

OUR QUEBEC LETTER.

THE DEMAND FOR TIMBER AND DEALS.—THE WEEK'S SALES.—PRESENT PRICES.—OAK IN DEMAND.—AUCTION PRICES.—THE SUPERIORSHIP OF CULLERS.

QUEBEC, August 8.—It is satisfactory to note that since the date of my last letter to the LUMBERMAN prices have been steadily maintained, and the demand has increased for almost every kind of wood in and out of the market.

WHITE PINE.

White pine in particular is in good request, owing to the large quantity stuck up the Ottawa, which cannot possibly reach Quebec this season. Prices for this wood are very satisfactory, and higher than even the most sanguine could have expected some short time since.

Within the last few days a raft of white pine containing about 100,000 feet, 49 feet average, has been sold for 27 cents, with a parcel of red about 36 feet average, which fetched 18½ cents. Another raft of Kippewa timber, 45 feet average, containing some 85,000 to 90,000 feet of white pine and 20,000 red has been sold, the former at 28 cents, and the latter at 18½. A third raft of mixed white and red has been sold at 20 cents for the white, 38 feet average, and 13 cents for the red, 27 feet average. Another lot of Kippewa white pine has been sold for 32 cents, 49 to 50 feet average. A few smaller lots have changed hands at 27 to 31 cents for 48 to 53 feet average. A remarkably fine raft, which arrived last week from the Kippewa, is held at 38 cents. There are several more rafts under offer at this moment, and further sales will doubtless be soon reported.

Messrs. R. R. Dobell & Co., of this city, have recently purchased from David Moore, his whole stock of red and white pine now stuck at Roche a Capitaine.

By the way, lumbermen will regret to learn that Mr. Dobell is just now confined indoors from the effect of a recent slight sunstroke.

AUCTION PRICES.

The saved portion of the *Bristolian's* cargo, wrecked on Anticosti, was sold here to-day by auction. The figures obtained are significant, it being of course always remembered that amounts paid at auction rarely reach the highest market value. The square pine, 3,000 feet, was sold to J. B. Charleson for 12½ cents, and re-sold to George King for 15 cents. James Connolly bought 16,000 feet board pine at 29 cents. About 1,600 deals, thirds and fourths, were sold to Jos. Archer, sen., at the rate of \$34. The pipe staves were sold to a local cooper for \$151 per mill, and about 1,400 w.o.w.i. were purchased by J. B. Charleson, broker, for \$34 per mill.

OAK.

The apparent combination to bear the market on oak has fallen through. One or two shippers having run out of stock were forced to buy, and the figures of late transactions compare favorably on the whole with last year's prices. Holders and manufacturers' agents, being in a position to hold out for their own, purchasers have gained nothing by holding back.

One very good dram of Canada oak, 55 feet, culls out, has fetched 44 cents. Another common lot, measured off, one-third Michigan and two-thirds Ohio, has been sold for 42 cents, a price which the same quality would hardly have brought last year.

For elm there is very little enquiry. Walnut is in demand, but there is little or none offering.

Mr. E. J. Charlton, of the Upper Ottawa contracting firm of Purpore & Charlton, shipped to-day a large lot of English dredging machinery for deepening the Upper Ottawa. The hull of the vessel is building at Pembroke. When the work is completed, there will be opened a new stretch of navigation on the Upper Ottawa, of ninety miles in length, passing through the Culbute locks, of great importance to the lumber trade.

THE SUPERVISORSHIP OF CULLERS.

The recent death of the late Mr. W. Quinn, who for twenty-seven years held the office of Supervisor of Cullers at Quebec, has called forth an army of applicants for the office, principal amongst whom are H. J. Chaloner, a confidential clerk in the office of Hon. Thos. McGroovy, M.P., Government contractor, Mr. Jas. Patton of this city, a life long lumberman, and Mr. John Paupore, M.P., of the Ottawa district,

also a well known operator in lumber. It was rumored some time ago that Mr. Quinn was to have been superannuated and Mr. Chaloner appointed in his stead. Deputations of leading lumbermen both in Ottawa and Quebec immediately waited upon the Government, and upon Mr. McGroovy, M.P., who exercises a great deal of the patronage of the Dominion Government in this district, and protested energetically against the selection for the position of any but a properly qualified officer. The Council of the Quebec Board of Trade passed resolutions to a similar effect, and the Government halted in its intended action. To-day another deputation has been selected amongst those interested in the trade in this city, to wait up Hon. Messrs. Langovan and Caron, the representatives of this district in the Cabinet, and urge upon them similar views. What the result will be cannot yet be foreseen, though it would not seem probable that the Government should desire to incur the opposition of so important and influential a section of the community as the lumbermen, by making to this important office the appointment of any unqualified party merely as a requital for party services.

AUCTION SALE OF GOVERNMENT LANDS.

I have it from the highest sources that it is the intention of the Hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Province of Quebec to hold at no distant date another sale by auction in this city of Government lands. Instead of lumbering limits, however, most of the lots to be offered will probably be mineral lands.

WALNUT TREES.

To the Editor of the Toronto Evening News

SIR,—I have just read your comment on the culture of the walnut tree, suggested by remarks on the subject by the *Times* of Hamilton. With your permission I give an instance of the great benefit that might result from the extensive culture of the walnut.

In the spring of 1839 myself and a brother transplanted two small walnut trees, which were not two inches in diameter or ten feet in height. They took root rapidly, and grew rapidly, and some eight years ago I saw and measured them. One of them had a girth of 72 and the other 65 inches, one foot from the ground. Each had a fine trunk some 20 feet to the lower limbs, and a fine spread of top of over 30 feet, and was loaded with nuts every year. They are now two as beautiful trees as can be met with, and more valuable than beautiful, and can be seen by any one passing over the Hamilton and Caledonian plank road, about nine miles south from Hamilton, on the late Bingham, now Coon Farm. You justly say it is as well to plant valuable trees as any, and if these few lines will be of any use in directing further attention to walnut tree culture I will be amply rewarded for this hasty note on the subject.

Yours very truly,

A. BINGHAM.

Flies and Horses.

Dr. J. J. Ridge, of Enfield, writes to the *Daily News*—"The incessant torment which flies inflict upon horses during such hot weather as we recently endured may not have occurred to the minds of many. Though a minor misery, yet it is so real that I venture to ask you to allow me to describe a plan which I have found thoroughly successful in preventing it altogether, while perfectly harmless. It is simply the application, before harnessing, of a mixture of one part of crude carbolic acid with six or more parts of olive oil. This should be rubbed lightly all over the animal with a rag, and applied more thickly to the interior of the ears and other parts most likely to be attacked. This application may need to be repeated in the course of the day, but while any odour of the acid remains the flies decline to settle, and the horse is completely free from all their annoyance. The nervous, irritable state into which some horses get from the attacks of these insects is also not an infrequent cause of accidents, and these, therefore, may also be obviated. Whether the dreaded tsetse of Eastern Africa would also fight shy of similarly anointed animals I cannot say, but it deserves a trial, and if successful would be an incalculable boon. It might also prove obnoxious to mosquitoes,

EUCALYPTUS GLOBULUS.

United States Consul John Wilson, of Brussels, furnishes to the Statu department at Washington a translation of an article originally published in France, descriptive of this Australian tree, which has attracted some attention in this country, and if it possesses but half the good qualities claimed for it, it must be admirably adapted to the treeless regions of southern Kansas, Texas, and indeed all our prairie territory. The article appears in the consular reports for June, and is as follows:—

Nothing is more curious than this Australian tree, yesterday nearly unknown in France, and to-day on the point of producing a revolution in the silviculture in the south, and perhaps in certain industries also. It develops with a prodigious rapidity, its wood is very hard and resinous, and is neither affected by water nor attacked by insects.

The eucalyptus flourishes in the south of France, especially in the Maritime Alps, were, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Gimbert, its culture is constantly on the increase. At Cannes its mean yearly growth is about four meters. Seedlings a year old, planted in the month of May in favorable ground, reach the height of 6 meters by the following December. Throughout all of Southern France, if planted in good ground, the eucalyptus in seven or eight years attains a height of from 20 to 25 meters. It is an elegantly proportioned evergreen, and sheds a very agreeable balsamic fragrance.

It is therefore of the highest importance to draw the attention of silviculturists and economists to this remarkable tree, for the replantation of the forests in Southern France and Algeria. This is a source of wealth worthy of the most serious consideration.

The ordinary timber trees in France are cut from the forest, on an average, every hundred years; the eucalyptus can be cut five times in that period, or once in every twenty years.

It will be seen by this that the value of timber forests would be quintupled by the culture of this tree.

It has been calculated that a cross-tie for railroads, which now costs 8 francs in France, would only cost from 1 to 2 francs if made of eucalyptus wood.

An ordinary pine tree fit to furnish a telegraph post of 6.50 meters high requires a growth of thirty years, and costs 6.50 francs, whilst the eucalyptus will grow the same post in five years, and from this it may be seen what an economy must result from the growing of this tree for these purposes.

It is well known that, in consequence of the rapid extension of our naval construction, we are obliged to import much timber from Russia, Sweden, Norway, and the United States. The culture of the eucalyptus would in time completely relieve us from having recourse to these foreign sources of naval timber. All the masts, hulls, and indeed the entire frame-work of ships can be made from this tree. All the wooden vessels that now ply between Australia and England are chiefly made of it. The whaling vessels of Hobart Town are made of this wood, and throughout Australia it is extensively employed by carpenters, wagonmakers, wheelwrights, &c. A hectare of land, planted with the eucalyptus in 6 meters between the trees, well planted, they will have a diameter of 20 centimeters in three years, and a tree of this dimension is very useful to mechanics and wheelwrights, and can be sold for over 5 francs each. Thus the first cutting would produce 2,500 francs per hectare. At eight years, the trees of such a plantation would have acquired the dimensions suitable for railroad purposes, and each tree would be worth 20 francs. A hectare of this plantation would then be worth, according to Mr. Frothier, 6,200 francs.

Large plantations of this tree could be made rapidly to invade and cover swampy grounds, more or less previously drained, and so change its character as to entirely prevent the emanation therefrom of noxious miasma. Such plantations would prevent the direct action of the sun's rays upon the ground; would extract any excess of humidity from it, and would thus absorb all the elements of a parasitic and unhealthy vegetation. Thus, on a ground formerly uncultivated and pestilential, at the end of ten or twelve years from the planting a strong, gener-

ous and health-giving forest might be produced. Intermittent fevers do not exist where the eucalyptus grows, and travellers think that Australia owes much of the salubrity of its climate to the fact that so much of her territory is covered with this tree.

Mr Gimbert strongly recommends the plantation of the eucalyptus in certain regions of Spain, the treeless plains around Rome, the vicinity of Poestum, the deltas of the Var, the coast of Corsica, &c., which are during the hot season humid, and hence the seat of intermitten fevers.

The eucalyptus contains an essence which is easily extracted, and of which Dr. Gimbert has shown the happy medical properties. This essence has, among others, the property of being febrifuge, anti-spasmodic. Mr. Gimbert, who, at Cannes, was the physician of Prosper Mermeo, tells us that the illustrious writer for three years used cigarettes of eucalyptus, and that they always calmed his asthmatic oppressions.

These facts speak for themselves, without being necessary for us to add anything further. The eucalyptus is a precious conquest, of which we must now try to profit.

IMPROVED BAND LOG SAW MILL.

The last issue of the *Scientific American* contains the following description of a new band saw-mill which is now being built by a firm of American wood-machinery builders for the purpose of securing greater economy in the manufacture of sawlogs, especially those of the most valuable woods. It says:—The machine proper, except the carriage, is mounted on a heavy cast iron sole plate, which sustains and supports all the operative parts. The operator, without changing his position, has entire control of the mill, and can start or stop it, change the feed, or vary the direction of the carriage at will. It is massive and substantial, wheels 72 inches in diameter, and arranged so the saw can be made to run on any portion of the wheel almost instantly. The guides—upper and lower—are those peculiar to all of the Fay & Co. machines, having a wheel to receive the back thrust of the saw, and lateral supporting slide guides or packing plates to suit the thickness of the saws; the upper guide is also so arranged that it can be raised or lowered instantly to any desired sized log, and yet will always remain in a true vertical line with the lower one—a very important feature. The carriage has blocks and set works are the most improved known. The log is set with the greatest ease and convenience, and with unerring accuracy. The set works are arranged to be operated in the most expeditious manner. The carriage runs on friction rolls. The side supports are arranged so as always to secure an even thickness of the last board. Rests at the same distances apart as the side supports afford a decided advantage over ordinary mills in edging up boards and splitting plank into scantling.

The nearness together of blocks saves any change of moving of head blocks in sawing logs of different lengths. No calculation is required to leave the last board of the desired thickness. The operator and assistant stand at the side of the carriage, where logs can be easiest handled, and where the proper set, when slabbing, can be determined. The position of the sawyer has the further advantage of enabling him to cut different grades of lumber in the same log into the most suitable dimensions.

A single improved dog quickly operated holds securely any size of logs until nearly finished. Sliding dogs can be quickly applied to hold the last board without tearing or otherwise injuring the lumber.

The carriage can be run close to the rear of the mill building. Every part is most thoroughly constructed, and the working parts are all readily accessible. The blade is usually four inches wide and No. 18 gauge, and removes a kerf of one-sixteenth of an inch.

The enormous saving in lumber over other saw-mills by this machine we leave to our readers to compute, feeling it will be worth their most careful investigation.

PAPER pulp made from sawdust is to be sent to England from Welland, Ont. It will be tried at an English factory, and the paper sold as an experiment. If successful, several capitalists will start a factory at that place,