



DEVOTED TO THE LUMBER AND TIMBER
INTERESTS OF THE DOMINION.

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PETERBOROUGH, Ont., FEB. 1, 1884.

DEER are so plentiful around the Michigan and Wisconsin pine lands that the boys in the camps often enjoy venison steak in spite of the law.

It is the intention to bank on the Chippewa and tributaries, in Wisconsin, not far from 800,000,000 feet this winter, although there are not over two-thirds as many camps as last year.

MANY portable mills have been set up in the woods of Maine for the purpose of working up the timber blown down by the winds last season. An unusual number of trees were thus preserved.

THE Surveyors of the American & Mexican railway report that there are immense forests of cedar and pine in the southeastern portion of Chihuahua. The entire Sierra Madre interiors are heavily timbered.

INDICATIONS from Wisconsin point strongly to the fact that there will be no reduction in the lumber cut in that state. In fact many of the heavy lumber firms there will greatly exceed their former output.

In some of the large saw mills in the Northwestern lumber district a small appliance is attached to the trimmer, which automatically stamps the name of the company or mill on every board that passes over the machine.

THE first through train to Menominee, over the Milwaukee & Northern branch, arrived January 8. Regular trains were to be running on January 14. This connection gives Menominee a new rail outlet for lumber south and west.

THE Muskegon lumbermen and the city treasurer are at loggerheads over the place where logs shall be assessed, the assessors claiming that they should be assessed in Muskegon, and the lumbermen that they should be assessed in the township in which the logs may be at the time of assessment. It is likely to lead to protracted litigation.

A Mr. Carpenter, in the Thunder Bay district north shore of Lake Superior, in Canada, is running a number of camps on Slate river, Blake township. On December 23 he had 10,000 or 12,000 feet of logs skidded, but there was not snow enough to haul them to the bank.

In ten years there was to be a scarcity of timber in Canada, but certainly it has not been felt in this country as yet, nor is it likely to be so this year, when native timber is, as we have shown, cheaper than it ever was known, and our foreign supplies are on as bountiful a scale as the requirements of our trade can keep pace with.

EARLY in the spring of 1884, the Seattle, W. T., mill of the Columbia & Puget Sound Railway Company, will be sent to the Green river coal mines, while the company will build a much larger one at Seattle, the foundations for which are already driven. The new mill will be 60x100 feet, two stories high, with an engine and boiler room 40x60 feet one story. It will be owned by the Oregon Improvement Company and will be first class in every respect.

THE Newmarket Press says:—The new automatic pull-handle borer is running nicely, putting holes through 40 handles per minute, an increase of 25 on the old method. The handles are then turned and shaped at the rate of 35 or 40 per minute. The firm is now inventing another machine to bore four holes and cut a groove in the rim of a washboard all at one time. Messrs. Cano & Son will soon have the manufacture of small woodenware down to a fine thing.

A CORRESPONDENT at Roscommon writes that since the good sleighing set in many lumbermen have begun erecting camps who thought they would not lumber this winter, and will put in a large amount of logs. Parties are also heavily engaged all along the railroad from Bay City to Mackinac in getting out ties, posts, telegraph poles, hoop poles, cedar for paving, hardwood and hemlock bark. Take it all around, this is likely to be as good a winter for lumbering as last winter.

THE Lumberman's Gazette says:—The weather for the past week has been propitious for logging operations, both in Michigan and Wisconsin. The snow is abundant for hauling purposes, and the logs are being banked with wonderful rapidity. The vast amount of logs which had been previously put on the skids will keep the logging roads lively for some time to come, and the probability is that during the last week in December and the two succeeding weeks, the first in the new year, there will be more logs banked in both these pine producing states than has ever been known in the same time during the history of the business.

THE first person who attempted to submit wood to distillation for the purpose of obtaining gas and other products, was Philip Lebon, near the close of the last century: and in 1799 he took out a French patent for methods of using combustibles with greater economy, as well for heat as for light, and collecting the different products. Three years later he obtained the use of a part of the Rouvray forest, near Havre, for the manufacture of tar, engaging to deliver five quintals, about 1,100 pounds a day, and with apparatus of large dimensions he was able to supply a notable quantity of tar for the French Marine. He died in Paris in 1804, and the business was continued to 1811.

FREE LUMBER.

The strongest characteristic of the New York Sun is persistence. Whenever it takes hold of a subject it never lets go till it is squeezed dry. Last year the Sun was the leading advocate of placing lumber on the free list. The movement was very properly killed in Congress. Since Congress re-assembled that paper has again taken up the cudgel in favor of "free lumber" and has been hammering away at it since at the rate of one to two columns daily.

The usual routine was followed. First, an alarming editorial appeared concerning the devastation of the Adirondack forests situated in

the Northern part of the State. Not that the devastation flooded the New York markets with lumber, but because the destruction disturbed their fluvial functions and threatened the water supply of the Hudson river and other streams. Then followed leaders on "The Flow of Rivers;" "The Forests of the United States," and so forth till the object in view was reached—"Free Lumber." As to the purchase by the state of the Adirondack forests, to preserve them, we have nothing to say, further than to wish the scheme the fullest success; but when the press of New York ask that they be preserved by removing the duty from lumber and thus placing the forests of Canada in direct competition with those of the South we earnestly protest.

It is well known that vast sums of money have lately been invested in Southern pine land purchased from the Government. It is also well known that the \$2 per 1,000 feet tariff paid on Canada lumber does not prevent it from being brought into competition in New York markets with lumber from Southern forests. Our woods bring little enough now in Eastern markets. To further embarrass the trade with free lumber would be unjust and a species of bad faith on the part of the government after so recently disposing of millions of acres of pine lands.

The people of Maine, Michigan and Wisconsin, who are next door neighbors of Canada, probably understand this matter better than the thirty editors of New York city, and it was due to the representatives of those States that the move for free lumber was killed in the last Congress. The lumber business of the South is just assuming creditable proportions and needs other stimulus than competition with foreign forests, and we hope the representatives from the timber States of the South will take an active step in seeing that the duty on lumber is not removed. To do so would seriously embarrass those who have already invested in mills and lands, and retard large investments already in contemplation.—New Orleans American Lumberman.

THE U. S. DUTY ON LUMBER.

THE Detroit Free Press says:—If, as some of the lumbermen claim, the removal of the tariff on lumber will not effect prices, because, as they say, lumber is now sold more cheaply than Canadian lumber can be laid down in the states, there is no reason why they should object to a reduction or removal of the duty. On the other hand, if it will reduce prices, it can only do so by stimulating the destruction of the Canadian forests. If this should be the case, the result would be to give more employment to the men who wield the axe and do the laborious work. It would perhaps keep some of the Canadians at home who now annually come to Michigan during the logging season, and if they are provident take out of this country the not proceeds of their work. This would diminish the supply of working lumbermen in Michigan, and by the necessity of the case increase the rate of wages, which, in spite of all the fine talk we sometimes hear, is now so low that a Michigan worker in the woods who has a family to support finds it hard work to make a decent living.

As consumers would not be detrimentally affected by a reduction of the duty on lumber, and as wage workers could not possibly be, the only question to be considered is whether the millionaire lumber kings would suffer the direct disaster if their profits were, by any possibility, slightly reduced. Let any one examine a list of the very wealthy men of Michigan, and he will be struck with the great proportion of them who have made their fortunes in lumber and pine lands. They always obtained the highest prices they could for their land and commodities, and hired their labor as cheaply as they could get it. Their fortunes were not made by wielding the axe or skidding logs at \$16 a month and board.

WOOD WASTES.

As we see the forests annually shorn of their monarchs, the question naturally arises, what will take the place of timber? Again as we see the very small proportion of a tree that is really utilized as a paying product, we are led to inquire, why can't this waste be utilized? The

question of grinding up and making artificial wood is too expensive, and the best thing that can be done is to submit this residue or waste to some process by which the preservative qualities can be extracted and be used to preserve the timber or lumber used for building fences, furniture, etc. We are informed that the process of doing this is not expensive or intricate, that it effectually preserves wood from decay for an indefinite period, and hence is very profitable. We are informed that one company engaged in this business who pay \$3 per cord for what in many locations south is thrown away, pay a semi-annual dividend of over 80 per cent.

If this be true why not have the subject discussed by those acquainted with the processes? We have fences, houses, railroads, and other erections going up all the while, and if northern brains were coupled with their money southern grit and push, this could be made a great industry. If those living in localities about here where wood is plentiful and cheap, will take the trouble to investigate, they will experience no trouble in finding parties who know all the secrets and have ample capital to push it. People north say that people south have a peculiar faculty of keeping hid many of the facilities which they possess in sufficient number to enable them to complete success fully with some kindred enterprise east and north; as proof of which look at our iron and coal a few years ago and compare with the development of to-day.—L. D. Fouz, in Nashville Artisan.

CANADIAN COAL.

The last two or three years have witnessed a decided increase in the production of coal in Canada. Not only has the home consumption been fed more largely, but the quantity exported grew from 219,536 tons in 1877, to 421,311 tons in the fiscal year 1881. The produce of the coal mines of Nova Scotia during the first three quarters of 1883, amounted to 1,078,990 tons, an increase over the same period of the previous year of 97,463 tons. Sales during the same period aggregated 996,000 tons, an increase of 93,137 tons. At the port of Sydney, C. B., the quantity exported rose from 128,000 tons five years ago, to 313,000 tons last year; while this year, up to the end of October, the shipments of coal from Sydney reached 488,000 tons; allowing for the probable shipments of the two remaining months of 1883, it is likely that 500,000 to 550,000 tons of coal have left that harbor during the year just closed more than half of it going up the St. Lawrence. Then at Pictou the coal shipments have increased in a decided degree. We need not stop here to consider in detail the benefits this activity confers, upon the port and neighboring country, though these cannot be overlooked by any observer. But we will only remark that the shipping of Pictou has felt an undoubted impetus; and as for North Sydney, the arrivals of shipping up to the 1st of November, were 1,151 in number, compared with 896 in the same period of the preceding year: the tonnage of these was 520,000 tons, where the tonnage of the port in the whole year 1879, did not reach 250,000 tons. The mines give direct employment to about 1,500 hands. These are figures which speak for themselves.

The foreign market usually takes from three hundred to four hundred thousand tons of coal. Newfoundland took last year 57,004 tons; the United States 105,943 tons: the West Indies, 19,367 tons Nova Scotia coal. China, the Sandwich Islands and California took their Canadian coal from British Columbia. This year probably 30,000 tons have gone to the United States from Cape Breton, mostly of fine sea coal, for a large part of the coal beds thereabout are under the Atlantic. Further developments of this important trade are being made. For example, The General Mining Association is about opening a new mine at Low Point; and will build an extensive pier at Sydney Harbor, which will be made their shipping point, instead of Lingan. Montreal capital is understood to be extensively used in the operations which are to develop that part of the Island of Cape Breton, and there, is every indication that the coal interests of the Dominion are among the most promising, as they unquestionably are among the most immediately prosperous. Some