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ARTHUR G. MORTIMER

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J. S. ROBERTSON, EDITOR.

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interests of the lumber trade and of allied industries throughout the Dominion, being the only representative in Canada of this foremost branch of the commerce of this country. It aims at giving full and timely information on all subjects touching these interests, discussing these topics editorially and inviting free discussion by others.

Special pains are taken to secure the latest and most trustworthy market quotations from various points throughout the world, so as to afford to the trade in Canada information on which it can rely in its operations.

Special correspondents in localities of importance present an accurate report not only of prices and the condition of the market, but also of other matters specially interesting to our readers. But correspondence is not only welcome, but is invited from all who have any information to communicate or subjects to discuss relating to the trade or in any way affecting it. Even when we may not be able to agree with the writers we will give them a fair opportunity for free discussion as the best means of eliciting the truth. Any items of interest are particularly requested, for even if not of great importance individually they contribute to a fund of information from which general results are obtained.

Advertisers will receive careful attention and liberal treatment. We need not point out that for many the CANADA LUMBERMAN, with its special class of readers, is not only an exceptionally good medium for securing publicity, but is indispensable for those who would bring themselves before the notice of that class. Special attention is directed to "WANTED" and "FOR SALE" advertisements, which will be inserted in a conspicuous position at the uniform price of 15 cents per line for each insertion. Announcements of this character will be subject to a discount of 25 per cent. if ordered for four successive issues or longer.

Subscribers will find the small amount they pay for the CANADA LUMBERMAN quite insignificant as compared with its value to them. There is not an individual in the trade, or specially interested in it, who should not be on our list, thus obtaining the present benefit and aiding and encouraging us to render it even more complete.

ONTARIO'S TIMBER RESOURCES.

WE are hearing a good deal about the denuding of our forests. Just to what extent this has been the case in thirty-two of the older settled counties and districts of Ontario is told in the seventh annual report of the Clerk of Forestry for this province.

In Carleton, Halton, Lennox, Lincoln, Northumberland, Ontario, Peterborough, Wellington and Dufferin (with the exception of Melancton and East Luther townships, which are still under the process of clearing for settlement) only about five per cent. of timbered land remains in each county. This consists chiefly of elm, ash, maple, beech, tamarack, with little, if any, pine. Take Brant, Huron, Hastings and Simcoe, and the average is from eight to ten per cent. of the total area. Dundas, Middlesex, Norfolk, Perth, Waterloo, Welland and Wentworth can claim of timbered lands from fifteen to twenty per cent.

We come then to a number of counties where the showing is from one-quarter to one-third of the area. About one-fourth of Essex is still in timber, principally black ash and soft maple. Scrubby oak will be found in a few localities, but all other merchantable timber has well-nigh disappeared. Kent has about twenty-five per cent of the total area in timber land, and includes elm, black ash, basswood, hickory, beech and maple. Oak and walnut were once plentiful, but no supplies of either of any consequence remain. Mr. Phipps, the Forestry Commissioner, does not lose an opportunity here to point a very practical moral. These valuable woods were nearly all exported at a time when they only commanded a sufficient price to pay for the labor of cutting and marketing them. The reckless and improvident regard for the future with which these invaluable forest resources were exported can now be realized when it is considered that oak that sold fifteen or twenty years ago at \$4.50 per thousand feet could now be marketed at \$25 per thousand, and walnut, which then only brought \$14 per thousand feet would to-day command \$100. The

wooded portion of Lambton is about one-fourth its entire area.

In Elgin perhaps one-third of the county is still wooded land. Considerable beech, maple, elm and ash are distributed over part of the county; there is also oak, hickory, chestnut, whitewood, cherry, sycamore, butternut and black walnut in smaller quantities. In the eastern portion of the county there is a large quantity of pine. In Glengarry we find principally maple, birch, beech, basswood, rock elm, black ash, hemlock and some white pine, with smaller quantities of cedar, tamarack, balsam and balm of Gilead.

A good deal of maple is to be found standing in Prescott, where, at a rough estimate, one-third of the county is still timbered land. The other leading varieties of timber which remain are elm, beech, birch, basswood, cedar, hemlock, spruce, tamarack and balsam. The most plentiful kinds of trees found in Renfrew are white and red pine, white spruce, maple, tamarack, birch, beech, red and white oak, ash and elm. The portion of the county still in timber is probably one-third of the whole.

About one-half of the county of Bruce is cleared land but the area yet in timber is being rapidly diminished. Fears are expressed that unless means are adopted to prevent the indiscriminate destruction of the woods, the experience of older-settled counties will be repeated in Bruce. The most numerous represented kinds of trees are cedar, hemlock, basswood, maple, white and black ash; very little pine.

We continue to look to Muskoka as a lumbering district. What are the conditions? Probably about three-fourths of the district is still uncleared land, though lumbering operations have been carried on extensively throughout this area. Nearly all the pine of a marketable character has been cut, and the hemlock is rapidly being removed. Mr. Davies, in the ELI page, tells of the saw-fly in Muskoka, which is doing serious hurt to the hemlock. The predominant varieties of timber which remain are ash, oak, basswood, maple, birch, cedar, tamarack, spruce and balsam. The timber, it is stated, has been cut indiscriminately; many rocky tracts, which are utterly useless for any other purpose than timber growing, have been completely stripped, or, after being partially cleared, devastated by fire.

In the Parry Sound district the proportion of land now in timber, not counting the scrubby second-growth that is coming up over the land devastated by forest fires is about sixty per cent. of the whole. The chief varieties of timber extant are maple, beech, hemlock, cedar, tamarack, spruce, red oak, pine and birch. It is remarked that the Georgian Bay has sunk some four feet within the last eight years, which some are disposed to attribute to the disappearance of timber about the head waters of the streams which debouch into it.

The county of Oxford contains about five hundred thousand acres of land, of which about one hundred thousand are nominally in forest. Not more than two-thirds of this will be beech and maple, the rest being composed of various woods such as oak, ash, hickory, chestnut and walnut. There was formerly abundance of pine, but it is long since cleared. In southern Victoria there is not more than ten per cent. of forest land, but in the remainder of the county to the north the proportion of uncleared land is estimated at about sixty per cent., though considerable areas of this have been overrun with bush fires. The principal kinds of timber remaining in the southern part are cedar, tamarack and spruce in the swamps, and some hardwood, which is rapidly diminishing. The pine is nearly all gone. The leading varieties in the northern sections are maple, hemlock and cedar.

All told there are some fifty-two counties and districts in Ontario. Not even the minimum of five per cent. of wooded land is likely to be discovered in many of the remaining twenty counties unparticularized in the forestry clerk's report. But among the districts not named are Algoma and Nipissing, two of the most richly wooded territories in the province. With some fairness a share of the Chaudiere timber wealth might also be considered as belonging to Ontario; at least it lies contiguous to this province, though actually in Quebec, and it is within Ontario that some of the largest saw mills,

which transpose the logs into merchantable lumber, are located.

Carefully calculating what remains of wooded land in a large number of counties, and remembering especially its rich abundance in certain special districts, it will be granted that a timber famine is not yet imminent in Ontario. And yet one cannot consider the history of the thirty-two counties the forestry report has singled out for mention without being face to face with the fact that similar extravagance in the management of almost any other department of business, public or personal, would have long since resulted in disastrous bankruptcy.

The effect upon agriculture, the rivers and streams of the country, and the character of the climate are all questions suggested by the conditions stated. The matter of immediate consideration would seem to be the utilization of such methods, and the exercise of those plans, that would result in a wise husbanding of the residue of timber that remains to the province, while at the same time placing no unnecessary embargo upon it as a commercial product.

HABITS OF WORKINGMEN.

HOWEVER distasteful the admission may be, it is nevertheless too true, that the evils of intemperance hit the working classes harder, and in wider extent, than probably any other section of the community. No testimony on this point is stronger, and more direct, than that given in a letter from Master Workman Powderley a year or so ago.

It has sometimes been said that workingmen employed in lumbering operations, particularly shantymen, are victims of the cup in an aggravated degree. When free from the labors of the woods, like the sailor when he reaches port, after a long voyage, it is too often the case that many of these woodmen will visit the first saloon that comes in their path, and this is not usually far away, and there spend most, if not all, of a season's earnings before closing a drunken carousal.

Signs of a better day dawning are indicated in the interest shown of late years by our churches and temperance organizations sending missionaries into the lumber camps, furnishing healthful reading matter, and in other ways endeavoring to cast sunshine into a manner of life dismantled of many elements of gladness. The solicitude of the lumbermen for the comfort of their employees is shown in the improved conditions of shanty life contrasted with those of earlier years. And so far as the personal habits of the men are concerned the employer can only be anxious that these be improving and uplifting in their character. Not only from a humanitarian point of view, but even from the standpoint of the coldest utilitarianism, this desire would most surely prevail. Mr. D. T. George, a prominent lumberman in the Maritime provinces, stated recently before the Royal Commission, meeting in New Brunswick, that he employed a large number of men, but "did not employ drinking men." He bore testimony to the efficacy of the Scott Act in rural districts, and "that it had reduced drinking in the cities and towns." Mr. J. Rister, manager of the planing mill at Fredericton, N.B., had found the operations of the Scott Act beneficial to his employees and to the community.

This view of the question is fast taking hold on all employers of labor in the present day; even those who are not entirely abstemious themselves often make it a sine qua non in contracts with employees that they be total abstainers.

Workingmen themselves are not slow to take note and be guided by these altered conditions. They see the preferences that rightly are given to the employee, who even though not so bright and clever a workman, is yet to be depended upon. Moreover, to themselves and their families, they know that increased comforts necessarily follow a life of temperance and frugality.

HELPING LUMBER INTERESTS.

WHEN the Parry Sound railway to Arnprior is completed no industry will experience the advantages of the boon greater than the saw mill men. A direct route through to the United States will then be enjoyed, and in this respect Arnprior will be on a level with Ottawa.