, the effect of the destruction of forests has been very carefully and intelligently traced, and this effect should

give America pause at once in her suicidal policy. To strip a vast realm of its trees is to change its climate from a soft and moist one to a dry and harsh one, to dry up its streams, with all their capacities for irrigation and navigation, and to transform a fertile soil into a barren waste. It is declared that Tunis and Algiers were once fertile regions, supporting a dense population. Their decadence is largely traceable to the destruction of the forests. Kutzsch ascribes the political decay of Spain to the same cause. Hon. George P. Marsh says: "There are parts of Asia Minor, of Northern Africa, of Greece, and even of Alpine Europe, whose causes set in action by man have brought the face of the earth to a desolation as complete as that of the moon, and yet they are known to have been once covered with luxuriant woods, verdant pastures and fertile meadows." Mr. Marsh is trying to impress upon America the importance of arresting the work of destruction going on within her borders, and the facts which he adduces from Persia and the farther East may well excite our profound alarm. Regions larger than all Europe are now withdrawn from human use, though they once flowed with milk and honey.

In the discussion of this matter of the destruction of forests, we have never noticed any competent allusion to the agency of railways. Mr. Northrop tells us how many miles must be produced to furnish our 55,000 miles of railway, viz., 34,000,000 sleepers per annum. These are astonishing figures, but nobody talks of the consumption of wood for the production of steam-power in locomotives. Nearly all the railways of the country, passing through wooded districts, use wood for steaming just as long as the line will produce it. The consequence has been that a railway is a scourge to all the forests within five miles of it. The hills and valleys are stripped bare. A tornado ten miles wide, destroying everything in its path for the entire distance, would not be more disastrous to the forests than a railway throughout its length. Hundreds of thousands of acres of beautiful woodlands, that were the nursing homes of streams and the mothers of climatic salubrity and balm, have been burned up in the locomotive furnace, and the hills and valleys where the forests stood are baking in the sun.

A world-wide mischief has been done already in America, and now, of course, the question is, "What is the remedy?" The first answer is, "Stop destroying." Wood must be cut—that is true, but it is not necessary to cut it clean, unless the land is needed for cultivation. Timber must be felled for building and manufacturing purposes, but it is not necessary to denude the land and burn it over. Large tracts of undisturbed forests should be left, and then, when the work of destruction has been perfected, we must begin and plant forests and let them grow. The American is not a patient man. He is particularly desirous to see the result of his toils and his expenditures in his lifetime. To plant a forest, which it will take fifty or sixty years to mature, seems like

that so good an investment for one's family cannot be made as an investment in the growth of a forest. Mr. Northrop quotes Dr. James Brown as saying that he has seen crops of larch, of sixty-five years' standing, sold for from \$700 to \$2,000 per acre, from land that was only worth originally from \$2 to \$4 an acre. It has been calculated by a competent authority that a plantation of ten acres of European larch, to last fifty years, will produce a profit of thirteen per cent. per annum, and give a net profit of \$52,282.75! Mr. Sargent, director of the Botanic Garden and Arboretum of Harvard College, calculates that there are 200,000 acres of unimproved land in Massachusetts, which could at once be covered with larch plantations with advantage, and that, if so planted, their net yield in fifty years would be considerably more than a billion of dollars. Mr. Northrop advises the Connecticut farmers to plant white ash; but Grigor says: "No tree is so valuable as the larch in its fertilizing effects, arising from the richness of its foliage, which it sheds annually. The yearly deposit is very great, the leaves remain and are consumed upon the spot where they fall."

Farmers who want information for practical use should send to Mr. Northrop for his book. Lands are various, and have their special adaptations of certain kinds of trees. All trees, however, are trees of life, whose leaves are for the healing of the acres. If a farmer have a sterile pasture, let him remember that the way to make it fruitful is the least expensive is to plant it with trees. Trees have a chemistry of their own for dissolving the elements of the rock in the crevices of which they will grow. Spread a throwing away life; but it is demonstrable sterile pasture with shade and strew it with leaves every year, and a good piece of land will be made of it for those who succeed the planter, while the crop of trees will pay all expenses and leave a handsome profit.

When we remember what a wonderfully beautiful object a tree is, how important a part it plays in all our landscapes, how useful it is in the arts and economies of life, and how beneficial it is in its climatic influences, we do not wonder at the enthusiasm with which specialists regard it, and the zeal with which such a man as Mr. Northrop pushes its claims upon the popular attention. If all communities would give themselves up to his leading, and share in his devotion, they would do a good thing for themselves and for the country. As for him we hope he will not become weary with popular indifference, and that, if necessary, he will be willing to wait as long as it takes a tree to grow for the reward which is sure to come to his memory.

The light at the entrance to Byng Inlet, Georgian Bay, Muskoka District, Ontario, has been removed to a new building erected upon Geaux Island, about half a mile N.E. ½ N. from its old position. The light is a fixed white cat price, elevated 47 feet above water mark, and should be visible 12 miles from all points seaward.