

early £18,000,000 every year, and the sum lately had risen at the rate of £771,000 annually. Surely the time had come for a more vigorous forest policy on these lines throughout the Empire. Systematic forest management should be introduced, more particularly into Canada and Australia, and, above all, let the self-governing colonies consider a little more seriously, that hitherto the magnificent example set by India. Let us should begin by putting our own house in order. The imports of timber into the United Kingdom in 1899 were valued at £25,000,000, and in late years they had increased at the rate of 2,000 tons, £919,000, annually. Eighty-seven per cent of the total consisted of pine and fir, the sources of which were specially exposed to exhaustion, and where were we to obtain the one or ten million tons of coniferous timber we required, when the countries around the Baltic, and perhaps also Canada, had begun to fail us? Let us had sufficient, and more, surplus land at home to produce all this timber without putting a single acre out of cultivation. There were 1,000,000 acres of waste land and 13,000,000 acres of mountain and heath land, from which to choose the necessary six or seven millions, and nearly £25,000,000 going out of the country every year was money enough to take some trouble

A MICHIGAN DECISION ON DRIVING HARDWOOD LOGS.

The following account of a recent decision regarding the driving of hardwood logs will be of interest to Canadian lumbermen:

The Supreme Court of Michigan has decided in the recent case of Bellows v. Crane Lumber Co., N. W. 1103, that where a stream was obstructed by defendant placing therein and attempting to drive hardwood logs, many of which sank, it was error for the trial court to charge the jury that plaintiff could not recover the expense of removing such obstruction to driving their logs, if the jury found "that the defendant was driving the logs in a reasonable manner, put sufficient men, and was using all diligence to keep the river clear," since the question whether was reasonable for defendant to place in the river and attempt to float such logs should have been left to the jury.

Mr. Justice Hooker, writing the opinion of the court, said: "Comp. Laws, 5075, makes it the duty of every person who uses the waters to run logs to put on men enough to prevent obstructions to navigation, and gives to others the right of compensation for increased labor in floating their logs in consequence thereof. It would be a great way to say that a man has the right to attempt to run logs that will sink, at any time he chooses, if, by reason thereof, it will be impossible to run them, or necessarily and grossly obstruct navigation. The court instructed the jury that defendant had a right to

run its hardwood logs, and that, if they used all reasonable diligence to get their drive down the river, and employed all the men on the same, it was practicable, and did not do anything unreasonable to delay the plaintiffs or obstruct the use of the stream, they could not then take into consideration the fact that the upriver drive overtook them, or was hindered by them, for the lower drive had the right of way, so to speak. He added: That is, if you find that the defendant was driving the logs in the reasonable manner, put on sufficient men, and using all diligence to keep the river clear. This instruction might be considered correct were it not for the fact that is claimed that, owing to the alleged improper attempt to float logs that should have been expected to sink, it was made impossible for any one to keep the river clear.

"If it is true that a million and a half of these logs could not be floated down the river, and were not, but sunk, and remained along the stream, the fact that the defendant was making great efforts to bring up its rear, and do an impossible thing, should not preclude plaintiffs from recovering the expense in getting their logs by such obstruction and the jams formed thereby. In a sense a man has a right to float logs when he chooses, but it does not follow that he may expect others to suffer because of his unreasonable attempt to float logs which he ought to know will not float. It was a question for the jury whether it was reasonable to attempt to float the logs. It is proverbial that a 'stern chase is a long one,' and significant that defendant's rear was overtaken by a drive which started 100 miles behind, and substantially at the same time. The fault may have been in the attempt to float logs not in a condition to float, and in such case it was not proper to give the jury to understand that, if the defendant was working all the men practicable and using all reasonable efforts to clear the stream, the plaintiffs must suffer for their inability to clear the river of logs that they should not have attempted to move at the time.

"We think a discussion of other questions raised unnecessary, except that in relation to costs. Plaintiffs contend that it appears that their claim was established at more than \$100, and was reduced by set-off. This cannot be said to affirmatively appear from the record. The judgment is reversed, and a new trial ordered." The other justices concurred.

NEW CENTURY IDEAS.

The Toronto Exhibition to be held from August 26th to September 7th, announces that its principal characteristic will be the adoption of New Century Ideas. The phrase might be considered a bit indefinite but for the fact that contemporaneously the statement is made that there will be daily and nightly displays of all the new weapons of war as well as recent developments

in the arts of peace. The pom pom will be on view, wireless telegraphy will be shown in practical use off the shore to passing vessels, magnificent displays of illuminating effects will be made, recently announced developments in electricity will be shown, demonstrations will be made in the cultivation of the sugar beet, modern methods of rescuing at sea will be illustrated, manoeuvres with latter-day artillery will take place, in fact the military will be very much in evidence in all its branches, while the handy-man and the marines will also be used largely in the off-shore operations and the brilliant nightly spectacle the Bombardment of the Taku Forts by International Forces. An International Military Tattoo will be the feature of the opening night, when a large body of troops will be utilized. Reduced fares will be given by all the railways.

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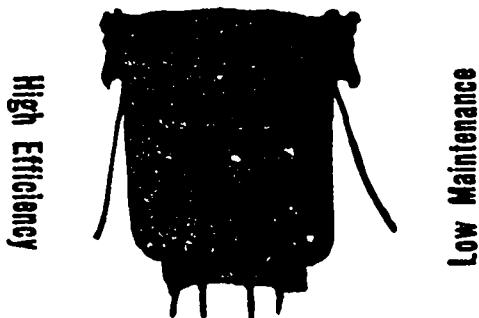
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