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THE TAYLOR MILL COMPANY.

The mill of the above company, which is herewith illustrated, is situated on Government street, in the city of Victoria, B. C., its location being such that it commands a large share of the building trade of the city. The output is largely comprised of finishing stock for offices, stores, bank buildings, etc.

The saw mill consists of a two-story building, fully equipped with the most modern machinery. The planing mill turns out all descriptions of lumber and wood-work generally used. The logs are taken from the harbour on one side of the mill, and delivered to the purchasers from Government street on the other side.

The firm also manufacture sashes, doors and blinds, and carry continually a large stock of glass. The logs are generally obtained by purchase, thereby saving their timber limits for future requirements. From forty to sixty hands are generally employed in and about this establishment, and it can be safely called one of the leading industrial features of the city of Victoria.

THE VALUE OF FORESTS.

An address was recently delivered at Baie des Peres, Temiscamingue, Quebec, by the Hon. G. A. Nantel, Commissioner of Crown Lands for that province, dealing with the relations between settlers and lumbermen. After referring to the natural resources of the country the speaker concluded as follows:—

The proprietor of forest concessions should not be surprised or interfered with in the enjoyment of his rights. He should be given full time to withdraw from the domain he leases from the State, and for which he gives it the greater portion of the revenue he takes from it. I should here say also what I hear everywhere, that the colonist should not pose as the enemy of the explorer of the forest. I wish to preach here, as I shall preach everywhere, the necessity of thorough harmony with a friendly understanding between the colonist and the forest explorers. I have not always been able to regard the conduct of these explorers as being faultless. I have had occasion to denounce their squandering and the extravagances committed by them, at the expense of the Department of Crown Lands, and if the colonists have caused great destruction of forest by fires for clearing purposes, it must be taken in good part and remembered that at one time the owners of limits pillaged and ruined the property of the department in a manner which

cannot be too severely condemned. But times are changed. The owners of limits have come to understand that our forest resources, which made their millions, are not inexhaustible, that they are growing deplorably less from year to year, and that they will disappear altogether unless they introduce into their operations a system characterized by method, reserve and moderation, one that will resemble the system of cutting which prevails in France, Austria, Germany, and in all other well regulated countries. If the lumbermen fail to plant young shoots, if they take no measure to renew the wood on the land, they at least take care of the young growth that is springing up, which they will be able to cut in twenty years, thus following a system of rotation which tends more and more to become, I hope, the base of all their operations. The



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reports in my possession show that enormous progress has been made in this particular. I congratulate them upon the fact. The department over which I preside cannot too strongly urge them to continue on in this excellent way. Besides, I may say, en passant, that I intend to devote myself to the reorganization of our Department of Forests that this may be promoted, and to assist with all our power every effort that may be put forth by the owners of limits to keep the annual return of woods and forests at least up to the present standard. Is it not a distressing spectacle to see spaces, which I may call infinite, devastated by fire?—huge tracks of public property which were formerly covered by immense forests, composed of every species of timber, representing millions, lost to commerce and to private enterprise as well as to the treasury of the province? These burnt districts are covered with a second growth of inferior wood, amongst which, however, are met many young pines. Could not superb pine trees be thus restored without serious cost to either the public treasury or to the owners of limits? This

is another of those subjects which I can only touch upon to-day, but which I shall study thoroughly, consulting experts who will give care and attention to a subject so vitally important to our forest resources. I appear to have wandered from my subject; it is no harm, however, for it is important to convince you of the imperative necessity of preserving the forest and keeping the field clear for the lumber manufacturer. For it is with them the colonist disposes of his farm products and it will continue to be so for a long time yet, if not forever. You are here, 300 miles from the Ottawa market, and yet you get better prices for your produce than the farmers who live alongside of the Capital; better even than the farmers around Montreal. To what do you owe it? To the cultivator of the forest. You sell your hay at from \$20 to \$30 per ton, which is twice and three times as much as can be got for it in the older parishes; you are paid from sixty to seventy cents per bushel for your oats, a third more than we usually pay in Ottawa or Montreal, and all that is taken from you at your homes, at your barn doors. Is that not the principal source of your prosperity, and am I not justified in placing it before the fertility of your lands and the facility of clearing them? Do away with the great lumbering industry which is carried on here by the most successful men in

Canada, the great lumber merchants, and I ask you what would you do with your abundant crops? You would be exactly in the same position as the farmers of the west, who, with the finest lands in the world, cannot dispose of their products, and are obliged to let them go at wretched prices. You see, therefore, that the presence of the lumberman is of vital importance to the existence of your colony. You see, too, that your lot depends upon the cultivation of the forest, and that I am right in telling you that the lumber manufacturers, far from being your enemies, are good and indispensable friends. I wish it was understood thus in every corner of the province, but above all in those places where the lumber trade furnishes, in good years and bad years, its half million to the treasury of the province, and where colonization seems capable of unlimited development. The Laurentian chain, extending from Temiscamingue to Lake St. John, should constitute an immense forest reserve, capable of feeding on the one hand the sources of our admirable irrigation system on the North St. Lawrence, and on the other hand of giving, through the means of forest industry to the new colonies founded in this second province of which I spoke just now, as advantageous a market as can be desired, inasmuch as these forests will be carefully guarded and worked.