

OUR QUEBEC LETTER.

SCARCITY OF PINE IN THE MARKET—FRW TRANSACTIONS—THE ENQUIRY FOR OAK AND STAVES—THE SHIPMENT OF SQUARE TIMBER BY RAIL—LATEST QUOTATIONS—MINING NOTES.

From Our Own Correspondent.

QUEBEC, Oct. 6.—The past month has been a very uneventful one in the Quebec timber market. There have been but few transactions worthy of reporting, and not much change of prices, though in recent sales the prices of contracts, made a month or six weeks ago, have not been nearly touched.

WHITE PINE.

There is now remaining in first hands but a few small lots of white pine, and these are held by not more than two or three parties. There is still a moderate enquiry, but holders, of course, seek to improve the opportunity, and refuse to sell except at very high prices. Two or three weeks since a raft of white pine in shipping order, with some hardwood, changed hands at 20½ cents, while about the same time red pine of 44 feet, or thereabouts, was sold at 22½ cents. Last week the sales were as follows:—A raft of white pine, one of the choicest of the season, consisting of three-fourths square, 62 feet average, and one-fourth waney board, 22 inch average, at 37 cents all round; another of 55 feet average, 28 cents. Square white pine, 45 feet average, fair quality, was sold last week for 28 cents. Within the last few days a raft of fair quality, about 52 feet average, has been sold at 26 cents, with half red pine, 38 feet average, at 17½ cents. A raft of white pine, 45 feet average, changed hands this week at 20½ cents.

RED PINE.

Red pines, as may be judged from the prices quoted above for mixed rafts, is not in much demand. Primo wood of large average would, however, command a fair sale. On the other hand a very large raft of poor quality has just been sold at 11 cents.

OAK.

Oak is still held firm with a fair enquiry. Prices have not materially changed since last quotations. Two or three sales have been made for early delivery by first rafts of next season. The figure is said to be about 49 cents.

STAVES.

Staves of all kinds are exceedingly scarce. No change in price is reported.

DEALS.

Deals are scarce and in demand, particularly spruce, which are much wanted. There is said to be little or no change since last sales, which were quoted some time since for spruce at 36, 28 and 22c. for large lots, and 40c., 26c. and 22c. for a small quantity.

FREIGHTS AND SHIPPING.

A few weeks will now end the shipping season here, and then we shall have the annual returns of stocks to winter here, which are certain, however, to be very light. The total number of vessels of all kinds in port to-day is but 35, and there are only a few more to arrive. Transactions in freights during the present week have been as follows:—London, timber 24s.; deals, 62s. 6d. Dublin, timber, 24s. (Grangenouth, timber, 24s. Grimaby, deals, 65s.; timber, 35s.; deals, 80s.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

The following comparative statement of timber, &c., measured and culled at Quebec, up to Oct. 7th, has been received from the Supervisor of Cullers' Office to-day.

	1877.	1882.	1887.
Waney White Pine.....	1,301,005	2,004,803	2,421,407
White Pine.....	2,503,375	3,874,801	4,455,785
Red Pine.....	741,492	954,831	1,372,004
Oak.....	703,693	1,419,190	2,534,831
Elm.....	318,074	922,530	1,009,410
Ash.....	47,101	236,072	394,039
Basswood.....	280	503	3,570
Butternut.....	70	645	3,001
Tamarac.....	6,601	22,458	24,410
Birch and Maple.....	121,224	661,815	151,742
Masts and Bowsprits... 50 pcs	4 pcs	25 pcs	
Spars.....	26 pcs	27 pcs	
Std. Staves.....	70,900 S	17,400 G	308,722 P
W. I. Staves.....	127,300 S	292,612 G	335,422 P

SHIPMENT BY RAIL.

The shipment by the C. M. O. & O. Railway, from above Ottawa, of Allan Grant's square timber, is progressing rapidly. Some 600 cars have already arrived, and 500 more are expected. The timber arrives in primo order, and is im-

mediately dumped into a pond alongside the railway track, and there rafted and towed to the coast.

THE APPOINTMENT OF A SUPERVISOR.

The whole trade is very much excited about the vacancy in the Supervisor's Office, and the apparent determination of some few public men to pitchfork into the office some political favorite or hanger on, without the slightest knowledge of the requirements of the trade. Numerous representations, which it is to be hoped may not be overlooked, have been unanimously made by the whole trade to the Government, setting forth the importance and necessity of having a properly qualified Supervisor.

MINING NOTES.

A French engineer, sent out by Parisian capitalists, has just arrived here to investigate the mining value of the gold lands at Beauce, in the possession of the Quebec Mining Co. Should his report prove favorable, the necessary capital will at once be forthcoming. News from Buckingham is to the effect that operations upon the phosphate lands owned by the French Syndicate are to be at once pushed forward with vigor.

Effect of Removing Mountain Forests.

Attention has long been given to devising means to limit the ravages of these torrents, which ruin the land, threaten estates, destroy roads, and sometimes even compromise the existence of villages. Walls have been built along the banks to protect them, or across the streams to allay the force of these waters. The most efficacious means, however, as yet discovered, has been to maintain the woods on the slopes of the mountain. The effect of cutting away the trees in promoting the formation of torrents has not been doubted by the inhabitants of mountainous regions, and is clearly set forth by M. Surrall, who says:—"When we examine the tracts in the midst of which torrents of recent origin have been formed, we perceive that they have in all cases been despoiled of their trees and bushes. If, on the other hand, we examine hills whose sides have been recently stripped of wood, we observe that they are cut up by numerous torrents, which have evidently been formed very lately. Here is a remarkable double fact: wherever there are recent torrents there are no longer forests, and wherever the ground is cleared these torrents are formed; and the same eyes that see the woods fall on the declivity of a mountain, may see appear there immediately a multitude of torrents."

The disastrous consequences of removing the woods from the Alps began to attract attention in the last century, and have since been discussed in many publications and official reports. In 1833 the prefect of the department of the Lower Alps said in a report to the Minister:—"If prompt and energetic measures are not taken, it will be almost impossible to designate the precise moment when the French Alps will become a desert. The period from 1851 to 1853 will produce a new diminution in the number of the population. In 1862 the Minister will remark a continuous and progressive reduction in the number of hectares devoted to agriculture; each year will aggravate the evil, and in a half century France will count more ruins and one department less." The departments of the Upper and Lower Alps actually lost thirty thousand inhabitants, or one-ninth of their population, between 1851 and 1876. A law for recovering the mountains with wood, which had been prepared by M. Forecade de Rouguot, director-general of the administration of the forests, was adopted by the legislative bodies in 1860, and was put in operation shortly afterwards.—*Mr. M. J. Cleve, in the Popular Science Monthly.*

THE *Newcastle Chronicle* says a cargo of square timber chocks has been brought to the Tyne, via Hamburg, direct from Prince Bismarck's estate. The merchant who has received them says the wood is as hard and square as the owner of the estate himself.

Bogus Certificates.

It is no vile drugged stuff, pretending to be made of wonderful foreign roots, barks, &c., and puffed up by long bogus certificates of pretended miraculous cures, but a simple, pure, effective medicine, made of well known valuable remedies, that furnishes its own certificates by its cures. We refer to Hop Bitters, the purest and best of medicines.—*Republican.*

PEGS.

The *New York Mail* says:—It was the privilege of the writer to visit the picturesque little town of Arlington, Vt., which at the time boasted a population of 2,500, three churches, five stores, two hotels, an extensive car works, sash and blind, and chair factory; also a "peg factory," which, by the courtesy of the foreman, Mr. L. E. White (who had been employed there twenty-nine years), he was shown through and received valuable information. The timber used is black and yellow birch, which is cut into pieces four feet in length, varying in diameter from eight to fourteen inches. These logs are placed in a building in winter and the frost extracted by steam. They are then run in on a tram railway to the circular saw department, and cut into slices or blanks of the thickness desired for the length of the pegs. These are sorted and the knots cut out, and are then passed on to a long bench which contains six machines composed of fluted rollers. The blanks are then run between these rollers, which crosses both sides. They are then run through again to cross-crease, or mark out the exact sizes of the pegs. Then they go to the splitting machines, which are set with double knives, and cut the blanks into pegs. As they pass the last machine they are sorted, and all knots and discoloured ones removed as they are brushed off into large baskets. These machines are under the care of young women, who appeared much more happy and useful than do many of those who, thumping at their piano, would consider such employment menial. The next process is bleaching, which is accomplished by the fumes of brimstone, which is unhealthy, (those who labor here shorten their lives). They are then placed in large cylinders, which hold seven barrels, and have six hundred steam pipes running through them, and revolve one and one-half times to the minute, drying two charges per day to each cylinder. They are then passed into large wooden casks, or cylinders, which revolve rapidly, polish them by the friction, the refuse falling through wire sieves or screen openings, after which they are again passed into a sifter, which separates all the single pegs and drops them into tubs, or boxes, leaving those which have not been separated in the machine. They are then put in barrels ready for market. The factory running on full time turns out 150 bushels, or fifty barrels, per day. The sizes go from eight up to sixteen to an inch. The lengths go by eighths, two and one-half to twelve. Twenty-six hands are employed, half of them being women. The products of this factory are mostly shipped to Germany and France, and enter largely into the manufacture of toys and fancy goods, as well as into the shoe manufactory. Thus the "genii of mechanism" converts, as by magic, the trees from the Vermont mountains into articles of use, which, floating off through the channels of commerce to far away lands, anon return to sparkle the eyes of happy children in toys, in which these pegs have become important factors.

How to Come It Over Hornets.

Mr. James T. Bell's account, in the *Canadian Entomologist* of the easy capture of hornets may possibly serve as a useful hint to some agricultural reader in an emergency. The nest was unexpectedly found in a stump during a walk in the Belleville forests: "A few days after, taking advantage of a cool morning, I sent my two boys to the woods with a small bottle of chloroform and a hard rubber syringe. According to directions, they injected about a drachm of the liquid into the hole, and threw a handkerchief over the entrance. In about five minutes they opened up the nest, when they found the inmates in a perfect state of slumber, and transferred them without trouble to their cyanide bottles. In about an hour they returned, bringing me forty-eight specimens of the insect."

ARE YOU?—Are you a Dyspeptic? Have you indigestion? Is your liver sluggish? Does your food trouble you? Does sleep fail to refresh you? Is your appetite and energy gone? Zoposa (from Brazil) will cure you, tone you up, and invigorate your whole system. It is a gentle purgative, acts as a wonder upon, and gives strength and energy to the Digestive apparatus. It is strongly anti-bilious, carries off all surplus bile, tones the liver, gives sound Digestion and speedy health to the Dyspeptic and the Bilious. Try a 10 cent sample at least.

Indian Forestry.

A correspondent of the *New York Tribune* in a lengthy article in which he gives a brief history of some of the forest fires that have visited this and other countries, sets forth some facts that are of peculiar interest in connection with the recent terrible conflagration that has visited our own state. He states that the Indians, as he found while living among them, made a practice of burning over the ground of their forests once a year, as regularly as the farmer plows his land. He claims that the heat from these annual burnings is not great enough to injure, much less consume the trees, but the fires clean the ground of dead leaves and rubbish, destroying bugs and worms and killing the germs of malaria. The accumulation of dry leaves, twigs, mosses and fallen timber, he thinks, is the cause of the great forest fires, such as those which have ravaged whole counties in this state and destroyed hundreds of human lives. If the woods were systematically burned every year in this Indian fashion, there could be no possibility of an accidental fire gathering headway enough to become a destructive conflagration. Some year of drouth, he fears, will see the Alleghenies and other timber strongholds swept as bare as the Tyrian rock. "Then the rainfall will cease, then the nation. History testifies that nations have perished from the earth when their forests perished." One remedy which occurs to this correspondent for the destruction of forests by fire and by the rapacity of lumbermen who cut down the trees but plant none in their stead to supply the coming generation, is the appointment of a national commissioner of forestry, "a man who knows and loves the life-giving wood, and who would travel from state to state, section to section, and forest to forest, protecting the timber lands of the country."—*Lumberman's Gazette.*

A Big Fire at Chandos.

A correspondent writes to the *Mail* as follows:—At dark on the evening of the 20th ult., the large lumber shanty in the north-east corner of Chandos caught from a forest fire, and was totally destroyed, also the stable, blacksmith shop, meat house, and granary. The office was saved by a sudden change of wind. The buildings were very extensive, the stable being 120 feet long, and the shanty (which last winter accommodated over 100 men) was 80 feet in length. And all very substantially built last fall by Mr. John Gault, an energetic foreman in the employ of Messrs. Gilmour & Co., Trenton, who expected to use the shanty for lumbering another winter or two. A near settler (with his wife and family of small children) occupied the premises as caretaker for the summer, and had his little summer's grain stored in the stable, and all burnt. He had done but little else for a month previously but watch, carry water, and fight fires in the woods around, and was beginning to hope the worst danger was past. But a strong northerly wind seemed sent on purpose to consume everything in its track, and earlier in the day reached and destroyed his own private dwelling, about forty rods from the lumber shanty. Himself and a few neighbours fought the fire so long at the big stable, and the shanty caught fire so soon afterwards, that a very few of the caretaker's household effects could be saved. To make matters more serious, his wife had given birth to a child the same day, and had to leave her bed and walk barefooted to the nearest house (nearly half a mile), supported by a neighbour and his wife.

Birch Bark Rubber.

It is said that a dense black gum may be obtained from the outer layers of the birch tree bark by distillation, which possess all the ordinary properties of gutta percha, and has the additional merit of resisting the deteriorating influence of air and the corrosive action of acids. This advantage makes it useful as an ingredient of India-rubber and gutta percha, which it renders much more durable. Whether these statements are true remains to be proved.

Are You Going to Travel?

Don't forget a supply of that Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry. It is a superior remedy for sea sickness, and a positive cure for all bowel complaints induced by bad water, change of diet, or of climate. Whether at home or abroad, it should be kept at hand in case of emergency.