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WOOD AND WORKING INDUSTRIES OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

We continue the account of the "Woods and Wood-Working Industries of New Brunswick," from Hamilton's Handbook of that Province, a portion of which was given in our last issue:—

In order to give some idea of the magnitude of trade even in the smallest of wooden ware articles, we make the following extract from some comments in *All the Year Round* for May, 1884:—

"Who would expect to find in the cargo of one of the magnificent New York liners three thousand boxes of clothes pegs? Yet such an entry is common enough. "Bless my soul!" somebody will say, just as I did when I noticed it, "are we dependent on the States for such things?" Pursuing my investigations further, I found that this was only one out of many of the same kind. It is evident, therefore, that it pays to cut down timber, convert it into the manufactured article, pay carriage to a port, shipping charges, freight, landing charges, carriage to inland towns anywhere in England, commission to several—a score, for anything I know—intermediaries, in order that the British mater-familias may buy a dozen clothes-pegs for three half pence, which is what my wife tells me she paid last. I never saw the boxes as imported, but I should imagine they would be large, and hold several hundreds each—thousands, may be.

"Does not this give us an idea of the enormous quantity that must be turned out every year in the States? Just fancy what a lot must be consumed by fifty millions of people. Yet they are able to supply, not only their internal demand, but to send them to us by the million. Likely enough they will send them as well to some other European countries, though the demand there will not be so great as here, if only from the fact that the weekly wash is not such a national institution.

"One cannot help thinking what has been, is, and will be, the effect of this large importation on the home made article. If my recollection is to be trusted, the present clothes-peg did not make its appearance here till some twenty or twenty five years ago. Everybody who can look back so far can remember that the clothes peg to which he was accustomed was evidently a piece of a branch peeled, shaped, cut in two, and then bound together with two or three inches of tin, which were fastened by a bit of wire driven in. Such was what I may term the pre-American, or the antique clothes-peg.

"I cannot assert with confidence that this ancient style has disappeared, for I confess that I do not keep my eyes open purposely to study clothes-pegs. But this much may be allowed; the antique is not prominent; possibly it yet lingers in out-of-the-way and old fashioned places. In the centres of civilization, however, it is conspicuous by its absence, its place seems

to be taken by the modern article. This, as is well known, is all in a piece, and might be pronounced artistic, were it not evidently made in a machine, and therefore, according to Ruskin, an utter abomination."

To show that the manufacturers of the United States are becoming anxious about the supply of raw material, we may quote the following from one of their leading organs.

"The great pine forests of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota are beginning to show the signs of exhaustion. There is a shortage of production this year in those States footing up about 600,000,000 feet. The average of first quality lumber has run down from 12 per cent. ten years ago to 2 per cent. last year, showing the rapid deterioration of stock which is brought to the mills. The quality of the logs is much poorer than ever before, as many have been put in from land once cut over, and now land has been cleared of everything that will make a cull board. The improvident lumber-men, who in the past only cut the choice pine and left the remainder to be devasted by fire, now saws down his trees close to the root to save an axe kerf, scrapes the earth with a fine tooth rake to get every log that will make passable mill culls, and will discharge a foreman who leaves on the ground a log six inches in diameter."

That our neighbors are looking with envious eyes to our bountiful supplies of forests, may be gathered from the following article, taken from a leading daily paper published in New York city. In calling for free lumber, and while opposing tariff reduction, it says:—

"The only justification for any further attempts at tariff legislation by the present Congress is, that it will afford a last chance to consider this year the removal of the duty now collected upon important lumber. The importance of this measure cannot be urged too often upon the attention of Congress; too much cannot be said about the actual condition of all the northern forests of the United States. They are perishing rapidly, and, to some extent, needlessly. The collection of the duty upon lumber manufactured in Canada stimulates the destruction of the forests of the United States, while it yields practically nothing to the revenues of the country. For every dollar paid into the public treasury, on account of this duty, \$25 are taken from the pockets of American consumers of American lumber, and paid to the few hundred men who manufacture pine and spruce lumber, or deal in pine lands. Every dollar thus obtained by the treasury costs the country, moreover, an incalculable sum through the unnecessary and wanton destruction of forests which, were this duty repealed, would be allowed to grow and improve.

"The continuation of this duty means a great and unnecessary commercial upheaving such as this country has never seen. Congress can prevent, or at least postpone for a considerable

period, these calamities by the removal of this duty. The necessity for doing this is urgent. Action cannot safely be delayed a single day longer. The extermination of the northern forests of the United States should be postponed at any cost."

Following upon this we may quote some comments of the Canadian press, to show what our manufacturers think of the situation, which will demonstrate that fear of exhausting the supply does not form an important item for their consideration at the present time.

The *Monetary Times*, of Toronto, says:—

"Canada has been called 'a wooden country.' How far this is properly a term of reproach we cannot say; but seeing that wood, in the raw stage of squared logs or lumber, forms \$25,000,000 worth, or say a fourth in value of our yearly exports, and that we send abroad a considerable aggregate of manufactures of wood besides, we may well bear the nick-name. Let us, however, eschew such wooden goods as wooden nutmegs or hams. We ship to Europe, already, tool-handles, broom handles, carriage spokes, hubs and felloes, spools or bobbins, brush-backs, &c., &c., in considerable quantity. We might do more in the way of wooden-ware export, and indeed it seems to us that, in this as in other lines, Canadian manufacturers will have to look about them for foreign markets, since the means of production, over-stimulated as they have been, are outstripping the home demand."

The *Times* continues:—

"But here are the facts. Great Britain and other European countries use enormous quantities of wooden goods, and they are largely made in the United States and shipped from Boston and New York. Why should not Canada, whose supplies of timber are nearer the sea board, compete successfully? It can be done; but it is not to be done in a day. Nor is it to be done without observation and pains."

The *St. John Daily Telegraph* says, after enumerating a long list of wooden wares that should be manufactured here:—

"We have not exaggerated the importance of cultivating the English market for our manufactured wood goods. Enough has already been demonstrated to justify us in urging upon men of capital that they ought to take hold of the matter, and that they can do so with a good prospect of success. If some portion of the hundreds of thousands of dollars now lying in the banks were invested in the wooden ware business, it would be a good thing for the Province. Heretofore the Province has confined itself to shipping deals and timber, the market for which fluctuates with the building trade; but in some of the lines to which reference is made above there is a constant demand. Many of the articles are such as are in every day use in families, and people buy them whether times are good or bad. The business is capable of vast development, and it is to be hoped that some of

our moneyed people will see their way clear to engaging in it."

The *St. John Daily Sun* says:—

"From time to time the *Sun* has called attention to the extensive trade done by American manufacturers of wooden wares with Great Britain and the Continent, as indicative of what might be accomplished by the wood workers of New Brunswick were they to intelligently turn their energies in this direction. The special superiority of our climate (the enervating summer heat of the interior of the Continent being unknown in St. John), the cheapness of fuel, the proximity of exhaustless supplies of forest woods, the direct communication all the year round with the mother country, are factors which place us in a position to compete on the most favorable terms with all rivals, either across the line or in the Upper Provinces; while a point of vital interest to capitalists is found in the unlimited demand for wood manufactures in Great Britain, and the extent and variety of the articles required, which guard against the possibility of overproduction or excessive competition, thus ensuring a steady, remunerative dividend on their investments."

In urging the interests of the International Forestry Exhibition upon our manufacturers, the *St. John Daily Globe* says:—

"We hope that our Province and our enterprising manufacturers will leave nothing undone to have New Brunswick well represented at the Edinburgh International Forestry Exhibition. In markets of the Old World, like that of Liverpool, something is known of us by our square deals and our birch timber; but to show what our goods are capable of we should, to the very fullest extent, take advantage of this Forestry Exhibition. Doubtless, if persons in the old world, who are wood workers, are made aware of the capacity of our native woods for economic purposes, they would use them more than they do now."

The following list comprises the leading varieties of woods which are most plentiful in our forests and most valuable for manufacturing and export, white, red and grey oak; rock (or sugar), birdseye, curly and white maple; black, white, yellow, grey and red birch; white and red beech; red and white (or forest and interval) elm, black, white and red ash; butternut; chestnut; hornbeam (or ironwood); basswood; aspen and balsam, poplars, white red and princess pine, black and white spruce; tamarac (also called larch, lacmatac or juniper); cedar and hemlock.

The uses of these are almost innumerable, but we may venture to name a limited number of the purposes they are now principally utilized for manufacturing for which are established in this Province. They are as follows. Building materials for outside and inside finish, ship-building, from the hull to the spars; agricultural and horticultural implements; waggons, car-