



PUBLISHED  
SEMI-MONTHLY.

The only Newspaper devoted to the Lumber and Timber Industries published in Canada.

SUBSCRIPTION  
\$2.00 PER ANNUM

VOL. 4.

PETERBOROUGH, ONT., MARCH 15, 1884.

NO. 6.

#### A NEW LUMBER PROJECT.

The international bridge between Fort Erie, Ont., and Black Rock crosses an island in the Niagara river known as Squaw Island, containing about 500 acres of good land, with a large and valuable frontage on the river and Black Rock harbor. A railway company has been recently organized under the title of the Squaw Island Railway Company, who are taking steps to acquire possession of the island, it is said with the object of building it up with wharves and docks and making it a great railway and shipping point for lumber and freight. The Squaw Island Railway Company is believed to be the New York Central and Hudson River railway under a new title, and to them in a few years the island would be worth several millions of dollars. The Grand Trunk, which virtually owns the International bridge, a possession which, as previously stated, crosses the island about its centre, and various property owners along the river front down to Tonawanda, which is ranking high as a lumber port, and whose property is threatened by this move, as well as various other railroads, will probably bitterly contest the proceedings for the confiscation of the island, and a long legal fight will possibly follow the contest.

#### TREES FOR COLD CLIMATES.

The special committee of the House of Commons on agricultural industries met on Friday morning, Mr. Gignault in the chair, when Mr. Charles Gibb, of Abbotsford, P. Q., was examined. Mr. Gibb has travelled in Great Britain, Germany, Russia and other European countries, making particular observations regarding their horticulture, and he is also the author of a pamphlet entitled "Fruits of the Cold North; a report on Russian fruits, etc." In his opinion the great obstacle to the introduction of fruits into the Northwest was the coldness of the climate, and, in Manitoba at least the conditions of the sub-soil. The country was such a vast one that there were totally different soils and climates in different parts of it, and a tree which might thrive well at Medicine Hat might not grow at all in Winnipeg. He thought the Government should encourage the horticulture of the country in the way it was encouraged by the Governments of Germany and Russia, viz., by the establishment of experimental farms or gardens, with a view to testing the kinds of trees which would best suit the different localities and by distributing those most suitable throughout the various localities. Southern trees would not thrive well in northern climes, but there was good reason for believing that the trees which thrive well in Germany and Russia would thrive well here. These trees should be imported, tested in the experimental grounds, and sold to the people of the neighborhood. At first trees of quick and easy growth should be tried. Of the non-fruit

bearing trees required in the North-West, it would be well at first to import the white willow, the white silver poplar, the white ash, the Norway spruce and other hardy and rapid growing varieties. For the northwest the question was to obtain trees which would mature as soon as possible. Throughout Europe, forestry was looked upon as a subject of great importance. The government of Russia owned and managed over 200 hundred forestry stations, and there are numerous plantations of fruit trees under the control of the Government of Russia, Germany and other European countries. While in Russia Mr. Gibb spent about three months in what are known as among the coldest habitable regions of the earth, and he found there fruits which flourished. At points in which the temperature ranged considerably lower than it does in Canada, he found excellent fruit in apples and pears and cherries in great quantities, and the trees which produced this fruit were suited to the climate and need no special care, and there was no reason to doubt that if transplanted in this country they would prove equally vigorous and plentiful. They should be imported here in quantities? In Germany all the school teachers were required to know something about horticulture. Each teacher was provided with a little plot of land in which he was expected to impart instruction, in a practical way, to his pupils. Botanic gardens were established in all parts of the world; and have been the means of advancing the horticulture, not only of Europe and Asia, but of Australia, the East and West Indies, Iowa, Minnesota, etc. Our lack was not so much a lack in culture as it was of the varieties of fruit suited to our climate—varieties which we can grow to a profit. If we had an experimental garden or plantation, we could import from Russia and Northern China the varieties we required, we could test and propagate them here, and they could be distributed to the great advantage of the country. In Iowa there were eight or ten of these experimental gardens, and in Minnesota as many more. Ottawa would be a very good place for a central garden of this kind; and smaller ones might be established in different directions throughout the country. Ten acres would at first be sufficient for the proposed garden; but he (Mr. Gibb) would like to have another ten acres alongside to be made available at pleasure. Of course they should be under the control of practical horticulturists and not in the hands of politicians. Well managed, they would afford the means we so much needed of introducing new, suitable and improved varieties of fruit trees into the country. In conclusion, Mr. Gibb said it would be advantageous to distribute handbooks throughout the country; and spoke of the hardy varieties of excellent wheat he saw in Russia, which, he thought, should be imported into and tested in Canada. He also

referred to the success with which the Russians cultivated the sugar beet, and said that almost all the sugar used in Russia was the product of the beet.

#### CURTAINMENT OF SWEDISH SUPPLY.

We are to-day (*Stockholms Dagblad*, Feb. 11) enabled from fully reliable sources, to inform our readers of an important resolution agreed to by our timber exporters. As mentioned in the yearly report of the Saw-mills and Timber Export Society, the floating of the timber in Norrland has, during the last two years, taken place under favorable conditions, and the stocks at the saw mills ready for export, are therefore very large. They are calculated to amount to about 400,000 standards. True, this is not more than what was stocked at the mills at the same time last year, but there is no doubt that the stocks were then a great deal too large.

This was proved by the forced sales and exports at the beginning of the season of 1883, which so injuriously affected prices. The total export from Sweden during 1883 amounted to about 750,000 standards sawn timber, a quantity largely in excess of former exports; and in 1882 the export was 715,000 standards; and in 1881 about 611,000 standards. These large sales could only be effected at prices which leave no profit, and having ascertained that the stocks actually at the saw mills are just as large as before, a considerable number of saw mill owners now clearly see the necessity of a curtailed production.

The first step in this direction ought, of course, to be a reduction in the cutting, but the amount of cutting is principally arranged during the autumn, so that it is now too late to make any alteration in this, and any arrangement in this respect must be left over till next autumn. There is thus no other way in which to curtail the output and strengthen prices than by preventing too large quantities being prepared for the market and offered for sale. A number of saw mill owners, representing an export in 1883 of about 400,000 standards sawn timber, came lately together, and "on their word and honor," and under the control of some gentlemen specially appointed, the greater part promised to reduce their export this year by 25 per cent., and in some cases to reduce their sawing in the same proportion. In this way the quantity of sawn timber available for export from Sweden this year will be 100,000 standards less than in 1883. By this means the saw mill owners hope to be able to raise prices at least to a figure which will cover the value of the timber.

This effort to steady prices would, perhaps, in itself not suffice, if the assistance of owners to reduce cuttings this autumn and next year could not be relied on. But from what was said at the meeting at Sundswall by a great many saw mill proprietors, which later on signed the convention, it would appear that there is a

general feeling of the necessity of short working, and that the majority will adopt it. Should this be adhered to with steadiness, there can be no doubt that the higher prices will fully compensate for the increased proportionate cost of production, and, however reluctant foreign buyers are to place orders, there is still reason to look forward with confidence to the result of this season's trade.

Although not all the saw mill owners in Norrland were willing to join the convention, the fact that those entering into the agreement represent two-thirds of the export from Norrland may be taken as a proof the prevailing opinion, and from what we can here we have good reason to expect that many of those who have not thought it right to sign the agreement are still determined to act in the same spirit.

The seat of the controlling committee is Stockholm, and the president is the Count Hallwyl, owner of the Ljusne Mill; the other members are: Mr. M. Arhusander, Mr. v. Fisk, Mr. J. E. Francke, of Stockholm, and Mr. Wilhelm Kompe, of the firm of Joh. Wikner & Co., Hernösand.

#### A White Rainbow.

Among the remarkable celestial effects of last November may be reckoned the appearance of a white rainbow, or *cercle d'Ulloa* seen at Courtonay, (Loiret), France, on the morning of the 28th of that month. This phenomenon is very rare, and is described by M. Cornu, the well-known astronomer, in a note to the French Academy of Sciences. The sun, which rose in the midst of the level streaks of cloud was very pale; an intense hoar frost covered the fields; a fog of very fine water drops formed a thin veil through which the sky could be seen free of clouds at the zenith, but swathed in bands of cloud on the southeast. Opposite the sun a great white arc or rainbow without color was pictured on the fog, and recalled the smoke crowns of phosphorated hydrogen. The apparent height from the summit of the arch to the horizon was 23 deg. 26 min., the apparent amplitude or span 80 deg. The apparent altitude of the sun at the time (0.41 A. M., Paris time) was 17 deg. 34 min.—*Engineering*.

It would more than repay a day's sojourn at Jonkoping, says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, to visit the factory whence proceeds not a small part of the light of the world. The latest novelty, only at work for about a month, is an enormous engine, which daily produces 1,000,000 boxes of Swedish matches. This wonderful machine receives the raw material, namely, blocks of wood at one end, and, after a while, gives up at the other the matches neatly arranged in their boxes, ready to be dispatched to the uttermost ends of the world. The wood which in the course of last summer was brought over to Jonkoping to be made into matches filled twenty steamers and eight sailing vessels.