

fibre is as fine and regular, and the ease of working the same. The utilization of fir trebles the area available for pulp purposes, and makes the island destined in a few years to be one of the great pulp centres of the world. Its advantages as a lumber and pulpwood producing country are very great, for its soil is not only very productive but labor being considerably cheaper than in either the United States or Canada, and its distance from European markets being so very much shorter, it will before long prove a formidable competitor.

MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATIONS.

The third annual convention of Provincial Municipal Associations, which has been carried on at St. Catharines, was closed on the 12th inst., after the suggestion of several important changes in the municipal act. Among the clauses added were the following: "That the act relating to the cutting and trimming of shade trees be amended so as to allow municipalities of under 100,000 inhabitants the privilege of cutting down and trimming the trees on the streets without it being necessary to pass a by-law, and to recompense individuals for the loss of the trees. That private schools not denominational, and whether incorporated or not, should be liable to assessment. That the time for receiving nominations for municipal elections be one hour, between 10 and 11 a.m., on nomination day."

The resolutions adopted at the recent Dominion convention in Toronto were taken up, and after some discussion they were all adopted. A resolution was passed protesting against exemption from municipal taxes under private bill, but proposing that such exemption should be embodied in the general tax.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, E. J. Reynolds, town solicitor, Brockville; 1st vice-president, R. P. Slater, mayor, Niagara Falls; 2nd vice-president, J. B. McIntyre, mayor, St. Catharines; secretary, S. H. Kent, assistant city clerk, Hamilton; assistant secretary, John T. Hall, assessment commissioner, Hamilton.

THE LUMBER MARKET.

Ontario lumbermen report an active business being transacted in all ordinary grades of pine lumber, the chief trouble being to obtain labor to manufacture sufficient stuff to meet the demand. Judging from the many enquiries and orders, a large amount of building must be going on throughout the country. Prices keep fairly steady. Little lumber is being exported from this market either to England or across the line, which shows that large supplies are being used up right at home.

Farnworth & Jardine, of Liverpool, in their circular of 2nd September, said: The arrivals from British North America during the past month have been 36,160 tons register, against 62,505 tons register during the corresponding month last year, and the aggregate tonnage to this date from all places during the years 1899, 1900, and 1901 has been 335,432, 350,741, and 304,368 tons respectively. The business of the past month has been quiet; imports generally have shown a marked falling off in comparison with the same month last year, the deliveries have been fair, and stocks are reduced to a moderate compass, but there is little change in values to report. Ocean freights are depressed, and rule very low. Of Canadian waney pine, the arrivals have been small and have gone largely direct into consumption; the demand for 1st class wood continues good, but for 2nd quality quiet; values rule high; stocks are light. Square pine has been imported more freely, but there is no improvement in the demand, and stocks are ample. Red pine has not been imported; the demand is quiet; stocks are sufficient. Of oak the arrivals have been fairly moderate, the deliveries satisfactory, and the stock of 1st class wood is now much reduced; values are firmer. There has again been a large import of elm, but the deliveries have been fair; the stock, which, however, contains a quantity of inferior wood, is too heavy; values are easier. Quebec ash has been imported moderately, and has met with ready sale; stocks are light and prices steady. The arrivals of Quebec pine deals again show a considerable falling off as compared with the corresponding month last year, but the deliveries have been small, and the stock is too heavy; there is little further change in value to report. The demand in red pine deals is inactive; stocks are sufficient. As compared with the corresponding month last year the import of New Brunswick and

Nova Scotia spruce and pine deals shows a marked decline, viz., 13,800, against 27,700 standards, and as the deliveries have more than kept pace the stock has been considerably reduced, though still sufficient. Latest sales have shown some improvement; freights continue very low. Of birch logs there has been a small import, chiefly from Halifax; the deliveries have been fair, stocks are fairly moderate, and for fresh wood prices show a little improvement. There has practically been no import of planks; the consumption has been fair, but stocks are still too large, and values are low.

DRAINAGE OF MARSH LANDS.

Among the places which are sending in petitions to the Ontario Government to become recipients of the proffered assistance in the matter of drainage are the following: Pelee Island, where dykes would have to be built, and the water removed by pumping; West Tilbury township in Essex, 55,500 acres; estimated cost \$45,673. Winchester township, large drainage scheme to run through Mountain, Russell and Winchester townships, Dundas and Russell counties; estimated cost, \$38,335. Mountain and Osgoode townships, for aid in the Silver Creek and Castor River drainage scheme, townships of South Gower and Winchester being also benefited, and the Castor River drainage outlet for a large territory in Carleton and Dundas counties; estimated cost, \$24,008. Matilda township, Dundas county, improvement and dredging of Petite Nation river, outlet for drainage systems in townships of Matilda, Mountain, Winchester and townships to the west of Dundas county. Osnabruck and Cornwall townships in Stormont, in Aux Raisins river drainage scheme; considerable excavation of rock to be carried on; to cost \$35,000. Cornwall township, Beaver creek drainage scheme, to cost \$7,500. Eastern township, in Bruce, 10,000 acres, to cost \$11,600. Bromley township, waters of Muskrat and Snake rivers to be lowered, 3,500 acres to be reclaimed, and large areas to be benefited by better drainage. Maryborough township, in Wellington, drain affecting lands in townships of Elma, Grey, Wallace, Maryborough and the town of Listowel. It often happens that the lands that have to be drained before they can be cultivated are precisely the ones that prove to be the very richest. So the reclamation of the above may add a vast store of wealth to the province.

MATTERS IN NEW ZEALAND.

The authorities of New Zealand are not lax in making preparations for foreign trade. The Government of that province has appointed a trade commissioner to travel over the world in search of new markets for New Zealand produce. The name of the commissioner is J. Graham Gow, who, prior to going abroad, made a tour of the colony, gathering the fullest information possible regarding the products of the country, available for export. He is first to visit South Africa, and afterwards England, the continent and the United States, seeking wherever an opening presents itself to direct attention to some product of which New Zealand has a surplus.

A correspondent of the Boston Transcript, writing on 1st August from Auckland, New Zealand, declares that one thing which impressed him was the growing market for United States products that New Zealand had become. "One might suppose," he writes, "the manufactured imports would come from the mother country, but American goods are fast driving English manufactures out of the market and are even supplanting the home manufactures. I have before me the figures given me by our American consul, showing the exports and imports to and from America for the past five years. These show a steady gain. In 1896 goods valued at \$2,464,200 were imported from United States, and in 1900 these had increased to \$5,309,365. The exports from New Zealand to United States in 1900 were worth \$2,293,980, showing a large balance of trade in our favor. Germany and other European nations are in the field for the New Zealand trade, but American goods are liked so well that a promising future is open to our manufacturers who are clear-sighted and quick enough to take advantage of their chance. I have met a few American drummers here and have wondered there are not more. American goods are more "nobby" and attractive generally than those from other countries, and the New Zealand merchants save much in freight by getting their imported goods from America, as our manufacturers are so much nearer to New Zealand than are those of Europe. On all sides we see American machinery. The reapers and binders in the great New Zea-