

THE PLAYED OUT DELAWARE.

A correspondent writing from Deposit N.Y., to the New York Times says:—"The lumber business has been the mainstay of the Delaware and its tributary valleys for 120 years, but the onslaughts of the woodmen have been so persistent and force, especially during the past quarter of a century, that it is believed the present season will see the almost total exhaustion of the lumber supply. The Delaware lumber region embraces a large portion of Sullivan and Delaware counties, N.Y., and Pike and Wayne counties, Penn. Ten years ago the average quantity of lumber sent to market by rafts on the Delaware alone amounted to 100,000,000 feet, nine-tenths of which was hemlock. In 1870 Wayne County's supply of lumber was over that amount, 30,000,000 feet of which was shipped by rail, and the remainder by water. The spring frochet of the present year has been an unusually favourable one for the running of lumber, but the quantity rafted and run from all the regions has not exceeded 20,000,000 feet. Of this amount about one-third has been forwarded by one operator, William Holbert, of Equinunk, Wayne county. The rest was cut principally in Sullivan and Delaware counties. The rail shipments will amount to about one-half the above amount, and are made over the Erie, Delaware and Lackawanna, and New York & Oswego Midland railroads. To secure even this comparatively small supply the country has been scoured from far and near. Pine, which was once the staple product of the Delaware region, was exhausted many years ago. When the first settlers came into the valley the whole region was a dense pine wilderness, and for 70 years the hemlock was left untouched, not being considered of any value. Lumbermen still in the business lie about remember when the very best quality of pine was manufactured and rafted to the Philadelphia markets and disposed of at \$9 per thousand, while now it must be imported for home consumption and six times that price paid for it. In those days there were no circular saw-mills, but only primitive upright mills here and there in the forest. The first circular mill was erected in the Delaware valley, about 35 years ago, and others were quickly introduced until there were scores of them at work, some of them capable of manufacturing 50,000 feet of lumber a day each. The result has been the rapid exhaustion of the forests, until there is but a small area of the original timber standing, and that is in the hands of a very few individual operators.

"The work of cutting away the timber on the headwaters of the Delaware, on the West Branch, was prosecuted with such vigor that it has been many years since rafts have been run from above Walton, and the number run from that point has been very small. The East Branch drains what was ten years ago the almost primitive wilderness of Sullivan and Delaware counties, but which is now a field of stumps, or tracts of second rate timber. The work of exhaustion has not been allowed a day's cessation, although during the past 10 years, with the exception of 1881-2, the price obtained for hemlock was barely sufficient to cover the cost of production. This seemingly suicidal policy on the part of operators, they claim, was to no small extent forced upon them by the fact that the bark on immense tracts of timber land was purchased by tanners, who had the privilege of felling the trees and peeling the bark, which they did as they needed it. The timber once felled and peeled, it was necessary for the lumbermen to utilize it, as a year's lying in the woods would decrease its value. The destruction of the hemlock forests has also affected the tannery interest, so that many of the largest establishments of the kind in this region have been abandoned for want of bark. A few years ago Wayne county was the second largest leather producing county in the Union, and had the largest tannery then in the world.

"When the lumber business was at its height in the Delaware region not less than 10,000 persons were employed as choppers, sawyers, teamsters and raftsmen, and most of the towns and villages owed their support, if not their existence, to the industry. None even one-third of that number are now required to carry on the business, and many settlements are almost deserted. Fortunately, the land once occupied

by the forest is capable of being turned into the finest of grazing farms, and it is being utilized by those who can no longer depend on the lumber for support."

SAW MILLS OF CANADA.

The census enumerators have returned 5,390 saw mills in operation in 1881, the location by Provinces being as follows:—Ontario 1,761, Quebec, 1,729, Nova Scotia 1,190, New Brunswick 478, P. E. Island 165, Manitoba 37, British Columbia, 27, the Territories 3.

The hands employed were as follows:—In Ontario 10,816, of whom 69 were women and 8 girls under ten years. In Quebec 12,461 hands, of whom 37 were women, and eight girls. In New Brunswick 7,176, of whom 20 were women and eight girls. In Nova Scotia, 4,160 hands, of whom 34 were women. In P. E. Island 419, British Columbia 404, and the Territories 44.

The following is the statement of the annual wages, value of raw material and value of the products of these saw mills, by Provinces:

	Yearly wages.	Raw material.	Products.
Ontario	\$3,681,225	8,985,797	10,629,075
Quebec	2,237,191	8,101,284	10,612,649
N. Brunswick	1,213,023	4,355,735	6,632,820
Nova Scotia	619,480	1,446,888	3,094,137
Manitoba	203,190	513,168	885,173
B. Columbia	202,420	223,901	650,321
P. E. Island	63,262	127,194	210,153
Territories	10,600	43,802	95,318

Grand total, \$13,146,930 20,793,339 33,600,632

Shingle making is not included in this table—the Provinces standing as follows in the product of the shingle mills:—Ontario \$454,803, New Brunswick \$128,714, Quebec \$98,130, Nova Scotia \$69,344, P. E. Island 10,406, British Columbia \$5,597. The art of shingle making was either not understood or remained uncultivated in Manitoba and the Northwest up to 1881. Doubtless in the manufacture of lumber of all descriptions great strides have since been taken in that quarter.—*Montreal Herald.*

PROTECTING THE TIMBER.

Nothing could be more gratifying to those gentlemen who have labored so assiduously for years for forest protection and culture, than the efforts which are being made in the different states in behalf of their favorite theory, the practicability of which is doubtless to be attested within the next decade. The drift of public sentiment is getting to be decidedly in favor of the protection of the timber of the country, and also in favor of forest culture, in order to replace as much as possible that of which the country is being denuded to such a serious extent, and in many cases by such lamentable methods. Our national and state legislatures also are becoming interested in the subject to an appreciable degree. But the subject is one of such vastness and magnitude, the returns to be derived pecuniarily, appearing so far in the dim vista of the future, the task of such herculean dimensions, the sentiment of such slow growth, because of seeming impracticability and almost insuperable obstacles, that nothing short of unbounded faith, indomitable will, unmeasured perseverance, courage, determination and zeal, would have continued the work in the face of such opposition as has been encountered by the advocates of this measure, both in the United States and the Dominion of Canada. Indications, however, point unmistakably to the fact that their zealous and unselfish efforts are in the not very distant future to be rewarded by the highest and most gratifying of all remuneration,—success. The Canadian government, as well as the legislatures of several states, have already by favorable legislation inaugurated practical measures in behalf of both forest protection and culture, which are already prolific with such grand results, as must be in the highest degree satisfactory to those gentlemen who, through the press and forestry congresses, have been instrumental in inducing the legislation referred to. The Minnesota legislature has taken an advance position on this question and passed two bills, the result of which will be watched with exceeding interest, as they embrace the protection of the present standing timber, and forest culture as well. A synopsis of these two measures recently appear-

ed in the *Lumber World*. One provides that every person who shall plant prairie land with any kind of forest trees, except black locust, and keep them in a thrifty, growing condition for the period of six years, shall receive three dollars per year for each acre of grove so planted. Persons planting forest trees along the public highway will be paid two dollars annually for each half mile so planted. Not less than 2,700 trees to the acre must be planted, of which at least 1,800 must be maintained in a healthy, growing condition, during the first two years after planting, and at least nine hundred must survive the whole period of six years. Trees along the highway must be planted not more than eight feet apart, and maintained in a healthy, growing condition for four years. The second act appropriates five thousand dollars to be paid to the Minnesota State Forestry Association to be by them expended in the promotion and encouragement of tree planting in Minnesota, by means of distributing a manual of directions for planting and cultivating forests, procuring lectures and addresses on the subject by persons skilled in that science, and disseminating the same through the public press; collecting information on the best methods of forest culture from persons in the state who have been successful in the same; by experimental cultivation of varieties of forest trees which are supposed to be adapted to this climate, or by procuring and distributing seeds and cuttings for the same, and generally to aid and encourage tree planting by any other means which they may think advisable. A portion of the money may be expended in measures for the protection of the forests already growing in the state, by publishing information as to the best manner of preventing forest fires, and otherwise protecting them, with directions for the proper thinning, replanting, etc., so as to produce systematic care of the woodlands of the state and their profitable use.—*Lumberman's Gazette.*

IMPORTANT SALE OF LUMBER.

The *Montreal Gazette* of May 26, says:—"The auction sale of lumber held yesterday morning for account of Messrs. Henderson Bros., who have to remove from their yard on William street in consequence of the Dominion Government having decided to build new basins on the Lachine Canal—and are now calling for tenders for the same,—drew a large audience, most of the buyers being outsiders. The sale was conducted by Mr. William H. Arnton in a remarkably able manner, not a single dispute having occurred during the whole sale, which lasted from ten o'clock (10 a. m.) until half-past six o'clock in the evening (6.30 p. m.), when it was adjourned until next week, due notice of which will appear in the papers. The following are the prices obtained, a large number of lots of each having been sold; the prices, though not high, are considered fair. Every lot put up was sold without any reserve. The total amount of the sale will foot up about \$40,000.

PINE.—3 inch pine, 14 to 16 feet, at \$9 per M board measure; 1½ inch pine, 14 to 16 ft, at \$17 per M board measure; 3x4 inch pine, at \$12.50 per M board measure; 2 inch pine, plank, at \$16 per M board measure; 1 inch pine, plank,

at \$15 per M board measure; 2 inch pine, but-
tens, at \$9 per M board measure; 3 inch pine,
slidings, at \$9.50 per M board measure; 1½
inch pine, extra, at \$24 per M board measure; 1½
inch pine, extra, at \$18 per M board measure; 3 in.
pine, wide, at \$10.50 per M board measure;
3x4 inch pine, scantling, at 12c. each; 2 inch
pine, prepared, at \$14 per M board measure, 1
inch pine, prepared, at \$24.50 per M board
measure; 3x4 inch pine, at \$20 per M board
measure; 3x3 inch pine, at \$15 per M board
measure; 1 inch pine, prepared, at \$18 per M
board measure; 2 inch pine, extra, at \$23 per
M board measure; 1½ inch pine, extra, at \$31
per M board measure.

SPRUCE.—2 inch spruce, prepared, at \$20 per
M board measure; 1½ inch spruce, at \$9 per M
board measure; 1½ inch spruce, prepared, at
\$13 per M board measure; 1 inch spruce, at \$11,
1 inch spruce, prepared, at \$5.75 per 100 pieces;
2 inch spruce, plank, at \$11.50 per M board
measure; 3 inch spruce (11 inch wide) at \$9
do.

Hemlock, tamarac, basswood, cottonwood and
red pine—2 inch hemlock, \$3 per M feet, board
measure; 1 inch hemlock, \$7 per M feet, board
measure; 3 inch tamarac, \$15.25 per M feet,
board measure; 1 inch basswood, \$15 per M
feet, board measure; 3 inch cottonwood, \$7 per
M feet board measure; ½ inch basswood, \$8.75
per M feet, board measure; 1½ inch red pine,
\$13.75 per M feet, board measure; 2 inch red
pine, \$14.25 per M feet, board measure; 1 inch
red pine, \$14 per M feet, board measure.

HARD WOODS.—Black walnut, 1 inch, \$45 per
M feet, board measure; hard maple, 2 inch,
\$24 per M feet, board measure; birch, 2 inch,
\$16 per M feet board measure; maple, 3 inch,
\$23 per M feet, board measure; maple, 3x4 in.
\$23 per M feet, board measure; hardwood, 3x4
inch, \$20.50 per M feet board measure; hard-
wood, 2 inch, \$15 per M feet, board measure;
hardwood, scantling, \$20.50 per M feet, board
measure; ash, 1 inch, \$12.50 per M feet, board
measure; oak, ½ inch, \$16 per M feet, board
measure; oak, assorted, \$20 per M feet, board
measure; ash, 2 inch, \$13 per M feet, board
measure; oak and ash, 1 inch, \$15 per M feet,
board measure; butternut, 1 inch, \$18 per M
feet, board measure; cherry, 1 inch, \$19 per M
feet, board measure; oak, 2 inch, \$23 per M
feet, board measure; oak, 2½ inch, \$23.50 per M
feet board measure.

THE Lindsay Warder of June 1, says:—"The
Gilmour drive is already in Pigeon Lake. It
contains 18,000 logs and 600 pieces of square
timber, out on the Galway limits and brought
down Noyes's creek. These limits have been
worked for a number of years, and appear to be
inexhaustible.

THE Ottawa Free Press says that Mr. E. B.
Eddy seems determined to keep in advance of
all competitors. To make room for the large
product of his new mills, he has added the ex-
tensive grounds surrounding Currier & Batson's
old mill to his piling ground, and has a tram
way running direct from the mills to the whar-
ves on the east side. This is the finest piling
ground around Ottawa.

LIVERPOOL STOCKS.

We take from the *Timber Trades Journal* the following Comparative Table showing Stock
of Timber and Deals in Liverpool on April 30th, 1882 and 1883, and also the Consumption for
the month of April, 1882 and 1883:—

	Stock, April 30th, 1883.	Stock, April 30th, 1882.	Consumption for the month of April 1883.	Consumption for the month of April 1882.
Quebec Square Pine	123,000 ft.	103,000 ft.	50,000 ft.	68,000 ft.
Waney Board	124,000 "	167,000 "	10,000 "	7,000 "
St John Pine	8,000 "	3,000 "	2,000 "	1,000 "
Other Ports Pine	40,000 "	28,000 "	2,000 "	5,000 "
Red Pine	20,000 "	22,000 "	115,000 "	254,000 "
Pitch Pine, hewn	615,000 "	451,000 "	227,000 "	160,000 "
Sawn	652,000 "	70,000 "	28,000 "	27,000 "
Planks	61,000 "	103,000 "	—	38,000 "
Dantzig, &c. Fir	25,000 "	8,000 "	7,000 "	—
Sweden and Norway Fir	12,000 "	243,000 "	30,000 "	21,000 "
Oak, Canadian	171,000 "	95,000 "	66,000 "	42,000 "
" Planks	163,000 "	60,000 "	1,000 "	—
" Baltic	20,000 "	37,000 "	2,000 "	8,000 "
Elm	27,000 "	13,000 "	2,000 "	1,000 "
Ash	—	42,000 "	23,000 "	39,000 "
Birch	40,000 "	83,000 "	14,000 "	13,000 "
East India Teak	67,000 "	28,000 "	8,000 "	6,000 "
Greenheart	133,000 "	—	—	—
N. B. & N. S. Spruce Deals	9,813 stds.	7,032 stds.	3,076 stds.	3,012 stds.
Pine	870 "	305 "	1,071 "	1,075 "
Quebec Pine & Spruce Deals	6,130 "	4,769 "	—	—
Baltic Deals	3,647 "	2,229 "	—	—
Boards	312 "	60 "	—	—
" Boards Flooring	7,487 "	4,860 "	1,431 "	1,333 "