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DEVOTED TO THE LUMBER AND TIMBER INTERESTS OF THE DOMINION.

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Communications intended for insertion in the CANADA LUMBERMAN, must be accompanied by the name of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. Communications to insure insertion (if accepted) in the following number, should be in the hands of the publishers a week before the date of the next issue.

PETERBOROUGH, Ont. NOV. 15, 1881.

ABOUT ten o'clock on the night of the 4th inst. the sash and door factory of Messrs. Christie & Co., St. John, were destroyed by fire. Loss, about \$15,000.

THE *Lumberman's Gazette* believes that there will be a full supply of logs for next season, even if the winter should prove unfavorable for operations, inasmuch as there is a large number of logs to be carried over.

A HOLLOW tree in South California has been converted into a dwelling. Doors and windows have been put in, and floors built for four stories, the entrance being made by means of a ladder. Outside the topmost room is a small balcony, shaded by the foliage of the tree. The occupant expects to get rich by having no plumber bills to pay.

THE following is a comparative statement of the exports of lumber, &c., from Port Hope, to the 1st of November, for this year, and also for the corresponding period of 1880:—

	1880.	1881.
Lumber, feet.....	66,471,033	69,007,340
Lath and shingles.....	32,540,850	33,907,900

BRITISH TRADE NOTES.

THE disposition on the part of owners just now: rather to hold than press goods on the market, in the full belief that the market will be much firmer before the end of April or May. It is the general impression now that the supply coming forward will hardly be sufficient to keep the market from touching much higher prices. Even extravagant figures are possible between now and the spring.

WE noticed at a sale some fresh-sawn oak planks from Montreal, submitted in 3, 4, and 5 in. thicknesses, at a uniform price of 3s. per foot cube. These goods are somewhat uncommon in the market. We have often wondered, with the extensive sawing facilities at the shipping places, that hardwoods have not come to this market from the various ports ready manufactured. That a trade of the kind will eventually be developed we have not the least doubt.

The parcel alluded to did not sell, the demand just now for hardwood being very quiet.

AT Hull, though the importation has been brisk, there is a considerable shortage on the whole as compared with last year, and prices are reported firm with a rising tendency.

THE importation during the past week into Liverpool has been much more lively than hitherto, owing to the sudden change of wind, which has brought into port a large number of vessels that for some time past have been detained off the coast by the long continuance of easterly winds. Most of these vessels have now got to work discharging their cargoes, and the quays are now wearing a busier aspect than they have done for some time past; at the same time there are visible many large spaces either unoccupied entirely or but sparsely filled. The recent import has not affected the market in any way, for a large proportion of the cargoes recently arrived have come upon contracts entered into some considerable time since; hence there are not many cargoes in the market unsold, and those are being realized at about late rates. In cases where prices asked cannot readily be obtained the cargoes are being stored to await a better market.—*Timber Trades Journal*, Oct. 22.

THE AUTUMNAL TRADE.

When three-fourths of the year are fairly gone by, and about two-thirds of the import season, the trade ought to be in a position to judge pretty nearly what its status will be when the stocks expected are all come forward, or shut in by the ice, and further shipments for this year at an end.

But the season has been so exceptional that there is still great diversity of opinion as to the ruling of prices. If the last season was abnormal, so is this, but in a different sense. Then, with plenty of wood ready for shipment abroad, prices were run up by persuading importers there was going to be a scarcity. This year prices, which had been proportionately low all last year, on account of the abundant supply, rose on this side, because no shipments could be made of any importance from the Baltic ports until the spring had nearly gone by. Then came an apprehension of great pressure on our markets from the north of Europe, and prices began to droop again. Finally freights ran up 30 and 40 per cent., and while charterers were hesitating importation received a check, because buyers would not close contracts unless sellers would guarantee a ship not to exceed a certain limit of freight; and few transactions were completed without a good deal of correspondence and telegraphing, while others went off altogether because this difficulty could not be got over.

The reports of the state of the timber trade at the outports are mostly of a favorable character, and the last public sales of St. John spruce at Liverpool were the best we have noticed for some time past, and about 10s. a standard higher than they were last month, and, although business was reported quiet, prices are said to be firm, with no likelihood of abatement. Prices at Glasgow are scarcely so good for spruce and pine deals as they were twelve months ago, and 1s. 4d. per foot for first-class hewn pitch pine of 75 ft. average per piece is not an indication that the demand in the Clyde is likely to exceed the supply. There is a great quantity of timber used up in Glasgow for its iron shipbuilding fittings. It has been estimated that an iron ship of 1,000 tons register will use up about 400 loads of wood in masts, spars, bulwarks, decks, and interior fittings before she proceeds to sea; but as the market is generally well supplied in proportion to its prices, these keep a pretty fair level.

Upon the whole the prospects of the trade may be considered more hopeful than they have been for several seasons past; but it would be wrong to conclude the import season to be very near its end. That will depend on the weather of the next two months. No doubt the late gales have checked the importation and sent back many ships disabled, which will perhaps not come forward with cargoes this side of Christmas, and many more will take warning and go by; but these things nevertheless, a

goodly number of ships are likely to bring forward their cargoes, as may be gathered from the information herein referred to, and those who stand out too stiffly for price while the market is good may find it difficult to do as well when the time comes for them to want the return of their money.—*Timber Trades Journal*.

THE WHITE PINE.

ORIGIN OF PINE FORESTS—REPRODUCTION—INSECTIVOROUS ENEMIES—THE BLACK KNOT—WIND SHAKES—PITCH.

William Hosca Ballou, of Evanston, read a paper before the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at Cincinnati, August 19, as follows:—

DENUDATION.

Forty-six years ago the pine industry of Michigan had its origin on the Saginaw river. From that date to the present the denudation of timber has increased in that state, and other pine areas, to such an extent that within the next decade the use of such material as a commercial pursuit must pass out of existence. Already the producer is beginning to look to science with genuine alarm for such aid as may be extended to avert a calamity which certainly is threatening an industry the capital invested in which would twice pay the expenses of the late war. It therefore devolves upon us to discuss, not only the enemies of the pine tree which nature herself has inaugurated, but also the statistics of the destruction by the more formidable consumer, man. In a paper relative to so extensive a subject, it seems necessary to draw a line of discussion, and to confine these remarks to the white pine as it was, and to-day stands in the state of Michigan.

ORIGIN OF THE WHITE PINE.

The first thought suggested is relative to the origin of the white pine forests. From whence came the species which so strictly confines itself to its own peculiar territory? The oak, and most other trees, are naturally reproductive, and young trees are equally prolific in their growth on the same soil where the first forest was levelled to the ground. They may be transplanted on almost any territory, and without any special care, speedily growing to a state of usefulness to man. Not so with the white pine. It is now an almost undisputed fact that it will not reproduce on the parent soil, and that when transplanted elsewhere, its development is marked with early decay in so many instances as to disparage the work. Furthermore, it is beset at once with the same host of natural enemies common to it on its indigenous ground.

For some years past my attention has been directed to some facts which may have bearing on the question under consideration. The pine of the level country east of the Rocky mountains seems to have its best growth in proximity to the lake region. I have noticed that frequently, where a lake recedes, leaving a sandy beach, evergreens, the juniper, pines, etc., are very apt to spring up. Within the memory of man, a wide sand beach near Waukegan has been made, and on this area a miniature white pine forest has appeared, and thrives. On some lone islands in Lake Erie, of evident recent formation, called the East Sister, the Old Hen, etc., I observed several years since that a similar phenomenon had occurred. These and other facts point to a recent origin of the pine forests under consideration, which might not have been in existence at the time of the landing of Columbus. This fact is more apparent when it is stated in this connection that the average age of the pine is 300 years in this country; and the other fact is reiterated that it does not reproduce on the same soil. The present pine forests, then, doubtless took the place of some other species, which had exhausted the soil necessary to their existence, a phenomenon well known to naturalists. It matters not whether the seeds were blown there by the winds, or lay dormant in the soil until their turn, or, indeed, what the speculation concerning them is, so long as the facts are inaccessible; certain it is the origin of the pine forests in Michigan is a matter of several centuries ago.

REPRODUCTION.

The next question of importance is reproduction. Answers to queries submitted to over one hundred practical lumbermen, as well as careful observation, makes positive the fact that

the reproduction of the white pine on parent soil is impossible as a commercial success. There are reasons for this. The most important has relation to the exhaustion of that vitality of the soil necessary to this species. Other causes have been advanced to the neglect of this, which plainly do not bear on the case. Were reproduction successful—and here is the great practical proof—any one hundred informants say that long ago forests would have been started to replace those now a fact of the past.

THE ENEMIES

of the white pine are numerous. The average of the data I have gathered tends to show that pine forests began to decay before one-half of the trees were matured. The causes of such decay are the growth of punk or rot, "wind shakes," and loose knots. Insects do not originate, but hasten decay.

The punk is a rot which appears in a lump on the side of the tree, eating into its vitals. It is due to more than one cause. Opinions of writers vary on this subject, all of whom argue in behalf of a special cause. I have carefully examined all of these claims, but observations in the lumber regions, and talks with lumbermen, have convinced me that anything which affects the vitality of the tree will produce punk or rot. It matters not whether the tree becomes wind shaken, or the soil exhausts, or a knot penetrates to the heart, or what befalls it when alive, punk is sure to become the secondary condition, followed by destruction.

Enemy number two is the black knot. This is a loose knot, black in color, which, when the tree is sawed, drops out of the board, making it defective. It is caused by its imperfect growth. If there is not sufficient nourishment at the roots to support the limb, it grows imperfectly, and its inner termination works toward the heart, as if to suck sap from the vitals. This brings on loose layers and subsequent decay.

A wind shake is one of the exasperating defects of lumber. It is noticeable in a board, the layers of which separate, usually in triangular form, when the sawing takes place. It occurs generally at the butt of the tree, and is caused by the force of the wind when the tree is standing, and by frost when the log rests in the yard. Opinions on the latter point vary.

OTHER AGENTS OF DESTRUCTION.

There are other enemies of the lumber, all of which deserve consideration just at this time, when commerce must begin to economize and obviate, so far as possible, all difficulties in the way of making the product supply the demand. The first of these is fire. All parties agree that from one-half to one-third of the lumber product is destroyed by this agent. Fires, where they occur, follow clearings, but often penetrate the dense forests, sometimes covering an area of a hundred square miles. It is impossible to secure any data on this subject, because more or less timber is saved out of the wreck. A pine tree that has been scorched is utilized the succeeding year, or the worms destroy it.

Insects are very destructive, the pine weevil, *Tomicus cylindrophus*, being a foremost agent. These attack a sound tree, but not a live one. If anyone will take the trouble to enter a great log yard at dusk, these creatures may be heard at work, the united sound of which is like the roar of wind or water. The grub goes through a log in a crooked line, which greatly depreciates the value of the timber. There is a "pin worm," the scientific name of which has escaped me, that bores its way straight to the heart, leaving a round black passage the size of a pin head. These are the only insects which lumbermen take into account in Michigan.

GET OUT OF DOORS.—The close confinement of all factory work, gives the operatives pallid faces, poor appetite, languid, miserable feelings, poor blood, inactive liver, kidney and urinary troubles, and all the physicians and medicine in the world cannot help them unless they get out of doors or use Hop Bitters, the purest and best remedy, especially for such cases, having abundance of health, sunshine and rosy cheeks in them. They cost but a trifle.—*Christian Recorder*.

HONESTY.—It is commonly said that you cannot make an honest man believe that white is black and vice versa, but those who have grey hair by using the "CINGALESE HAIR RENOVATOR," will find that this apparent difficulty is easily overcome. 50 cents per bottle.