

1897

## DEVELOPING THE EXPORT TRADE.

er in the Toronto Globe, on the subject of developing the export trade, says:

Norwegians use all kinds of ships, big and little. The water is too shallow for a large vessel, then and a cargo on the small sized craft. I presume a sailing craft, laden with lumber, would cross the safely. Such a vessel could deliver Canadian at many ports more cheaply than it could be shipped from a large to a small coaster and then de-

As it stands now, the Norwegians convey direct small ports, whereas Canadians convey to the ports and let small vessels transfer and distribute. Norwegian lumber is loaded and unloaded once, Canadian material is loaded and unloaded twice. I do not mean to apply this statement to all our or to the greater portion, as I have no means of comparison. But it is true in special cases, and the spe-

ces we should watch. Canadians have not studied how to cater for the market in small lumber. To watch the Norwe- unload their vessels, and see how they have cut adapted the material to the purchaser's needs, is to that they have studied closely. When in Australia fully examined into this matter, and there I saw the ships unload, as well as the Norsemen, and in cases I was forced to admire their methods. Doors windows partly made, boxes of soap, fruit cans and parts of things partly made. I say "partly" because means they escape tariff on manufactured goods, yet secured most of the advantages accruing from manufacture. Instead of selling in lump, our people seek to do all the work at home they possibly can furnishing the more labor for our people. And this is one of the best ways of fostering immigration.

I have already written on the subject of paper pulp to Canadian papers, notably the Vancouver Daily World, would add a few words in this connection. I have read many large paper mills in England and find that they furnish most of the "wood pulp." Where the coasters cannot land direct, barges are extensively used. The paper mill men assure me that they would purchase from Canada, if it would pay them to do. And yet there has been no real test of the Canadian. When a large concern is running along evenly year business men do not care to go through the or- of getting out of the ruts. One manager said the way to make a severe test would be for Canada to ship a large amount—say enough for a full day's run each in some cases would mean several hundred tons. This amount the mill men and some of their best cus- could make a thorough trial. Then if quality, quantity and delivery could be regulated so as to there would be a fairly clear road to success.

## THE SOFT ELM SUPPLY.

One of the peculiar happenings in connection with this lumber trade is the disappearance of the bulk of soft elm supply in Michigan. The finest soft, or gray, in the country grows in the northern counties of the peninsula of Michigan, and especially in the coun- clustering around Grand Traverse bay. A few years this wood came into great prominence as a furniture material, especially in the line of parlor frame making. Wide and clear, was soft and easily worked, and the ideal lumber to cut up economically in the fac- Of course, it was understood that it was not a fine d, or capable of being employed in high-grade furni- But as a common and good material for working furniture "within the reach of all, and good enough anybody when well finished, gray elm was a valuable available kind of lumber. After the use of it gained headway it was in great demand, all dealers in Michi- lumber bought it, and it stood next to oak in this market, at Grand Rapids and other furniture centres, in some of sale and consumption. When the panic broke and the furniture trade began to run down, the call for soft elm diminished. Still, since it had been a wood important, operators continued to buy logs and cut it

ably. The lumber trade continued to shrivel up as the years succeeded one another, until the demand for elm seriously declined, and prices fell so low that there was no money in handling elm. In the meantime manufacturers of coopers' stock and fruit packages continued to use up material, and had largely utilized

elm. Several stave, heading and hoop factories had been erected up in the elm district, so as to be near the supply. These and the fruit basket manufacturers bought up elm logs in large quantities, and thus made a market for the lumber to such an extent that a comparatively small quantity was converted into the thick lumber used in furniture factories.

This diversion of elm to the cooper stock and basket factories was more pronounced last winter than ever before. The absorption went on while dealers and consumers in other lines of manufacture were indifferent, because there was little call from the furniture trade for elm. Nobody was hunting for it, and stocks were left to other courses. But it seems that elm did not go begging amid this indifference. Every available log was bought up. Prices went up, too, so that reports of logs being sold at \$8 and \$11 a thousand are frequent. The cleaning up of the log supply has induced a lively sale of such lumber as could be found at the mills, and it seems that the quantity obtainable at any price is very small, while such as is for sale is held at prices so high that dealers in this market cannot touch it. It looks as if the remaining elm supply will have to be left for the stave and hoop makers and the basket weavers, and that consumers in other lines will have to resort to something else in the shape of lumber. One dealer in this city suggests that the scarcity of elm will give black and white ash a chance to come to the front as market factors. Northwestern Lumberman.

## CAMPBELLTON AS A LUMBERING CENTRE.

THE town of Campbellton, N.B., must no longer be regarded merely as a railway divisional point. It has become a very important lumbering centre, and of the new houses that have gone up recently quite a number are for the families of men engaged in the lumber industry, who work in the woods in winter and find employment in the mills in summer.

The growth in importance of Campbellton, N. B., as a lumber shipping centre has been rapid. Time was, and not so long ago, when Dalhousie had all the business. But the erection of mills at Campbellton, the provision of terminal facilities, and some necessary dredging in the channel have changed that, and already this season three steamers and four square rigged vessels have loaded deals at Campbellton, Kilgour Shives and D. Richards shipping each in the vicinity of 5,000,000 feet. Kilgour Shives has a large mill running night and day. W. P. Doherty has a mill above the town cutting deals for Richards, and also a shingle mill. The latter has a shingle mill of his own. W. P. Gray, A. E. Alexander and John Mayor have shingle mills. J. & E. H. Harquail have a sash and door factory. The boom company employ a lot of men. Over the river at Oak Bay, J. D. Sowerby is running a deal mill night and day and also has a shingle mill. The lumber industry is therefore a very important one.

There has been great activity in the shingle mills, and large shipments have gone to the States. With the imposition of a duty, however, the quantity going forward will decrease, and it is thought a considerable quantity of cedar logs will be held over.

Lumbering on the Restigouche differs from the conditions on the Miramichi and the St. John. The logs on the latter streams have been pretty well cleared for a long distance, and each year sees the operator going further away from deep water. On the Restigouche the annual cut has never been very large, though gradually increasing. Most of the timber lands are held by a comparatively few operators, who will be in no hurry to deplete the available supply. This year they had great success with their drives, and except a couple of millions owned by Geo. Moffatt, of Dalhousie, practically all the logs were got out safely. There will be more deals shipped than last year.

## MATCH BLOCKS.

THE casual user has little idea of the high class of white pine lumber, and the great quantity thereof, that is used in the manufacture of matches. In former years match blocks from which matches were made were cut entirely from straight-grained white pine uppers. Nowadays, more economy has entered into the deal, and soft white pine timber is cut into bolts of 16 inches in length. The soft and straight-grained and clear portions of these bolts are resawn to a thickness of two inches on shingle

machines. The hard-grained, cross-grained and knotty or defective portions of the bolts are made into shingles. These two-inch pieces are then loosely piled out of doors like so much cordwood, for air-drying. The match-maker will have nothing to do with kiln-dried stuff, as it renders the match stick too brittle and brash for satisfactory results.

When thoroughly dry, these pieces of straight-grained lumber are cross-cut into sections 17 to 24 inches in length (the various lengths providing for various-sized matches) and the pieces are then split into sections of from three to six inches in length, thus producing match blocks. Any piece in which the grain for the length of the block varies more than one-half the thickness of a match from being straight-grained is rejected as being unsuitable for the purpose. Likewise, all pieces showing hard or gummy grain are rejected. The waste, after all the care taken to secure the original two-inch pieces of straight-grained, clear lumber, varies from 25 to 50 per cent.

## CLAPBOARDS.

THE word clapboard is a word used in the New England States for a thin, narrow board used to cover the sides of the houses and placed so as to overlap the one below; it has been supposed to be an Americanism, but, like many other Americanisms, it was brought over to this country by the early English colonists. According to very old dictionaries published in England, clapboards were thin boards formed ready for the cooper's use for the manufacture of casks. They were originally "clove-boards," because they were "cloven" out by hand and not made with a saw as other boards are. In course of time the word was abbreviated to "cloveboards," "clapboards" and "clapboards." In the law of the Massachusetts Colony, in 1641, the price of these articles was three shillings for "clapboards" five feet in length. The legal price for the work performed by hired labor was: "If they cleave by the hundred, they shall be paid six pence per hundred for five-foot boards. In other parts of the country the term siding or weather-boards is used to designate this particular product.

## PIANO CASES.

ONE of the most important uses for soft elm in a limited way is for piano cases. It is used for the heavy frame in the back of which the action is fastened. This frame must be firm and solid and of good material. The piano case factories buy the soft elm log run, mill cuts out, of course, and two inches thick. Strange as it may seem, considering the slow improvement in business, the piano case makers report the business as fairly lively, much better than it has been for nearly two years.

It is a fact that the majority of piano cases made in this city are made of native wood, black walnut and white oak taking the lead. Red birch with mahogany finish and cherry are used somewhat. Nearly all the black, or so-called ebony, cases are made of good solid Michigan hard maple, colored to simulate ebony. There is an occasional real ebony case made, but the real wood is hard to work and keep in place. Some rosewood is also used, but it is not as popular as it once was.

Next to black walnut and white oak the wood most used is mahogany. This, as well as all other foreign woods is used mostly in the shape of veneers, with solid native wood, poplar being the favorite. Occasionally a costly case is made of solid mahogany, or some other choice foreign fancy wood. Some use is made of prima vera, or white mahogany, and there are a number of native woods, which are rather rare, used, such as white holly and myrtle. Curly birch, curly and bird's eye maple, burls of various native and foreign woods, in fact all sorts of attractive accidental growths of wood are sought after by the case makers, and are used for panels and ornamentation, if not for the entire case.

The pin boards of pianos, for holding the pins over which the wires are strung, are generally made of quarter sawed hard maple, the quarter-sawing rendering the wood less liable to split from the powerful pull of the wires. One hardwood lumber firm in this city makes a specialty of furnishing this quarter sawed maple by the cargo, nearly monopolizing the trade in the west. Hardwood.

Messrs. J. & P. Ament, of Brussels, Ont., are at present turning out 4800 barrel heads per day at their mills.