

FREE LUMBER AND FOREST PRESERVATION.

There has been abroad in the land for a few years a number of people who have gone daft with the idea that the forests of America are being denuded at a tremendous rate and that if something is not instantly done the continent will speedily become a sahara of desolation. The idea popped up in the senate the other day as an argument in favour of placing lumber on the free list. The thought of the statesman that introduced it seemed to be that it would be altogether generous and politic for the United States to admit Canada lumber free, and encourage the people of the Dominion to destroy their country by stripping it of its forests. It never seemed to have occurred to the Delaware Senator that it was quite as important to preserve the Canadian forests as the forests of the United States, the former exerting rather more influence upon the climate of the continent than the latter. Ingalls, of Kansas, a state whose forests were destroyed centuries ago, or never existed, but which seems to be progressing pretty well without them, caught on to Bayard's notion that "there was a striking inconsistency in keeping upon the statute book a law offering a bonus for the cultivation of timber and at the time keeping out foreign lumber by a duty." He thought it plethora of wisdom, but it is rather a catch-ponny notion, after all. Preserving the pine forests of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota would not clothe the prairie states with the shelter of trees needed to make them more acceptable and delightful as places of residence. Removing the duty on lumber would not justify the stoppage of forest culture. Michigan is not suffering from the destruction of her forests. If other states are, let them pay a bounty for tree planting, if it will pay. The duty on lumber is justified by the duties on iron, steel, woolen goods, sugar, tea, coffee, etc., and the general policy of protection, and it should stand or fall with them. Whether at some future time there will or will not be a dearth of pine in the United States cannot affect the question. The development of Michigan will not be stayed by any consideration of that kind. Billions of feet of the best timber that ever grow has been reduced to smoke and ashes in the progress of clearing Michigan and other States, and the operation will go forward until the utmost extent that can be reduced to cultivation has been reached. The pine and other woods of Michigan will not be preserved by rendering their conversion into merchantable shape unprofitable. When the axe of the lumberman can no longer be lifted up against them at a profit, the axe of the settler will fall them and the clearing fires sweep them away. Should the competition of the Canadian lumberman become so sharp that as to induce the curtailing of operations in the Michigan lumber woods, there would be but little saving of timber for the future. Let some of the eloquent advocates of forest preservation go through the woods and view the havoc made by the fires of 1871, and they will be less urgent on the subject. The destruction of the Huron peninsula in 1882 is another illustration of what a fire in a forest can accomplish. The pine forests of Michigan are more and more subject to such visitations, and before such encroachments and the axes of the settlers they are sure to go down, whether lumbered or not. Indeed, if abandoned by the lumbermen they would sooner disappear. The hardy settlers are among them engaged in pushing the wheat line northward. They will not cease their efforts on account of arguments advanced by the advocates of forest preservation, until Northern Michigan is covered with cultivated farms. If there is any argument in favor of protective duties upon anything whatsoever, it applies equally to lumber. Forest cultivation is another matter, in no way complicated with the duty on lumber.—*Lumberman's Gazette.*

TIMBER CONTRACTS ON WALPOLE.

The Wallacuburg Valley Record says:—"The Indians on Walpole Island are greatly excited over the sale of the balance of their standing timber. Mr. Tennant, of Malorytown, some time ago contracted for the white oak timber measuring less than 16 inches at the butt, and has removed nearly all, his time being almost

up. In December he offered \$7,600 for the larger timber, but as Mr. Hiram Little and others offered more, his offer was raised to \$10,000. On Tuesday last the Indians were assembled to vote on this offer, Mr. Watson, of Sarnia, the Indian agent, being present. Meantime, however, Mr. Little increased his offer to \$14,500 and a new dock and warehouse, and he further agreed to pay for the tops of the trees, when cut, at a rate which he claims would give the Indians a further sum of over \$5,000 for work and timber. The offer of Mr. Tennant was that the small timber that he has not yet removed should be allowed to revert to the Indians, in addition to the \$10,000 paid in cash, but it is claimed by Mr. Little and many of the Indians that the small timber referred to is worth less than \$500, and if not removed at once by Mr. Tennant it will revert to the Indians. On the other hand it is claimed that no legal tender was made by Mr. Little, though 100 printed copies of his offer were circulated on the Island and placed in the hands of the Indian agent before the voting on Tuesday, on which day a majority of 14 voters approved of Mr. Tennant's offer, the vote being 67 for and 53 against. Mr. Little now claims that a large majority of the Indians were opposed to the bargain, but that they were bribed, and yesterday he secured the affidavits of about sixty Indians to prove this and is now adding very largely to the number. He has also engaged counsel and telegraphed for Indian Superintendent Dingman, of Strathroy, who will be here in a few days to investigate the matter. It is claimed by Mr. Tennant's agent that no bribery was practiced until Tuesday morning, and that then it was not resorted to until it was found necessary to checkmate the actions of their opponents. He further states that affidavits are already in the hands of Indian Agent Watson, proving bribery on the part of those opposed to the offer of Mr. Tennant being accepted by the Indians. Mr. Little's tender was never voted on, the Council on Tuesday being called to accept or reject the offer of Mr. Tennant. We give this week only a brief outline of the situation without comment, but as the matter in question is an important one it will receive attention in future issues of the *Record*.

FOREST DESTRUCTION IN THE STATES.

The *Mail* says:—The following article from the New York *Bulletin* calls the attention to some facts of very considerable interest to our cousins across the line; and if it be the fact that the situation of lumber in Canada is not very much better than it is there, the article is of little less interest to us than to them:—

In a recent article on the lumber industry of the United States in 1880, as reported by the Census Bureau, attention was called to the rapid destruction of American forests now in progress—so rapid indeed that it appears to be a question of but a few years when, at the present rate of cutting, the domestic supply of merchantable timber will be quite exhausted. We have now another bulletin from Mr. Sargent, the special agent in charge of the forestry section of the census, which sets forth in even a more striking light the extent of the slaughter of the small timber of the country for fuel.

The total value of the products of the lumber industry in 1880 was \$233,367,720, more than half of which represented the destruction of white pine—a rate that it is calculated would practically use up the supply within eight years from the census year. The other portion of the total products represents, presumably, a less rate of cutting in proportion to supply, but yet sufficient to indicate a lease of life not much greater than in the case of white pine alone. And then, too, when the pine is gone the saws will be put into the other timber.

But the lumber industry by no means brings forward the whole, or even the larger part, of the forest destruction that is going on. The total value of cordwood consumed in the United States for fuel in 1880 amounted to \$312,962,373, and that to at an average valuation of less than \$2.25 per cord. Taking this into consideration, and the fact that cordwood is a lower grade of wood than lumber, it will be readily appreciated that the total value of the consumption for fuel represents a much greater destruction of trees than does the lumber industry;

certainly twice, perhaps three times as much.

The map accompanying the bulletin indicates a very small area of the country in which the use of coal for fuel predominates. The area is not a continuous one, but is represented by spots, some of a considerable size, contiguous to the large cities lying about the 41st parallel of latitude and extending all the way from Massachusetts to Nebraska. These areas are separated into two groups, eastern and western, by the intervening wood consuming region of Indiana and Western Ohio. Following this line and enclosing these areas is a wider belt in which wood only is used for fuel to any extent. Grouping the returns by states into sections, we have the distribution of fire wood consumption in 1880 as follows:—

	Cords.	Value.
New England	3,750,878	\$ 14,931,020
Middle States	20,025,700	67,370,183
Southern States	67,296,310	112,188,605
Western States	43,352,207	90,837,368
Far Western and Pacific States	5,482,221	25,613,055
Total domestic use	140,537,439	\$306,950,040
Total, other consumption.	5,240,693	15,012,333

Total consumption..... 145,778,137 \$321,962,373
This total is further increased by an item of \$5,276,736 for wood put into charcoal. No estimate is given of the amount of standing fire wood, and it is, therefore, not possible to say at what rate the consumption is encroaching upon the supply and annual growth. But everyone knows that in most of the Eastern and Middle States this source of fuel has been practically exhausted; far enough, at any rate, to make wood dearer than coal. The area of complete destruction constantly widens with the area of dense population. It is evident, therefore, that in the course of another generation or two the forests of the whole country will be in the condition they are now in at the East. It is beginning to be considered certain that these changes are having a material effect upon our climate and upon our crops.

It is this phase of forest destruction that appeals to the thoughtful agriculturalist in behalf of tree culture. For the purposes of fuel and many minor uses, it is quite practical to plant trees and get satisfactory profits in comparatively few years. Many kinds of trees grow rapidly. Even some of the hardwoods do—as walnut, cherry, &c. The long-leaved pine is a very rapid grower. The late Governor Ross, of Delaware, one of the most prominent and successful agriculturalists of that State, seeded a portion of his fair acres in long-leaved pine when in middle life. It was not done broadcast, but in rows some thirty feet apart. The result was a source of continuous pride and satisfaction to himself and to the community. He lived to see a beautiful little forest of stately pines. Trees planted in this way admit of other crops between the rows for many seasons, and wood can be taken in a few years by thinning out in the rows as the growth requires. And it need hardly be added that the study of trees, and their adaptation to climate, soils, &c., is in itself a pleasant and wholesome recreation.

POLISHING WOODS.

A correspondent of the *Scientific American* asks: 1. For the best way to polish fancy woods? A. Soft woods may be turned so smooth as to require no other polishing than that produced by holding it against a few fine turnings or shavings of the same wood while revolving. Mahogany, walnut, and some other woods may be polished by the use of a mixture as follows: Dissolve by heat so much beeswax in spirits of turpentine that the mixture, when cold, shall be about the thickness of honey. This may be applied to furniture or to work running in the lathes by means of a piece of clean cloth, and as much as possible should be rubbed off by using a clean flannel or other cloth. Hard woods may be readily turned very smooth; fine glass paper will suffice to give them a very perfect surface; a little linseed oil may then be rubbed on, and a portion of the turnings of the wood to be polished may then be held against the article, while it turns rapidly around, which will in general give it a fine gloss. You may also try alcoholic shellac varnish, 2 parts; boiled linseed oil, 1 part; shake well bo-

fore using. Apply a small quantity with a cloth, and rub vigorously until the polish is secured. 2. To make paper-hanger's paste? A. First heat water to boiling, then add flour with constant stirring. To prevent the formation of lumps the flour may be passed through a sieve, so as to insure its most equable distribution; agitation is continued until the heat has rendered the mass of the desired consistency, and, after a few moments further boiling, it is ready for use. In order to increase its strength, powdered resin in the proportion of one-sixth to one-fourth of the weight of the flour is added. To prevent its souring, oil of cloves, or few drops of carbolic acid is added.

A STRANGE COMMUNICATION.

We have received in an envelope bearing the postmark "Dublin," and the name of the Shelburne Hotel, Dublin, surmounted by a Viscount's coronet, the following production, It is satisfactory to learn that we are safe on this side of the Atlantic, and that we owe this additional benefit to our great agricultural and lumbering industries:—

THE END OF THE WORLD.

TO THE INHABITANTS OF PLANET EARTH.

When Fires refuse to burn
Our God doth then appear,
Continents He will turn
Into a Hell this year.
The winds will cease to blow,
There will be Drouth and Heat;
Corn for Food will not grow,
Nor will Oats, Pease, or Wheat.
British Isles' scape alone
An Angry Iron Rod,
On them descend the throne
Of King Jehovah-God.
Sinners who will repent
Can now obtain the keys,
Which save from punishment,
Found only on their knees.

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