

## A LIMIT TO PINE VALUE.

A large owner of pine in the Aroostook region of Maine lately complained that the upper grades of lumber were selling at prices \$2 to \$3 below prices that prevailed when he purchased his holdings in the Aroostook country in 1851. This reduction in price has been brought about mostly because of an increase of transportation facilities and the cheapening of freight rates, whereby western pine has crowded Maine lumber in the eastern seaboard markets.

This statement of the Aroostook lumberman leads to a reflection of some importance. It is a fact that the increase of demand and the diminution of supply have not served to enhance the price of either high or low grade white pine lumber. It is a curious circumstance that to-day the druggery classes of lumber are the clear and select. This is fact, notwithstanding that it is generally acknowledged that good lumber, as compared to large, is growing scarce and hard to be obtained in large proportion to the common and coarse qualities. Wide lumber, either coarse or fine, is now of more importance than strictly fine lumber that is not wide. Wide lumber will sell for a relatively higher price than any other of whatever grade or class.

The Maine man's experience suggests the probability that the value of white pine lumber will not advance with the ratio of diminishment of the supply. There are holders of pine stumpage who seem to think that the day will come when soft pine will be worth about as much as mahogany, certainly as much as black walnut, simply because of its scarcity. But there is no reason for such a conclusion. Probably there were men in Maine 20 or 35 years ago, who thought their good pine would by this time sell for \$75 to \$100 a thousand, because firsts and seconds sold in 1851 for \$45 and \$35 a thousand. They argued that in fifteen or twenty years pine would be a scarce article in Maine, and hence holders would be able to realize almost any price they should choose to ask for it. They made no calculation for the influx of pine from the west, even from far Wisconsin, of cypress poplar and yellow pine from the south, and the extensive adoption of hardwood in house finishing and other work, wherein soft pine was once deemed indispensable. So, to-day, it is likely, holders of Michigan and Wisconsin pine think that in fifteen or twenty years the supply will have become so nearly exhausted that they can realize cabinet-wood prices for their trees. But such sanguine owners are likely to be disappointed. Causes like those that have prevented the Aroostook men from doubling up the value of their holdings are operating to hinder the rapid advancement of the value of western pine. When the price of any wood in ordinary use is pushed up to a certain point, it strikes opposition to further advance in the shape of other woods that are brought in to take the place of the vaulting aspirant. When white pine became too costly in the east for ordinary purposes—and in the west, too, for that matter—yellow poplar entered the field for box-making, furniture work, etc. In house finishing the hardwoods have largely taken the place of white pine. Maple and yellow pine flooring are as cheap as a fair article of white pine and much better in the long run.

Thus no wood, however excellent it may be, can monopolize the market, or command a value above a range determined by competition with other woods.

Hereafter transportation facilities between the south and the north, and between the Pacific coast and the interior, will increase, thereby cheapening freight rates, so that the vast supplies of yellow pine, poplar, cypress, redwood, fir, cedar, and the various deciduous lumber-producing woods will be growing competitors of northern pine. It is to be doubted if white pine will be worth more twenty years from now than it is to-day. Choice sections of stumpage may enhance somewhat in value, but it will not do to venture too much on that even. The tendency is towards the cheapening of all sorts of commodities, and there is no reason to suppose that this general law will not apply to lumber.—*Northwestern Lumberman.*

Advertise in the LUMBERMAN.

## THE COLONIAL EXHIBITION.

From the *Canadian Gazette*, London, England, of June 3rd, we take the following in reference to the Colonial Exhibition:—

Among the visitors at the Canadian section during the past week have been the Princess Louise and Princess Victoria. In company with the Marquis of Lorne their Royal Highnesses made an inspection of the educational court, and spent some time in examining the various exhibits of school work from the Province of Quebec, and in conversation, in the French language with the honorable Gedeon Ouimet, Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Province.

Some foreign visitors have also put in an appearance. Among these, Mr. V. E. Maas, lecturer at the Royal Danish Agricultural College of Copenhagen, spent some time in the section. His attention was particularly attracted by the agricultural trophy, and he expressed himself as specially struck with the fruits there displayed.

The Queen has been pleased to extend her recent purchases in the Canadian section. The latest recipient of the royal patronage are Messrs. La Liberté, of Quebec, from whom Her Majesty has secured a valuable otter muff. The royal party were evidently much impressed during their visit with the fur exhibits forming part of Canada's display.

Attentions are being showered from every quarter upon Canadian with other Colonial visitors who are here in connection with the exhibition. On Saturday, by invitation of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a number of seats were placed at the disposal of Canadian visitors in the Colonial Office stand for the purpose of viewing the customary trooping of colours in celebration of the Queen's birthday. The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company with their wonted liberality invited, through the Exhibition Reception Committee, a large company of colonists, and among them many Canadians, to a luncheon at the Royal Albert Docks yesterday (Wednesday), the party being conveyed by special steamer from the Temple pier. The proprietors of the *Times* newspaper have also, through the Reception Committee, issued invitations to a small party of Canadians to inspect their machinery and works on Friday next.

The Queen's birthday banquet of Canadian exhibitors on Saturday, was in itself entirely successful, thanks to the caterers and to the distinguished speakers. The speeches were all more or less in good form. The Marquis of Lorne makes an excellent chairman on such occasions, and surrounded by the faces of so many he had known in Canada, it was but natural that he should be appreciative and even humorous in his various utterances. Sir Chas. Tupper, in proposing "The Chairman," made a brief but happily impressive and businesslike speech. The Hon. G. Ouimet spoke in French, to the apparent appreciation of many Canadian guests, while Sir Saul Samuel, as Agent General for New South Wales, was able to strike a chord of sympathetic feeling through the whole assembly by his timely reference to the Canadian Pacific Railway as a route to Australia, and to the projected cable from Canada's Pacific shore to the antipodes.

The visitors to the exhibition last week numbered 160,170, making the large total of 545,281 since the opening on May 4th.

At the levee held by the Prince of Wales on Monday the following Canadians connected with the exhibition were presented to His Royal Highness by Sir Philip Cunliffe-Owens, Secretary to the Royal Commission:—The Hon. Hector Fabre, Dr. Alfred R. O. Selwyn, the Hon. Gedeon Ouimet, Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Ross, Mr. Thomas Cross, Dr. J. P. May, and Major Gartshore.

## FORESTRY.

Did the prairie regions of the North-West form no part of the Dominion, Canada might with general accuracy be said to consist originally of one vast natural forest. Even now, indeed, one may find it so described without any material qualification in some English works reputed to be of standard merit, for until quite recently not a few learned geographers treated of Canada in their writings as little more than a fringe of habitable land along the

shores of the St. Lawrence and the great lakes. But while the busy woodsman and hardy settler have together turned much of this original forest into arable and pasture land, the timber regions are still vast, and varied enough to maintain for them a leading place among the feeders of Canadian industries. Hence, under the guidance of such experts as Professor Macoun, the woods of the Dominion form a prominent and interesting section of the South Kensington display worthy of the most careful attention.

## THE WOODS OF THE PACIFIC PROVINCE.

In the very middle of the Central Gallery stands the already famous trophy of British Columbian pines. Erected to a height of some 10 to 12 feet the trophy consists of highly polished sections of the noted Douglas fir or Oregon pine of British Columbia. A fine collection of this same wood, the king of all trees, is to be found in the annexe to the south of the central gallery, leading from the game trophy. Here the immense polished sections average from 1 to 10 feet in length and as much as six feet in diameter. The finish of these samples serves admirably to show the beautiful grain and colour of the wood. They also permit of illustration of the facility with which the wood may be worked and of its inherent strength. So tough, indeed, is this Douglas pine that it was chosen for the structure of all the high bridges of the Canada Pacific Railway through the mountains. In the Machinery-in-Motion Court may be found an unpolished perpendicular section of the same wood, 15 feet high, which, though not taken from the centre of the tree, measures some seven feet in diameter, and this section is reported to have been taken from a tree twenty feet from the ground. The palm must, however, be accorded to a truly immense horizontal section, in five parts, which is shortly to form the principal feature in a wood and coal trophy, in the outside space partly cupied by the Ontario wind-mills. It exceeds in size even the famous section on the Parliament grounds at Ottawa, for while that measures eight feet four inches in diameter, these five sections when put together represent a total diameter of over ten feet, the bark alone measuring ten inches in depth. In the Agricultural Court the woods of the Pacific Province are also well represented. As we have already seen, the base of the central pillar of the agricultural trophy is faced with polished slabs of no less than twenty-five of the species found in British Columbia, among which the beautifully grained red cedar must claim special admiration. Here a new feature adds much to the interest of the collection. On each polished panel a photograph shows the tree as it is met with in the forest, while the frame in which the photograph is encased is itself of the variety depicted, to indicate the wood in one of its manufactured stages. These species are not, it must be remembered, intended to show the full size, or, indeed, the entire beauties of the mighty trees of the Pacific Province, growing as they do in unhindered grandeur to twelve or thirteen feet in diameter, and nearly 300 feet in height. They merely illustrate the various species as near their natural state as possible, and this, it must be admitted, they do most admirably.

## THE NEW BRUNSWICK TROPHY.

One of the most attractive features of the whole Canadian display is the New Brunswick wood trophy, occupying a prominent position on the south aisle of the central gallery. In other of the colonial sections—in the New Zealand and Australian—for instance—will be seen large wood collections, but is doubtful if one equally compact and yet so completely representative is to be found in the whole exhibition. The main portion of the trophy is divided into three perpendicular sections. Along the base of three sections is arranged a series of fifteen uniform logs of commercial or large woods, each log being 37 inches in height and 20 inches in diameter. The right wing is devoted to the coniferous woods; to the hemlock—one of the most important trees of the Province in connection with the tanning industry—the white and red pine, and the black and white spruce, representing the varieties chiefly used in ship-building. The centre and left sections are given up to the other large woods; in the centre, the

white and black birch, the scrub or rock and swamp maple, and the beech; and in the left wing, the red and grey oak, the elm, black ash and basswood. Above this series of logs, in each of the three sections, an ash-wood case, resting on an inclined plane, contains as many as thirty small panels of the lesser woods, and also some of the larger woods, that are not abundant enough to be used for commercial purposes, or not sufficiently important to be represented in the principal parts of the trophy. The smaller woods thus represented include, in the right wing, the swamp and black alder, the mountain ash, bilberry, wild red and wild black cherry, wild thorn and scrub pine; in the centre section, the dwarf and grey birch, the mountain and white and striped maple, and the mooseberry and other duplicated varieties; and in the left wing, the ironwood, dogwood, witch-hazel, willow, white ash, balsam poplar, aspen poplar and sumach. Each small panel bears a life-like painting of the foliage, the flower, and often the fruit of its variety, and is framed with strips of its own wood showing the bark and growth. The beauty of these smaller woods is thus fully depicted, while a careful inspection will show how their usefulness may be extended for chemical and medicinal purposes, and also for ornamental trees.

Above the sloping case large upright panels indicate the large woods in polished sections, the principal varieties being the same as those shown in logs at the base. The sides of these large panels are formed of saplings of the respective woods, resting upon turned bases, and capped by capitals carved to represent the leaf, fruit and flowers of each variety. In these large panels the shaft and rift of the grain, as well as its density, annual growth, depth of sap and bark, are well shown, thus conveying, by the aid of the logs below, a complete idea of the natural growth of each of the larger woods. Their higher commercial use is also shown by oblique bars stained to show in turn the effect of ebony, walnut, mahogany, rosewood, satinwood and other stains. The fruit, foliage, and flower are also beautifully painted upon many of the large panels, as upon the smaller ones, and above is carved some fancy work in each class of wood. The cornice surmounting the whole is composed principally of bark and specimens of each variety in mouldings. Above this main part of the trophy the principal animals of life of the Province is depicted in heads of moose, caribou, and deer, as well as specimens of the porcupine, fox, racoon, mink, muskrat, ermine, the smallest species of American owl, flying and common red squirrel, raven, woodpecker, partridge and other small game. To these it was intended to add specimens of the destroying insects of the forests, but time forbid. Indeed, though originally designed for the International Forestry Exhibition held in Edinburgh in 1884, the trophy was itself prepared in comparatively but a short time. Yet it shows few, if any, traces of hasty work, and must be admitted to be in every respect highly creditable to the New Brunswick Government, under whose auspices it has been erected, to the originator, Messrs. Howe, of St. John, New Brunswick, to Mr. Ira Cornwall, jr., agent for the Province at the Exhibition, and those other New Brunswick gentlemen who have actively interested themselves in the matter.

## THE EAST AND CENTRAL FOREST ZONES.

The next feature of the forest display of Canada is the small trophy met with on the south portion of the Agricultural Court. It consists mainly of three shelves. On the two lower are arranged perpendicular slabs of the woods of Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and all Eastern Canada. These are, in a large measure, specimens in a different form of the varieties composing the New Brunswick wood trophy, for what applies to that Province will also apply to the whole eastern zone of the Dominion except that Western Quebec and Ontario possess many species not found in the other provinces. On the upper shelf are arranged the slabs from a large number of the finest trees of the Rocky Mountain district, not, however, selected or intended to do more than show the ordinary product. Above this shelf is a horizontal section of the British Columbia oak, (*Quercus Garryana*), and above that again a roofing of Canadian shingle and a Canadian