

SHADE TREES ALONG THE HIGHWAYS.

BY THE HON. B. G. NORTHROR.

An unusual interest is shown this season in planting trees along the roadside, and our nurserymen are busy in meeting this growing demand. The Legislature of Connecticut has just passed, unanimously in both houses, a law to encourage tree-planting on the public roads. A similar law has been passed in some of the comparatively treeless states west of the Mississippi; but Connecticut is believed to be the first state east of that river to offer so liberal a bounty from the state treasury for this purpose. This Act provides that any person planting or protecting forest trees one-quarter of a mile or more along any public highway may receive for ten years an annual bounty of one dollar for each quarter of a mile so planted; the forest trees to include the elm, maple, tulip, ash, basswood, oak, black walnut and hickory; the elms to be not more than sixty feet apart.

Under the stimulus of this state bounty, more trees ought to be planted this spring along the roads of Connecticut than in any former year, however much has been recently done in this direction. In some cases individuals are encouraging this work, by offering prizes for tree-planting. A citizen of Clinton has just offered a hundred dollars, in the form of prizes of \$40, \$25, \$20 and \$15, to the persons who may plant this spring the best and longest rows of trees along any public roads of that town, the award to be made by three non-resident experts and announced at the Agricultural Fair of Clinton, next October. Another gentleman offers a like amount, to be awarded in sums of \$15, \$30, and \$25, for the best and longest rows of trees that may be planted this spring in the towns represented in the Falls Village Agricultural Association. Two hundred dollars offered in this way a few years ago stimulated an extraordinary interest in tree planting. I shall be most happy to co-operate with any liberal citizens who may wish to try a kindred experiment in their towns this season or next year. The time for this work is at hand, and whatever is done well this spring must be done quickly. In two or three days notices could be printed and circulated in almost any town in New England or New York. That service I will cheerfully perform for any such donor in Connecticut.

Nothing can add so much to the beauty and attractiveness of our country roads as long avenues of fine trees. One sees this illustrated in many countries in Europe, where for hundreds of miles on a stretch the road is lined with trees. With the liberal encouragement offered by this new law, no time should be lost in securing the same grand attraction to our highways. Growing on land otherwise running to waste, such trees would yield most satisfactory returns. The shade and beauty would be grateful to every traveller, but doubly so to the owner and planter, as the happy experience of hundreds of our farmers can now testify, for a good work in this direction is already well started. Having in abundance the best trees for the roadside, no class can contribute so much to the adornments of our public roads as the farmers. In portions of Germany the law formerly required every landholder to plant trees along his road frontage. Happy would it be for us if the sovereigns of our soil would each make such a law for himself.

The trees named in the Connecticut Act comprise the best roadside trees for New England and New York. The elm unites the two conditions of grace and grandeur more than any other tree. Michaux calls it "the most magnificent vegetable of the temperate zone." The Norway maple deserves a place with our fine American maples, being hardy, making rapid growth, and giving dense shade. The tulip, or common whitewood, deserves greater favor as an ornamental tree. Many fail with this tree, as with the hickory and oak, because they transplant them too large. It has a deep root and should be taken from the nursery young. The owner of the largest nursery east of Syracuse said to me this week: "You will accomplish a grand result for arboriculture if you persuade the people to plant younger trees. It is a great mistake to plant big trees." Trees planted when large must be beheaded, and a tree never recovers from this unnatural process. Even the

elm, however prone to assert its claim to beauty, never develops its full symmetry when thus maltreated. It gives you two limbs, and then, from three to six feet higher, two or three more, when you might otherwise have twenty growing out in graceful arches. No doubt the elm extends its roots into adjoining fields more than any other tree. On this account, the hickory, white ash, mountain ash, and especially the tulip, with its straight stem, that may be trimmed high, if need be, should be favorites with farmers for the roadside. Greater care should be taken to keep the roots of young trees moist and protected from the sun and drying wind till they are ready to be set.

This work of tree-planting has been cordially endorsed by the press and people of Connecticut. The editor of the Boston *Herald*, speaking of the influence of the rural improvement associations, now so numerous in Connecticut, says:—"They are doing a work which will entitle our prosperous neighboring commonwealth to the name of the Garden State." Mr. P. M. Augur, pomologist of the Connecticut Board of Agriculture, says, in a New Haven paper: "The season for ornamental tree-planting is at hand. Allow us to second this effort to persuade every town and village in our state to organize for street ornamental tree-planting. Let the ladies, if need be, move in this matter. Let a suitable day be appointed, and every man be invited to plant trees according to a specified plan, and in the evening meet to report the day's results, and banquet at the hands of the fair sex. By so doing, we shall think more of home, town, state and country; we shall think more of each other. And, in the distant future, many will delight, as they pass through the beautiful streets, to recount this good act of their ancestors."

In some towns an arbor day is set apart during the last of April or first week of May (sometimes "May-day") for this special work, when every citizen is invited to devote the day to public improvement or to "brushing up" each around his own frontage and residence. When every resident is thus stimulated to make his own grounds and wayside neat and attractive, the entire town becomes so inviting as to give new value to its wealth and new attractions to all its homes.—*N. Y. Independent*.

THE MISSISSIPPI FLOODS.

The *Lumberman and Manufacturer*, of Minneapolis, says that the floods in the river during the last week have amounted to an embargo on commerce of every description in the West, especially in lumber. It is hard to tell just where so much lumber has gone to as the reported movements of last week indicated was sold. From the upper Missouri through to Chicago and down to Cairo the railroads have been damaged and suspended, while all reporting points show an advance upon last year's business, but for the week. Handling lumber on the Mississippi is almost impossible, and only such lumber as is regarded unsafe is being moved and none sold. Great damage has been done already to lumber yards along the river as well as mills, booms, etc., by the floods. These things are adding to the cost of lumber this year, and also reducing slightly the amount to be cut, both of which strengthen the market. From reports it is thought that nearly all the lumber held on the Missouri river will be lost and several millions on the Mississippi, besides the large quantity of logs which have been and are being carried away. The advance in lumber at Chicago is well maintained and it only needs a corresponding move in the Mississippi Valley to send it still higher in Michigan and Chicago. The advance has been much greater in Saginaw than in the West. Thus two years ago lumber was sold for \$5, \$11 and \$18 which now brings \$7.50, \$17 and \$35 there, while the advance has been about \$3 on common and \$5 on clears in the West.

Should Receive a Liberal Support.

We have received a copy of THE CANADA LUMBERMAN, an excellent journal devoted to the lumber and timber industries of Canada, and published by Toker & Co., Peterborough. It is very neatly printed, contains a large amount of interesting news, and should receive a liberal support.—*Winnipeg Times*.

THE BULLS AND THE BEARS.

The fight of the bulls and bears in the Chicago lumber market is becoming almost as celebrated as the regular warfare of their prototypes of the stock and grain exchanges. The contest, though an entirely bloodless one, is not lacking in interest, as well to outsiders as to the participants themselves. It usually engages the attention of a good part of the trade during the earlier weeks of the season, when, for obvious reasons the animals above mentioned are in a particularly belligerent frame of mind. It may be regarded as both a moral and physical impossibility for the representatives of the yard and mill interests in this city to dwell together in harmony at this particular time of the year. They take to fighting naturally, as if by a kind of instinct, and for a time they revel in its pleasures with as much apparent enjoyment as though the whole thing were a bit of a farce, like a Punch and Judy show. In the spring the dealer's fancy turns lightly to thoughts of sharpening up his claws, which operation he performs while indulging in pleasant anticipations of the firm grip he will thereby be enabled to get upon prices when he prepares to exert his muscular power in an effort to pull them down. And so the man with a mill, or some logs that he has arranged to have sawed by the thousand upon pretty favorable terms, gives an extra chuckle as he lets his imagination show him in advance how beautifully he will toss and grope poor brain when he catches him with a lot of men on his pay roll with nothing to do, and undertakes to sell him the last cargo of lumber on the market. But after a month or two of hostilities both the bulls and the bears discover that there is something to live for besides war, and having worked off their surplus energy by means of their annual scurrage, settle down to business and spend the balance of the season in making money.

To consider the matter more seriously, it may be said that this regular struggle between the two opposing interests among the lumber dealers in this market arises out of the peculiar way in which the business is transacted. That merchandise should be bought for as little and sold for as much as competition will admit of are among the first principles of business. The dealers simply control certain influences that may be brought to bear upon the prices at which they must buy their lumber, and they use them, so far as possible, to effect the purpose they naturally have in view, which is, of course, to get their stock for as little money as they can. They do not care whether the mill owner makes anything; that is his lookout, consequently the only thing they work for is to buy their lumber for the lowest prices that the sellers will accept. On the other side, the manufacturers, and those interested either directly or indirectly in the production and primary sale of lumber, have before them only one purpose—to get all they can for their property. It is no concern of theirs whether the buyer of the stock makes anything on it or not; as long as it passes out of their hands at a profit their duty is done, and their interest in it is at an end.

Notwithstanding the remarkable activity in trade during the last few weeks, we have unmistakable evidence that the battle of the boards will be fought this season as usual. Both parties to the fray are armed and equipped as their best judgment directs, and are in readiness for the struggle. Indeed, the contest has already begun. Anyone interested enough in what goes on in this market will observe that a skirmish of no small dimensions has occurred between the low-priced and high-priced elements in the trade. If we take their action as an earnest of what they both propose to do, we may safely look forward to some sharp fighting before the season gets so far advanced as to bring about harmony among the operators on both sides. The bears evidently mean to take something more than a protest against the prices the mill men seem disposed to demand for their products, and the latter, if their words and actions are to be taken as an indication of what they mean to do, are equally determined not to yield a point unless they are obliged to.

It must be conceded, we think, that the bears scored a decided victory, and if so, it is only fair that they should have the credit of it. They did not accomplish quite all they desired, which was evidently to induce the trade to postpone

the issuing of a union list, and so permit them to make as low prices as they pleased. Perhaps they did not expect to attain this end, but only made the attempt as a matter of principle. However this may be, they did establish one fact very thoroughly; namely, that they do not intend to buy their season's supply of lumber at the top of the market except as a matter of absolute necessity.

Anybody who could decide in advance whether it will become a matter of necessity for them to do so would make himself famous as a prophet, and settle a question that is puzzling a good many of the shrewdest lumbermen in the country. To successfully forecast the future of this market for the next sixty days, and be sure of hitting the nail squarely on the head, would be a good thing to do, but unfortunately, or otherwise, an impossible one. It will turn out according to the ability of one side to hold off and the other to hold on. If the dealers can keep from buying long enough, they will probably bring the manufacturers to terms, while, similarly, if the mill men can pile up enough of their lumber at the mill, and so keep it away from the market, they may force buyers to pay what they choose to ask. It might be asked what would be the result in case both should develop staying powers beyond the general expectation; but it is not a likely supposition that the enduring qualities of both sides will be exactly balanced. There are some dealers who must buy from day to day, and likewise some manufacturers who must sell; but the market is almost certain to fluctuate, and move in either direction gradually, according to the necessities of the buyers force them to demand more lumber, or those of the manufacturers oblige them to offer more for sale.

The *Lumberman* would be very glad to give its readers a definite opinion regarding the probable course of the market, and of trade and prices generally, during the coming sixty days, but unfortunately it has none that it could recommend to them as thoroughly to be relied upon. Moreover, it has failed after a diligent search to find anyone not directly interested in one side of the question or the other, who has Ask a dealer what he thinks of the situation, and he will tell you with all the confidence imaginable that lumber is going to be cheaper; put the same question to a man on the other side of the fence and he will assure you with the utmost gravity that, in his opinion, there is not the least reason for lumber selling any lower than it does to-day. There may be wisdom in multitude of counsel, but it is a fact, concerning which the *Lumberman* has no doubt, that the more counsel one takes in regard to the probable future of this market the less he is apt to know about it. The only thing he will find out beyond question is that one man knows no more about the matter than another, and that all, in point of fact, are in a state of profound and possibly blissful ignorance in regard to it. Perhaps the best thing we can say to those who are anxious to know something about the way the market will turn, is to recommend them to trust their own judgment and act in accordance with it. One opinion is as likely to be correct as another and to toss up a dime is probably as good a way as any of deciding between them.—*Northwestern Lumberman*.

TIMBER NEWS.

During the week ending 7th of May inst., the undermentioned timber passed through the

DES JOACHIMS SLIDES.

	Cords.	Pieces.
Two rafts belonging to A. & P. White...	109	5,321
One raft belonging to Tilstie & Carswell...	141	3,200
One raft belonging to J. B. Klock.....	74	1,302

324 10,463

THROUGH COULONGE SLIDES TO 16TH MAY.

	Cords.	Pieces.
One raft belonging to J. K. Booth.....	77	1,500
One raft belonging to Robert Grant....	44	1,091

121 2,591

THROUGH THE CATINEAU BOOM TO 17TH INST.

14,400 saw logs owned by G. B. Hall & Co.	5,637	J. McLaren & Co.
6,748 " " "		Gilmour & Co.

20,551 saw logs. And 4,571 railway ties owned by Hebron Harris.

—Ottawa Citizen.

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