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#### MUTUAL ADVANTAGES.

Just now, as explained elsewhere, St. Paul is objecting loudly against the running of the sawdust of the mills at Minneapolis into the Mississippi river. Well-informed men, who are not particularly interested in either, claim that on the part of St. Paul it is a spasm of jealousy, and that the arguments used are not the soundest, as of course they are liable not to be if jealousy is at the bottom of them. The towns are smart ones in every sense of the word, are but a few miles apart, and if the feeling of rivalry that naturally exists between them should result in the kicking of one against the other whenever there was the slightest possible excuse for doing so, it would only be an exhibit of human nature.

Notwithstanding the reason of the objections raised by the St. Paul people, it appears to the *Lumberman* that it is in the range of possibilities for this very sawdust, that they now view in the light of an enemy, to be utilized in a manner that will be valuable to them.

An embryo sawdust pressing company, or something of that sort, made a proposition to take the dust and experiment on it with its patent, but the saw mill men saw an objection ahead, claiming that the money the fuel company was willing to pay them would not recompense them for making the necessary changes in their mills. Possibly, too, they had in mind the fact that as the pressing of sawdust into fuel is an experiment anyhow, the bottom might fall out before they could sell any sawdust to speak of.

But pass the compressing concern by, and there are still better uses to be made of the sawdust of the many mills at Minneapolis than turning it into the river. One of the necessities of Minneapolis is gas, and no doubt the majority of the business men of St. Paul would say without hesitation that much of it is used in their rival city. Gas can be manufactured from sawdust. There are mills at Bay City, Mich., that are successfully lighted with such gas. We do not know how much coal costs in Minneapolis, but the coal bill of gas manufacturers are always big ones everywhere. In the manufacture of gas from sawdust, the residuum is charcoal. Certain acetates of commercial value are also produced. As has been known for years, charcoal iron is best. In fact, any other, in this day of the world, is considered very inferior.

Parties in St. Paul have been sinking what they have hoped would be an artesian well. At the depth of six hundred feet magnetic iron ore was struck, of nearly native richness. The drill was sunk into the ore forty-two feet without passing through it, and the well-diggers have suspended operations until they can obtain diamond drills.

With iron ore of the first quality iron could be manufactured at St. Paul for the needs of the

great and growing Northwest. The question would be at the cost of the fuel, which would have to be transported from the mines of Pennsylvania. Right here is where the despised sawdust would step in and fill a vacancy that otherwise would be an aching void. The charcoal from the Minneapolis gas retorts would more than take the place of the Pennsylvania coal, and the chimneys of the iron works of St. Paul would be enduring monuments, and envied ones by the city up the river.

Should anything step in to prevent the manufacture of iron at St. Paul, the Minneapolis mill men need not continue to let their sawdust run into the river, if by so doing they are likely to gain the eternal enmity of their down-stream neighbors. Minneapolis is a great flour town—the greatest, in fact, in the world. Her flouring mills have a capacity of some twenty-five thousand barrels daily. A great many barrels are required for that portion of the flour that is barreled, and the barrels cost something like forty cents each. In New England barrels have been made for years from wood pulp. The enterprise has been a success of the first water. At the factories there, to produce a barrel it costs seventeen cents. Sawdust is proper material for pulp, and doubtless much of the expense ordinarily attending the manufacture of it would be done away with, because the grinding of the wood would be done free gratis by the mill saws. To put in running a pulp factory of the proper capacity, for the manufacture of barrels, would require an investment of \$250,000, but without much doubt it would pay handsomely. If it pays in New England where the people are several seconds to a mile slower than they are in the rushing Northwest, it surely ought to pay in Minneapolis. Then such a mammoth cooper shop would be a feather in the cap of Minneapolis that St. Paul could not possibly stick in her tile, simply for the want of sawdust.

The *Lumberman* suggests no chimerical projects. Both of them have been tried, have paid, and have not been found wanting in a single respect. It would be much better if brotherly love existed between the inhabitants of Minneapolis and St. Paul, and these suggestions are made in order to bring it about.—*Northwestern Lumberman*.

#### EXPERIMENTS IN TREE-PLANTING.

That the Forestry Congress recently held in this city will have the effect of deepening the interest of Canadians in the subjects which came before the scope of its deliberations there is good reason to believe. Not the least interesting of the papers which were read during its sessions were those which treated of experiments in tree-planting made in different parts of the Dominion and the United States. We have received a small pamphlet containing a paper taken from the *Montreal Horticultural*

and Fruit-Growers' Association's Report for this year, in which the Hon. H. G. Joly, who, it will be recalled, took a leading part in the late Congress, gives an account of some experiments conducted by himself in the cultivation of the black walnut, the elm and the box elder or ash leaved maple. He recommends that, whenever practicable, the black walnut should be raised from the nut, which should be sown in rows, four feet apart on every side, this distance allows the trees to grow up without spreading lateral branches which, being fragile, are liable to be torn by the wind and other agencies. Guided by experience, he thinks the fall the best season for sowing, care having been taken to protect the nuts from rancidity through heat. These valuable trees have not as yet been regularly cultivated on an extended scale in Canada, but Mr. Joly gives the substance of some trustworthy and interesting information on the subject from Mr. George Stanton, of Simcoe, who sowed last fall twenty-five bushels of black walnut nuts in the rich soil of his own land. It has been ascertained that with the soil and climate of Ontario, under good management, this tree will grow annually at least two thirds of an inch in diameter, or twenty inches in thirty years. Under less favourable conditions, such as are found in Quebec, these averages would be reduced to half an inch yearly or twenty inches in forty years. In his report on Forestry for 1877, Prof. Hough, whom we had the pleasure of hearing at the Congress in this city, allows 680 trees, 51 years old, to one acre, the distance apart on every side being eight feet. At this rate, we are told, an acre of good soil, planted in black walnuts, if well attended, might be expected to yield a revenue in from 30 to 40 years, of \$20,400-30 cubic feet (at \$1 a foot) being allowed for each tree averaging 20 inches in diameter. European writers do not give quite so many trees to the acre as Mr. Hough, but Mr. Joly thinks that two-thirds of his number may be safely conceded. In calculating the lapse of time before a profit could be obtained from such a plantation, he takes it for granted that the trees would not be cut down before they had attained a diameter of, at least, 20 inches. In his carefully compiled statement of the northern limits of the Canadian forest trees, Dr. R. Bell says that the black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) is confined to the tract lying south of a line drawn from the head of Lake Ontario to near the outlet of Lake Huron, and Mr. Stanton says that Long Point and the adjacent region was once a great black walnut country, and that there is still quite a number of these trees left there. Some of those which he measured had a girth which indicated an age of 55 years.

Mr. Joly's other experiments were with elm raising from the seed. He advises for that purpose the collection of the small seedlings which grow so thickly at the foot of the trees. Of a

couple of hundred, no bigger than needles, pulled up in bundles with the attached moss, only half a dozen died after being transplanted. Kept damp and in the shade for some days, at the end of three months they were over six inches high and they still promise to grow in accordance with this rapid start.

Having obtained some seeds of the box elder or ash-leaved maple (*negundo aceroides*) called by the French of *érable à zigueres*, Mr. Joly placed them in a flower pot and they came up with wonderful vigor. Though occurring in the Eastern States, Dr. Bell says that this tree does not seem to have been found native in Quebec or Ontario, but he mentions that young trees raised at Montreal from seeds brought from Manitoba grow rapidly and bore seeds in the 8th year. It abounds in the Red River valley and extends north to the Dog's Head on Lake Winnipeg. Prof. Macoun found it at Tall Creek, discharging into Buffalo Lake. Mr. Joly found mention of it in D. J. Brown's *Sylvia Americana* (1832), where it was recommended for fuel. Michaux says that, to obtain its full proportions, it requires a climate some degrees milder than that of Philadelphia. The fact that it grows well in Minnesota and our Northwest, contradicts the opinion of both these botanists. Nuttall gives it a much greater northern extension than the latter, pronouncing it abundant about the Saskatchewan and Red Rivers, and reports the manufacture of sugar from its sap by the Crow Indians. This statement is confirmed by the experience of Mr. Joly's western friends, who say it is fit to be tapped for sugar at six years old.

Mr. Joly's paper ends with an appeal to "men of good will" to espouse, by word and act, the cause of forest culture, urging them to begin at once and plant for coming generations. He suggests that in Canada we might with advantage adopt a pleasant custom that prevails in several of the United States, that of having an annual holiday for tree-planting. On "Arbor Day" 1875, in Minnesota more than a million trees were planted.—*Montreal Gazette*.

THE *St. John Sun* says that Mr. Robt. Robertson, jr., will ship 125 standard of spools and spool wood from his Petticoat factory to England, per the brig "Lovoida Borstal."

THE Chippewa Logging Company, of Eau Claire, Wis., have recently purchased a large tract of pine land from the Cornell University, comprising 110,000 acres, and containing over 6,000,000,000 feet. The demand for logs for next season's stock is such that 3,000,000 feet will probably be put in the coming winter, if it can be contracted. Contracts for banking timber ranging from two to twenty millions, and extending from one to three years, are being made.