

ONTARIO WOODS AND FORESTS.

The annual report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Province of Ontario for 1881 says:—

The improvement in the sawn lumber and hewn timber trade, noted in my Report of 1880, continued throughout 1881, and my prediction of the previous year, "that for some years to come transactions would be remunerative to all concerned," seems to be in process of fulfilment.

Both sawn lumber and hewn timber have found ready markets and good prices, the former realizing higher value than for years past.

Of square and waney timber, it is reported that during the past shipping season prices have ruled higher than they have ever done before for pine of good quality and average; and it is stated that the stock on hand at Quebec is light, and scarcely sufficient for spring requirements.

As expressed in my report for 1879, my opinion, from an economic point of view, is not in favour of the manufacture of square pine, nevertheless, while the business continues to be carried on, it is gratifying to find that a good return is obtained for the article.

The output of some of the saw mills fell short in 1881 of the quantity estimated by the proprietors as the probable cut of the season. This is attributed to scarcity of water in the streams, owing to which considerable quantities of logs failed to reach the point of manufacture. In several instances operators in square and waney timber have been subjected to the same drawback.

In the interest of the public revenue, as well of the settlers who had taken up lands in some unlicensed townships south of French River and Lake Nipissing, it became necessary to deal with the pine in the territory before it became jeopardized by fires raised in clearing the lands, or damaged and wasted by locusts cutting it indiscriminately for their own purposes, in doing which, timber of the finest quality is cut down and applied to uses for which inferior lumber would be suitable, the result being a depreciation of the value of the timber limits before they are brought into market, and in consequence a loss to the revenue. Accordingly, an inspection of the timber in the townships referred to was made in the fall, and on the 6th of October notice was published that a sale of timber limits in the territory would take place at the Department of Crown Lands on the 6th of the current month.

The time selected for the sale was extremely opportune, parties engaged in lumbering had just closed a successful season's business, and having the means were prepared to invest in limits. The attendance was large and the bidding spirited, the prices obtained being beyond precedent, some 1,379 square miles realizing a total of \$733,675.25, of which has been paid up to date \$321,354.66, making the total collection on account of Woods and Forests for the year, \$839,716.86.

The following is the statement made by Mr. T. H. Johnson, Assistant Commissioner, of Revenue collected during the year ending 31st December, 1881:—

Amount of Ottawa collections, A. J. Russell.	\$204,652.34
Amount of Ottawa collections, McL. Stewart.	65,338.63
	\$269,990.97
Amount of Belleville collections, J. F. Way.	\$5,407.67
Amount of Belleville collections, McL. Stewart.	3,017.11
	\$8,424.78
Amount of Western Timber District collections at Department.	150,330.23
Amount of Western Timber District collections, McL. Stewart.	9,616.17
	159,946.45
	518,362.20
Amount paid in on account of Timber Limits sold 6th Dec., 1881.	321,354.66
	\$839,716.86

A USE FOR SAWDUST.

The enterprising firm of Leathern & Smith are continually making new improvements and putting new ideas into operation. They are now making the necessary arrangements for using sawdust as fuel on the steam-barge Thos. H. Smith next season. Piles are being driven that project just above the wharf alongside of which the barge lies while in port. Upon these piles

a substantial frame work will be constructed to the height of about twelve feet. On top of this will be placed a hopper, which will have a capacity for about fifty five cords of sawdust. The hopper is filled by means of an elevator which is connected with the large circular saw in the mill close by. A wire sieve will be so arranged as to sort out all the bark and other rough material, which will be carried into the furnace by another elevator. From the hopper a spout will slant down to the scuttle in the hurricane deck of the barge, and thence through the scuttle in the lower deck to the hold beneath. The space on both sides of the engine room will also be filled, only enough space being left on one side to allow a passage into the engine room. The barge has been supplied with an extra large boiler to enable her to use this kind of fuel. The hopper will be filled while the boat is outside, so that no time will be lost when she comes into port and is ready to wood up. This new arrangement will not only save the owners of the boat about \$40 per day in fuel, but will save the expense of burning the material in the furnace, where the intense heat caused by it is continually burning the grates and cracking the kiln. In case freights are high next season the barge will only use sawdust on her way to Chicago, where she will take on coal dust and mix it with the former material to run the boat on her return trip. Other barge lines will undoubtedly take a valuable hint from the foregoing.—*Dorr Co. Advocate.*

PROBABLE TIMBER FREIGHTS.

The vessel men continue to be agitated about the private circular sent out by one Mr. Norton, of Detroit, notifying the timber merchants not to hurry about chartering the vessels at high rates, that the latter are as thick as bees, and that by and by through him freights can be more reasonably arranged.

Said a captain to us this morning, "Vessels are not in the first place as thick as bees, and they will not be so easily obtained as Mr. Norton has intimated. Last year we only obtained fair rates, and this year we only expect the same. The Detroit man is deceiving himself and other people."

"Is there as much timber to carry this year as last?"

"I think there's more of it. There is perhaps 6,000,000 of pine ready for shipment. There would have been considerable oak had the weather been favorable to the getting of it out."

"How much of the total cut will go down the St. Lawrence?"

"The greater part of it. A quantity may go via Tonawanda and Erie Canal to New York. I know there's plenty of it on Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Georgian Bay and Lake Huron. Norton I used to like. As a marine broker he was well patronized; but in his attempt to monopolize the trade he has evidently calculated without his host."—*Kingston Whig.*

RECKLESS DEFORESTATION.

Colonel Playfair, in his "Travels in the Foot-steps of Bruce in Algeria and Tunis," gives the following description of the disastrous effects of reckless deforestation in the North African coast, about Susa. It is another much needed lesson for Canada:—

"We know (he says) that at one time the country was covered with forests. I myself have travelled for days over plains where not a tree exists, and yet where ruins of Roman oil-mills were frequently met with. Ibn Khaldoun, in his history of the Berbers, says, 'El Kahina caused all the villages and farms throughout the country to be destroyed, so that the vast region between Tripoli and Tangiers, which had the appearance of an immense thicket, under the shade of which rose a multitude of villages touching each other, now offered no other aspect than that of ruins.' Even in modern days the same destruction of forests has been continued, if not wantonly or for purposes of defence, as in the time of the early Arab conquerors, still as surely by the carelessness of their descendants, who never hesitate to set fire to a wood to improve the pasture, or to cut down a tree when timber is required, but who never dream of planting another, or even of protecting those which spring

up spontaneously from being destroyed by their flocks and herds.

In Bruce's notes, written 110 years ago, frequent allusion is made to forests through which he passed, where not a tree is now to be seen, and this is a work of destruction which must go on with ever accelerating rapidity year after year."

SPECULATION IN TIMBER LANDS.

Says the *Chicago Tribune*—Another indication tending to show that the lumber of the future is certain to cost the consumer more money than it can be bought for at present, is given by a recent purchase of pine land in the Menominee region, where a large tract, five miles from any stream, has been sold within a short time at \$3.00 per 1,000 feet. This land would not have realized 50c. per 1,000 feet two years ago. Speculative purchase of pine tracts at points from which Chicago and the customers of Chicago dealers must secure their supply for the next ten years is becoming quite a frequent practice nowadays among capitalists, who think they foresee a very healthy plum in such ventures. It has already been related that a prominent citizen of Chicago received as his fee in a noted divorce case many years ago a tract of pine land in Michigan, then valued at \$3,000. This land has, it is said, recently sold at the snug sum of \$120,000, or \$5 per 1,000 feet for the stumpage.

THE SURVEY AND EXPORTATION OF LUMBER.

Mr. Colter's bill now before the House of Assembly should be most carefully examined and fully discussed before final action is taken, in order that the country may have opportunity to judge of its merits. For the information of our readers, we give the text of the bill in full:—

An Act to amend the Act intitled an Act of the Survey and Exportation of Lumber.

Be it enacted by the Lieut. Governor, Legislative Council and Assembly as follows:—

That section six of the above recited act be and the same is repealed and in lieu thereof—That in the survey of pine and spruce logs the following regulations shall be observed by the Surveyors: Logs for the manufacture of deals shall not be less than twelve feet in length and six inches in diameter: shall have an allowance of from four to six inches in the length to permit the deals when sawed to be trimmed—shall be sound, free from bad shakes, auger or plug holes, crooked gum seams, ring or bowel shakes, rot, bad knots, and worm holes. All logs of twenty-six feet long and up shall be measured in two lengths and adequate allowance shall be made by the Surveyor on all crooked logs. The diameter at the small end, exclusive of bark, shall be taken as the diameter for ascertaining the contents, and the surveyor shall mark or scribe on every log surveyed by him the superficial contents thereof, with his private mark and the initials of the names of the purchaser.

The table of contents is changed to correspond to the requirements of the above section—the change only, however, affecting logs up to 10 inches in diameter, above that the old scale table is still preserved.

It is provided that this act shall not affect existing contracts, or anything begun under section six of the old act.—*St. John, N.B., Sun.*

SHREWDNESS AND ABILITY.—Hop Bitters so freely advertised in all the papers, secular and religious, are having a large sale, and are supplanting all other medicines. There is no denying the virtues of the Hop plant, and the proprietors of these Bitters have shown great shrewdness and ability in compounding a Bitters, whose virtues are so palpable to every one's observation.—*Examiner and Chronicle.*

A healthy man never thinks of his stomach. The dyspeptic thinks of nothing else. Indigestion is a constant reminder. The wise man who finds himself suffering will spend a few cents for a bottle of Zepesa, from Brazil, the now and remarkable compound for cleansing and toning the system, for assisting the digestive apparatus and the liver to properly perform their duties in assimilating the food. Get a ten-cent sample of Zepesa, the new remedy, of your druggist. A few doses will surprise you.

"AND fools who came to scoff remained to pray."—We receive many letters from those having tried while doubting, yet were entirely cured of dyspepsia and liver troubles with Zepesa. Clergymen write us earnestly to it wonderful effects.

Chips.

MESSRS. McCRAE & Co., of London, purpose erecting a saw mill at Ettrick station, London township, for the purpose of cutting 6-inch maple deals for the European market.

From the Postmaster General's Report, just published, it appears that the Allan Line of Steamships conveyed from Quebec to Liverpool, between the 21st of April and 30th of November, 1881, deals and staves to the number of 125,643 pieces.

It is reported at Quebec that Messrs. R. R. Dobell & Co. have received the Grand Trunk Railway contract for the supply of timber. The same firm have secured the contract for supplying the Imperial Government with what timber they may require for the ensuing year.

THE Muskegon *News and Reporter* says Thos. D. Stinson, one of the wealthiest, most liberal and enterprising lumbermen in the Muskegon valley, has resolved to take down his \$40,000 residence at Big Rapids and move it to Muskegon at a cost of upwards of \$10,000. The residence, when put up in this city, will be one of the finest in the state, and worth fully \$60,000.

THE *Citizen*, of Ilion, Herkimer county, N. Y., says that "some wealthy Boston tanners have purchased the hemlock bark on 28,000 acres of timber land in the Adirondack region, and purpose soon to strip the trees. We thought the legislature had contracted to preserve the great northern wilderness for the purpose of promoting the rainfall of the State, and of supplying the Erie canal and Hudson river with water enough to float boats.

THE *Northwestern Lumberman* says that Kelly, Rathborne & Co., of Chicago, will bring a suit against T. W. Kirby and H. C. Akoley, of Grand Haven, owners of the tug J. W. Johnston, for damages by the fire on Sisson & Lilley's dock in November last. The Chicago firm, whose lumber was consumed, claims that sparks from the tug caused the fire, and will try to prove it. There is money on both sides, and the fight promises to be a lively one.

ONE of Cheboygan's leading lumbermen predicts that the cedar of this section will prove to be more valuable than the pine has been. All the flats along the streams for miles back, in some cases, is covered with a thick growth of cedar. The streams have all been cleaned out so that the cedar crop can be run down without difficulty, and being so conveniently situated on the banks of the several streams, it can be cut and put in the water at a very reasonable figure.

THE speech of the Governor of Michigan at the opening of the special session of the Legislature gives some details of the destruction wrought by the bush fires of last September, which present a very fair idea of the extent of that calamity. He says that the fire swept over a district of some eighteen hundred square miles, causing private losses, so far as known, of an aggregate of over two million dollars, and reducing nearly fifteen thousand persons to a state of dependence upon the public aid for their daily bread. In addition to this nearly three hundred lives were lost, and an immense quantity of public property was destroyed.

THE bill for the incorporation of the Quebec Timber Co. states that the objects of the Company are the acquisition of the pine and other timber limits situated in the Province of Quebec, in the Dominion of Canada, with the saw mills, dwelling houses, workshops, outbuildings, lands, standing timber and other property of H. Atkinson, Esq., of Etchemin, Que.; the acquisition by purchase or otherwise, of timber limits and pine lands in the Dominion of Canada and the United States of America, or elsewhere, other than those above referred to; the conducting of the business or lumberers and timber merchants throughout the Dominion of Canada and elsewhere, including the preparation, manufacture, transport and sale of timber and lumber, and the erection and purchase of mills, saw mills, buildings, machinery, coves, booming grounds, utensils, vessels, the making and working of roads, railroads, tramways and channels of water, and the purchase of additional land, and the doing of everything necessary for conducting the business of the company.