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The first foretas

Tuesday,

Columbia, the Land of Big Timber



S to the resources of the province of British Columbia in standing timber there are varied and very widely divergent views. Only one thing is quite certain, namely, that no man knows even approximately the actual stand. A few days ago one of the

largest operators on the Coast expressed to me his belief that ten years would see the exhaustion of all the timber which is now regarded as merchantable. This view may, I think, be taken as marking the low water mark in estimates of persons who have had practical experience in the woods. From a prize essay on this subject recently published, I learn that the total stand of timber in British Columbia exceeds five thousand billion feet, an estimate which is double that given by the editor of the American Lumberman for the forest resources of the entire North American continent. This may be regarded as the high watermark estimates by persons who have no practical knowledge of the subject whatever. It reminds one by its extravagance, of the statement which recently went the rounds of the press to the effect that Canada had a total timber land area of 1,657,000,-000 acres; an area which is without doubt in excess of the total area in North America, which can in any fairness be termed "timber land."

Another statement which reflects a more or less popular impression in the east, I quote from an article recently published in one of our trade journals. The writer, who could hardly have been out of doors in British Columbia, stated that the whole province "consisted of an unbroken stretch of forest, extending from the forty-ninth parallel to Alaska, and comprising the largest and most compact body of timber on the American continent." This is not only grossly misleading in the impression it would give as to the amount of the standing timber, but it gives an altogether false idea of the character of the timber lands. Far from being an unbroken body, the merchantable standing timber of British Columbia occurs for much the most part in comparatively narrow strips along the river courses, fringing the shores of lakes and arms of the sea, and occasionally extending high up the flanks of the ever present mountains. My personal experience in forest cruising has been limited to the country lying west of the Cascade range and tributary to the waters which separate Vancouver Island from the mainland. This section is everywhere conceded to carry the heaviest and finest timber in the province, and yet I should say that in the seven months that we tramped in this region, fully 80 per cent of the area of the territory examined was not timbered in the British Columbia sense. and I am confident that less than 30 per cent was timbered in any commercial sense. The waste lands consisted of rugged mountains, glaciers, lakes and a very large area which had been totally destroyed by fire.
What British Columbia lacks in continuity

of her timbered areas she more than makes up for in the quantity and quality which may be cut from the area that is actually timbered.

Beyond all question the forest resources of the province are very great, and as regards saw timber, probably exceed those of all the rest of Canada combined. It would perhaps be a conservative estimate to place the stand of merchantable timber at present under lease or license at 130 billion feet. Ultimately, when the scarcity and resulting high prices of lumber shall widen the present conception of the term "merchantable," and shall make possible the exploitation of areas now deemed inaccessible, the total cut may easily reach double the figure given before the virgin stand is

In estimating the value of standing timber it is everywhere more a matter of accessibility and markets than either quantity or quality of stand. It can be more truly said of British Columbia than of any other heavily forested country that the timber markets of the world are here. On this coast, for its entire length, is a succession of deep-water harbors surpassing anything to be seen elsewhere. Directly tributary to these harbors are the finest of the forest lands. The interior, while less accessible, has many mighty rivers which outlet to the sea. Railroading, to be sure, is very costly where trunk lines are concerned. Fortunately, no trunk lines will need to be built to tap the timber. Within four years there will be four trunk lines from the plains to the sea. These lines will open up a vast area by tapping the drainage courses of the interior, and comparatively cheaply constructed branch lines and logging roads will open up the rest. As I have already remarked, the markets for the product of the British Columbia forests are the markets of the world. The only market which can be reached at small cost is the local market, which already consumes a vast deal of timber, and is increasing its demand by leaps and bounds. All other markets are reached at considerable cost. To reach the prairie provinces of the Canadian middle west, which of late years has become the best market, it is necessary to carry it over two mountain ranges, with a total hill climb of over 8,000 feet. The new trunk lines will, however, cut this grade in half, or less, to the great advantage of the trade, and doubtless of the consumers also. All other markets are reached by crossing oceans at considerable, but ever decreasing cost. At the docks of our great coast mills may be seen ships loading for China, Japan, Australia, Western and Eastern South America, South Africa, Europe and even Eastern North America. The opening of the Panama canal ten years hence cannot fail to give a great impetus to all trade touching that half of the world which borders the Atlantic

The cargo trade is already very large and is growing rapidly. The only thing that can prevent its growth to enormous proportions will be the overwhelming demand for the products of our forests throughout Canadaparticularly in the plains country-and in the United States, which may make very great exportations to other continents impossible. It is my own view—as some of your readers know—that the district of which Chicago is the commercial capital will, within half a century, lead the world in timber-hunger and lumber prices.

Before closing the discussion on the resources of the province I must comment on the climate of the coast district. With one exception, perhaps, of the present virgin stand in timber, the climate is to be regarded as the greatest provincial forest resource. The forests of British Columbia are almost wholly evergreen, and every winter day that the temperature stands above freezing point the green leaves of the forest are storing up reserve food preparatory to the production of wood the following season. In the east there are at best not more than seven months of such food storing-here there are twelve, with the result that when spring comes the terminal shoot which marks the upward growth commonly extends itself skyward in the neighborhood of three feet, and often much more, as compared with an average of a foot or eighteen inches in the east. Doubtless, the heavy rainfall and the humidity of the atmosphere contribute greatly to this remarkable growth.

The different forest types of the entire

province have two characteristics in common. They are all predominantly coniferous, and contain practically no trees which are not useful and even valuable for the production of sawn lumber. Otherwise they may be divided into two district groups—the coast and the

On the coast forest the trees attain much larger dimensions and the undergrowth is very dense, making traveling in the "brush" a very tedious and very laborious process. An average of a mile an hour is extremely rapid traveling west of the Cascades, and it is often impossible to make an average of half that speed. The only possible means of locomotion in this region is afoot. In the interior valleys, the timber is much smaller, and the ground is comparatively free from undergrowth. In many places it is possible to travel rapidly many miles in different directions on

The leading species on the coast is the Douglas fir and the red cedar. North of Queen Charlotte Sound the spruce takes the place of the fir as a leading tree. The only other trees of commercial importance are the western hemlock, the white fir (so-called 'larch"), and the yellow cypress. All six rank amongst the world's best timbers, are, in fact, unexcelled in their own classes. The fir naturally falls into the same class as southern pine, and is its equal in every respect, and superior in the dimensions afforded. The red cedar is the best cedar in the world, and superior in the dimensions obtainable. The hemlock is free from two defects of the eastern hemlock, viz., brashiness of grain, and "shake," and has no new faults, while its enormous size, compared with that of the eastern tree, gives it a greater value for many purposes. The white fir (abies) and the spruce are ideal pulp woods, and can be used for any purpose for which the eastern spruce is used. The yellow cypress resembles a cedar, but the wood s harder, stronger, tougher, more elastic and highly aromatic. It is exceedingly durable,

and when found in large size is much the most valuable wood on the Pacific coast.

The leading species of the interior valleys are the yellow pine, tamarac, Douglas fir, red cedar, spruce and hemlock. The cut per acre of these interior lands is, as a rule, much less than on the coast, but occasionally areas are found on which the trees stand very close, and the cut is enormous.

In the early days the logging was done almost entirely by means of ox-teams. Sometimes as many as twenty-four oxen-two abreast-were used to haul the heavy timbers over the skid roads in the water. The skid roads were built by embedding cross skids in the roadway over which the logs are drawn after the removal of the bark. Later, horses and mules replaced the oxen, being much faster. Now the steam "donkey" has practically replaced all animal motive power in the coast forests.

With the heavy timbers to be handled it was possible, in the days of the oxen and the horses, to log only such areas as were comparatively free from rock, and gave a down grade all the way to the water. The logging engine has made possible the logging of much rougher lands, and has greatly lessened the cost per thousand. A few logging railroads. are already in operation, and other are under construction. With the exhaustion of the log supply on the lands directly tributary to the water the logging railway must, in a few years, become the ordinary method of bringing the logs to the water. A feature of logging on the coast of great economic interest is the fact that the climate admits of continuous operation throughout the year.

Prior to the construction of the Canadian Pacific railway, the only market available for the product of the British Columbia forest was export by ships to foreign lands. The earliest mills of importance engaged in this industry were built in the early sixties. Their output varied from 25 to 35 million feet for many years, but recently the trade has expanded greatly, and is at present in the neighborhood of 100 milion feet.

The building of the C. P. R. and the development of the Canadian Middle-West, has resulted in an enormous development of the lumber business, and has made possible the utilization of a great deal of good lumber which it was not possible to market when the only trade was that of export. The opening of two or three new lines from the sea to the plains within the next four years will undoubtedly result in a great stimulus to the production of lumber, both on the coast and in the interior. The opening of the Panama canal ten years hence will undoubtedly open a new era in this regard for the entire Pa-

The government policy in the disposal of timber lands has had a checkered history. the early days considerable areas were sold or given away in fee, later a system of leasing was adopted with a view of encouraging the development of the milling industry. In 1888 the tenure of the leases was fixed at thirty years, and a land tax of ten cents per acre and a royalty of 50 cents per thousand feet on all timber cut was imposed. Since 1892 no leases of timber limits have been granted without being offered to public competition. The competition, however, was largely nominal, as there was an abundance of good lands for all who wished to take them up. Many changes have been made at different times in regard to the taxation and other obligations of the holders of leased lands. At the present time the life of a lease is twenty-one years, but at the end of that time the owner has the privilege of renewing for another term; and further terms of twenty-one years, with a readjustment of the ground rent and royalty to bring it into conformity with that obtaining on licensed lands at the times of renewal.

In 1888 the chief commissioner of lands and works was empowered to issue special timber licenses good for one year, giving the right to cut timber on crown land, subject to the payment of an annual license fee and a royalty of 50 cents per thousand on all timber cut. The legislation governing these licenses has also undergone considerable modification from time to time, and assumed its present

form in 1905.

According to the legislation of 1905, any-one staking timber on unlocated crown land was entitled, after due advertisement, to a pecial timber license to "cut and carry away he timber" on 640 acres, on the payment of an annual license feet of \$140 (\$115 east of Cascades). The timber, when, cut, was subject to the payment of a royalty of fifty cents per thousand,

These licenses are issued for one year nly, but are renewable for 21 consecutive years. The government retains the right to ncrease the amount of royalty, and also the mount of the annual license fee, although there is some legal doubt as regards this latter. Under this law the bulk of the finest and most accessible timber lands of the province

have been taken up. The most obvious defect in this manner of disposing of timber lands is, that all lands, good and poor, are handed out by the government at one price, and although the right to increase the royalty cut on timber is clearly retained, and possibly as regards the annual license fee also, it is evidently impracticable to raise it higher than the poorer lands can stand. A second defect is the time limit to renewal. As the law stands now, the bulk of the finest forest areas of the province must be logged before the expiration of 21 years, or the owners will lose title to their timber.

The special license law, with its high annual license fee, has been a success as a revenue producer. It has filled the treasury of the province to overflowing at a time which would have otherwise been a critical period in the history of its finances. But, like the "bonus" system formerly in vogue in Ontario, it is simply a device for the discounting of future forest revenues-a measure justified only by the gravest of financial emergencies.

That there must be provision made for a liberal extension of the time allowed for the removal of the timber now held under special license is now evident to all. The harvesting of the bulk of the timber of the province within 21 years would mean the demoralization of the timber industry during the process, and its practical extinction at the end of two decades, than which no greater calamity could befall the province, or perhaps the Dominion.

The space at my disposal has, I fear, already been exceeded, but in closing I wish to go on record with a prediction. It is to this effect: That although as yet little attention has been given to the art of forestry on the Pacific coast it will develop that within the lifetime of many who read this the Pacific slope will lead the world in applied forestry as a strictly commercial proposition. The wherefore for this belief is very simple. We have a climate which will produce in about forty years as much timber per acre as can be grown elsewhere in North America or in Europe in a century. With money worth five per cent, this means that timber can be grown here at less than one-tenth the cost that it can be produced elsewhere. If you don't believe it, just figure it out and see, or ask Dr. Fer-

Mr. Winston Churchill on Authorship



R. WINSTON CHURCHILL. M.P., made a charming speech on the delights of authorship before the Authors' Club on Feb. 17, which the Westminster Ga-

zette reports at length. he said, "I define an author as person who makes his living by publishing in book form original composition -so-called-if we can agree upon that, I will proceed further to say I think the persons who comprise that category are, upon the whole, a very fortunate class. The great mass of mankind pass their days in work, and it is only after their work in the field, or the mill, or the office, has been done, that they find time to play. So many hours from every day of their lives have to be sacrificed to a tyrant thing called work-unwelcome, monotonous, and unremitting work. Not till that is satisfied is there room for recreation or for pleasure. That is the lot of the common run of humanity. The fortunate people in the world—the only really fortunate people in the world, in my mindare those whose work is also their pleasure. The class is not a large one, not nearly so large as it is often represented to be; and authors are perhaps one of the most important elements in its composition. They enjoy in this respect at least a real harmony of life.

The Author's Freedom.

"Is not the author free, as few men are free? Is he not secure, as few men are se-The tools of his industry are so common and so cheap that they have almost ceased to have commercial value. He needs no bulky pile of raw material, no elaborate apparatus. no service of men or animals. He is dependen for his occupation upon no one but himself. and nothing outside him that matters. He is the sovereign of an empire, self-supporting, self-contained. No one can sequestrate his estates. No one can deprive him of his stockin-trade; no one can force him to exercise his faculty against his will; no one can prevent him exercising it as he chooses. The pen is the great liberator of men and nations. No chains can bind, no poverty can choke, no tariff can restrict, the free play of his mind, and even the Times' Book Club can only exert a moderately depressing influence upon his rewards. Whether his work is good or bad, so long as he does his best he is happy. I often fortify myself amid the uncertainties and vexations of political life by believing that I possess a line of retreat into a peaceful and fertile country where no rascal can pursue and where one never need be dull or idle or even wholly without power. It is then, indeed, that I feel devoutly thankful to have been born fond of writing. It is then, indeed, that I feel grateful to all the brave and generous spirits who, in every age, and in every land, have fought to establish the now unquestioned freedom of the

The Beauties of English.

"And what a noble medium the English language is. It is not possible to write a page without experiencing positive pleasure at the

lish writer cannot say what he has to say in English—and in simple English—depend upon it it is probably not worth saying. What a pity it is that English is not more generally studied. am not going to attack classical education. No one who has the slightest pretension to literary tastes can be insensible to the attraction of Greece and Rome. But I confess our present educational system excites in my mind grave misgivings. I cannot believe that a ystem is good, or even reasonable, which thrusts upon reluctant and uncomprehending multitudes treasures which can only be appreciated by the privileged and gifted few. To the vast majority of boys who attend our public schools a classical education is from beginning to end one long useless, meaningless rigmarole, If I am told that classics are the bestthat by far the greater number of students finish their education while this preparatory stage is still incomplete, and without deriving any of the benefits which are promised as its result. For every one who is permitted to ascend the slopes of Mount Parnassus there are twenty who famish in the deserts of conjugations and declensions without ever receiving the smallest practical advantage from many years of labor.

The Mastery of English.

"And even of those who, without being great scholars, attain a certain general acquaintance with the ancient writers, can it really be said that they have also obtained the mastery of English? How many young gentlemen there are from the universities and public schools who can turn a Latin verse with a facility which would make the old Romans squirm in their tombs. How few there are who can construct a few good sentences, or still less a few good paragraphs of plain, correct, and straightforward English. Now, I am a great admirer of the Greeks, although, of course, I have to depend upon what others tell me about them, and I would like to see our educationalists imitate in one respect at least the Greek example. How is it that the Greeks made their language the most graceful and compendious mode of expression ever known among men? Did they spend all their time studying the languages which had preceded theirs? Did they explore with tireless persistency the ancient root dialects of the vanished world? Not at all. They studied Greek. They studied their own language. They loved it, the ycherished it, they adorned it, they expanded it, and that is why it survives a model and delight to all posterity. Surely we whose mother tongue has already won for itself such an unequalled empire over the modern world, can learn this lesson at least from the ancient Greeks and bestow a little care and some proportion of the years of education to the study of a language which is perhaps. to play a predominant part in the future progress of mankind.

"Frankly, I think that English boys should first of all be taught English, taught to write it started, and knocked her down, two wheels richness and variety, the flexibility and the it, to speak it, to repeat by heart its poetry passing over her. She had two ribs broken.

profoundness of our mother-tongue. If an Eng- and its prose, to know something of its literature, to understand its strength, its history, and its origin; and it is to those who show real literary aptitude, and elegant qualities of mind in the study of English that the ancient world should be thrown open, not as a drill or a drudgery, not as a dreary ritual binding on all alike, but as the reward of exceptional talent and scholarly inclination. That I believe would be the natural and harmonious method of procedure in regard to the study of our language by youth.

A Corporate Resistance to Bad Words.

"There is another point to which I wish to refer, though very briefly. I mean the guidance of our language by those who know it and love it best. The more I have been able to become acquainted with the work and influence-let us say-of the French Academy on French literature and French intellectual life generally the more I regret the absence in England of any body of equal effectiveness which could from year to year guide and improve the development of our English language without restricting its regular and natural expansion. And when we are menaced, as undoubtedly we are, by the horrible barbarous jargon of phonetic spelling, that evil progeny of slovenly and unprofitable hustle, I think it is high time that English writers should be able to offer a corporate resistance to such dangerous and dismal tendencies.

Someone - I forget who - has said Words are the only things which last forever.' That is, to my mind, always a wonderful thought. The most durable structures raised in stone by the strength of man, the mightiest monuments of his power, crumble into dust, while the words spoken with fleeting breath, the passing expression of the unstable fancies of his mind, endure not as echoes of the past, not as mere archaeological curiosities or venerable relics, but with a force and life as new and strong, and sometimes far stronger than when they were first spoken, and, leaping across the gulf of three thousand years, they light the world for us today."

A man and, his wife were airing their troubles on the sidewalk one Saturday evening when a good Samaritan intervened. See here, my man," he protested, "this sort

of thing won't do.'

What business is it of yours, I'd like to know?' snarled the man, turning from his wife. 'It's only my business in so far as I can be of help in settling this dispute," answered the Samaritan mildly.

This ain't no dispute," growled the man. "No dispute! But, my dear friend-"I tell you it ain't no dispute," insisted the man. "She"—jerking his thumb toward the woman—"think's she ain't goin' to get my

week's wages, and I know darn well she ain't, Where's the dispute in that?" Lady Gwendolen Cecil has met with an au-

obile accident at Hatfield. It seems that Lady Cecil was about to re-enter her car when

The first year's variety of £50,095, the anticipations be reaped from be replaced by the object of the mur not be the reduct fits from industri the provision of actual cost of which obscure as my to obscure as m mixing up toget the steamboats an the plain-man, in cipal methods of not readily appre of the losses. The municipal underta pected to pay red velopment at last when some cour the steamboat se tinued at a loss amusement, much pended on the t Some sober-mind ready warning us ill effects of a polinem et circenses, were prepared to tant party in mu already got, to the prepared to spend on a modern equicircus. It is quite less, that by raisin tive holiday traffic and in this lies thing a lessee or pu the boats. The in have been effected transport by rail sides of the river depleting the ranks on the river for and by no practica the service will it call these to the sthey are run by a by private undertathe Highways Corthe net deficit on working is £137,08 tal expenditure on has been £301,080 £23,524 has been not he last financial ying capital expend nem et circenses, ing capital expended £277,536, but the no allowance has preciation. The esticiency of mainta. £42,075, of which amount to just un correspond, in effecharge. By layin awaiting a purcha cided, the deficient reduced to £34,330, appear to interpre-

It may have so our older readers, Gazette, to be ren a quarter century uration of the we States and Mexico sion from the app M. Dawson as ge to the North Ame shed in 1854, was tion to Americans sippi as were the or Burton or Bak wards, of their ex to English readers up either of Bartle and reads of the a serts of North Ameing with the came world and in conne comparative merits and Arabian came sweeping has been then. When Dr. I work under Major Cling books of Capta Butler had not yet Land and Wild Nored a sort of northe Bartlett's "Camel Z the transformation a good deal of arg statesmen of the would be anything tempt building a re tempt building a ra lc. But the marvel at last and the day proaching when the should be no longe tons had once been whole living world. Ocean" (a work th lave not robbed of find both indication opinion in the years also ievous forceas also joyous forecast that was to be. On mord and action Grant had the most he greatness of his All his fine forecast od, but if there are a distributions of the greatness of th ed, but if there are a ed men today more doubters in our fur owe the power that the slough of desport of carnt. He was of fective leaders of it grasped the meaning saw in the "great I ture home of happy (many of them) frould-world tyrants.

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appear to interpre the total loss in m vice would be only

000, or one-sixth.

Hon. J. J. Hil