

ON THE KENNEBEC, MAINE.

The Kennebec Journal says:—The past winter for lumbering operations has been one of the best ever known in the annals of the business in Maine. Continuous cold weather has prevailed with very little rain and no thaws to speak of. There has also been an abundance of snow, which falling the beginning of the season has remained on the ground and even now there is sufficient for operating and the lumbering crews are still in the woods. Lumbering on the Kennebec and its tributaries has been very successful during the season now drawing to a close. Something like 110,000,000 feet of logs has been cut and will be floated down the river the ensuing summer. The Hon. John Manchester Haynes, of this city, has operated very extensively. His cut will amount to 12,000,000 feet. He has 12 different camps which will average from 25 to 30 men each. Three are located at Brassua Lake; one at Parlin pond; two at Coldstream; three on south branch of Dead River. Bodwell & Co. will cut three million feet on Dead River; M. G. Shaw, 3,000,000, Dead River; Snow & Co., 4,000,000, Enchanted stream; Townsend & Abbott, 1,000,000, Cold stream; Clark & Weston, 1,000,000, Eaton pond; Bradstreets, 1,000,000, Moose River, 3,000,000, Moxie stream; George Snow, 2,000,000, East Branch; Eveleth, 2,000,000, Black Brook; Lawrence Bros., 4,000,000, Brassau; McPheters, 1,000,000, Black brook; E. & J. Lawrence, 6,000,000, Moose river; Elias Milliken, 3,000,000, Moosehead lake and Dead river. There is also a large number of smaller operators whose several cuts will make up the total. The lumbermen will be coming out of the woods very soon now, as the present favorable weather cannot continue much longer. The building of the magnificent dam at Indian Rock by the Kennebec Log Driving Co. will be completed very shortly, as 200 men will be put on the first of April. The structure will cost not less than \$12,000. Its object is to facilitate the driving of the logs received from the lake through to the Forks. Messrs. Milliken & Sturgis, as we have before stated, have taken the contract to drive the logs and will employ a crew of about 200 men. The driving season lasts from about the 20th of May to the last of August. Ice does not generally break up in Moosehead Lake until about the 20th of May. The prospect is that there will be a good market for lumber in the future, and the amount cut the past season will find a ready sale. There is not a large stock held on the river at the present time.

DAKOTA BUSINESS.

The growth of the lumber business in Dakota during the next five years must be enormous. The territory comprises an area about as large as Kansas and Nebraska combined, and probably a larger proportion of Dakota is capable of profitable farming than that of Kansas and Nebraska. Certainly all that part of the territory east of the Missouri will be thickly settled by an agricultural population. Though within the last five years settlement has been going on in the middle and the northern portions of the territory, but little farm improvement in the way of buildings has been done. In the Red river valley and along the Northern Pacific road west of Fargo the lumber trade began as late as 1877, and the farmers did not begin to put up substantial buildings till 1880. And yet so rapid has been the increase in the lumber trade of that section, that the amount handled at Fargo during 1881 reached 25,000,000 feet. All the new country along the Northern Pacific, the Minneapolis & Manitoba, the newly opening Devil's lake and Turtle mountain region, which is to be immediately penetrated by railroad; the Fargo & Southwestern road, now under construction; the Northwestern to the Black Hills—all these vast regions, now rapidly filling up with new settlers, have yet to be supplied with lumber to build the first permanent houses in town and country. The amount of lumber that will be required for this purposes is simply incalculable. And we must reflect that the supply is not to be furnished twenty years from now—it is not a work of the far off future; it must be done within the next two, three or five years. The proposition is simply startling. And after the first building improvement has taken place, after sufficient primitive house

rooms has provided for the wants of the earlier settlement, then there will follow the building of large barns and dwellings on farms, and more substantial structures in the towns and cities; the same process having been witnessed in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, and that is beginning in Kansas and Nebraska. The Dakota trade must be counted on as a powerful factor in the future of the Northwestern lumber business.—Northwestern Lumberman.

POSTS SET "TOP END DOWN."

It is firmly believed by many persons that posts set in the ground in a position the "reverse" of which they stood while growing in the tree, will last much longer than when set "top end up." In the spring of 1879 I selected seasoned sticks, three feet long. These were split in two, and then cut in two crosswise, making four pieces of each. One set was placed in a well-drained sand, the other in clay soil. In every case two pieces were set side by side, with earth between, one as it stood in the tree, the other reversed. I tried thirteen kinds of timber. Some of these were young wood with the bark on. All contained some heartwood. Those set in the sand were examined in the autumn of 1881. In case of the beach, sugar maple, ironwood, black ash and black cherry, the piece reversed or placed "top end down," was somewhat decayed. In case of red maple, American elm, butternut and red elm, the piece set "bottom end down" was a trifle the most decayed. In case of basswood, white ash, white oak, and blue ash, there was no perceptible difference. In autumn of 1882, the posts set in clay soil were examined. In case of the red maple, sugar maple, American elm, basswood, butternut, red elm, the pieces set "top end down" were most decayed. In case of ironwood, white oak, blue ash, there was no perceptible difference.

I infer that where one piece decayed more than the other it was caused by some trifling difference in the sticks. The freshly sawed ends in each case were placed uppermost, and came an inch or two above the ground.

In some cases one-half of a stick (one piece certainly the reverse of the other) lasted considerably better than its other half. As will be seen, it was sometimes the "top end down" which lasted better, sometimes the "bottom end down," and in some cases there was no difference in durability.—Cincinnati Trade List.

THE WILLOW.

Among the various species of trees whose value is overlooked in this country, especially when the soil and climate everywhere are favorable to their cultivation is the willow, which in England is greatly esteemed for many purposes. It is claimed that we import annually \$5,000,000 worth, when we can as well raise it successfully in any part of the country. This is demonstrated by the rapidity with which it springs up after being planted by farmers for fence purposes, attaining in two or three years large proportions. In the Eastern States the willow may be seen almost about the grounds of every farm house, but its chief service is to protect the buildings from severe storms, and in summer time to afford a refuge of shade from the intense heat of the sun. The Hon. Jesse Fell, of Illinois, says:—"Were I called upon to designate one tree, which, more than all others, I would recommend for general planting, I would say unhesitatingly it should be the willow." It has been used extensively to strengthen dams, growing very rapidly with far-reaching roots that give strength to the soil to keep it in place.—Lumber Trade Journal.

A RIVAL TO THE NORTH WEST.

If we are to believe Le Nord, a paper which derives its title from its location, there is in the neighborhood of Lake Temiscamingue, a country of open prairies, excellent soil, abundant timber in pieces, and silver and lead mines of "incredible richness." This region is well watered, and the climate is mild enough to ripen some kinds of grapes. Even where the land is not open prairie, there are miles of land over which fire has swept, cutting down cedars of unusual size. The roots of the cedar are burnt out; but much of the fallen cedar is well pre-

served. On some of these spots, a child, we are told, could clear an acre in a week. This country is not distant, but it is admitted to be not easily accessible.

This region is near the great lumbering field of the north, where the farmer gets \$50 per ton for his hay, \$1 per bushel for oats, \$1.50 for peas, and \$2.50 for wheat. These prices will not of course last for ever; for when the lumbering is done prices must come down to the average level.

The Temiscamingue region is a mere speck compared with the great North-West; and if all that is said of it by Le Nord be true, its colonization will not have any appreciable effect on the future fortunes of the North-West. It is possible that many French Canadians may prefer it to the country beyond the Lake of the Woods; but is not probable that emigration from Ontario will be diverted from the course it now inclines to take by the temptation of the Temiscamingue country.

Already Le Nord calls for a railway to Temiscamingue, and the Local Government of Quebec will doubtless be importuned to build or aid in building it. At present, however, that Government is in no position to enter upon new undertakings of this kind and it would difficult to say when it will be.—Monetary Times.

THE Winnipeg Commercial says:—R. J. Bell, of Morris, has ordered a complete outfit for a saw-mill which he proposes establishing at Calgary.

THE Brandon correspondent of the Winnipeg Commercial says:—Building operations are going on briskly, and large quantities of lumber are daily arriving.

THE Western Union Telegraph Company has estimated the durability of telegraph poles as follows: Cedar, 16 years; chestnut, 13; juniper, 13; spruce, 7 years. Cedar, chestnut and spruce are used in the Northern states; juniper and cypress in the Southern states, and redwood in California. Poles cut in the summer will not last as long as those cut in the winter by five years.

SEVEN inches from the outside of a log in a Pennsylvania mill, the saw passed through a walnut which was imbedded in the solid wood. The shell and kernel of the nut were sound. The growth of the tree shows that the nut is at least fifty years old.

THE longshoremen of Oswego have met and adopted the following schedule of rates for the opening of the season:—Canada lumber, 20c.; Canada lumber in vessels and barges of 300 M. capacity, 25c.; cedar ties, 1 1/2c.; hemlock and all other ties, 2c.; shingles, 4c.; lath, 5c.; posts per cord, 30c.; stave bolts per cord, 25c.; timber per M. board measure, 30c.; headings 15c.; telegraph poles a piece, 5c.; hour work in vessels, 60c.; hour work in yards, 25c.; hop poles per M., \$3; ash and all hard wood, 35c.

THE Lumber Trade Journal says:—A large portion of the lumber supply comes from Michigan, and Muskegon cuts more lumber than any other city in the world, and so is called the saw-dust city. It is between Detroit and Chicago, being 196 miles from the former, and 192 miles from the latter city, and is on Lake Muskegon, which is about six miles long and two miles wide, and into which empties the longest river in the state, penetrating for hundreds of miles into the best pinneries in the state. The lake never freezes up, on account of the rapid current into Lake Michigan. There are railroads which connect Muskegon with all the main lines east to the seaboard, and west by water across the lake to Chicago, so it is admirably situated for a shipping point.

Letter from Member of Congress. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. Washington, D.C., Feb. 19, '82.

GENTLEMEN,—Inclosed find \$1, and will you send me some of N. H. Down's Vegetable Balsamic Elixir by express. I have a bad cold, as has almost every one else here, but cannot find the Elixir, which I used frequently at home and consider a most valuable medicine; in fact, the very best remedy for a cold that I ever used. Very truly yours, WILLIAM W. GROUT.

THE Minnedosa correspondent of the Winnipeg Free Press says:—Mr. Alexander Cameron, sr., is talking of moving his saw mill from Kolling River to Minnedosa. Mr. Cameron has seen what a great demand there will be for lumber this spring.

THE Wood-Worker says that saw-mill men should cut lumber full thickness and saw both ends off smooth. It adds much to the appearance by butting off both ends, and the additional cost will be saved in freight. Buyers will give better inspection, if not better prices.



MAIL CONTRACT.

Scaled Tenders, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon, on FRIDAY, 11TH MAY, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails, on proposed Contracts for four years, forty two times per week each way, between

Peterborough and Midland Railway Station,

and three times per week between

WARSAW AND PETERBOROUGH,

from the 1st July next. The conveyance to be made in a Vehicle. Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contracts may be seen, and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Peterborough and Warsaw, and also at this office.

Post Office Inspector's office, } Kingston, 30th March, 1883. } GILBERT GRIFFIN, } 2d90-1w14-2L3 } Post Office Inspector.

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