

CANADIAN TIMBER TREES.—THEIR DESTRUCTION AND PRESERVATION.

BY A. T. DRUMMOND.

Apart from agriculture, no individual industry in Canada has such importance as the lumber trade. In the United States, industries based on the manufacture of lumber and timber are only exceeded in point of magnitude by the iron interests. The extent of territory on this Continent covered by forests, the number of men directly employed in preparing the products of these forests for market, and the very numerous and important industries to which the use of timber and lumber give rise, all point to the subject of our timber trees as of national interest. We have, in fact, little conception of the magnitude of the lumbering business in the country, until we are brought face to face with statistics in regard to it. About twenty-one per cent. of the whole American Continent is believed to be woodland. In North America alone, it is estimated that 1,460,000,000 acres are covered by trees, and of this quantity about 900,000,000 are in Canada. Contrast this with the acres of forests and woodlands in the European States. Prussia has, it is said, about 10,000,000 acres; Bavaria, 3,300,000, France, 2,700,000; whilst England and Belgium are so denuded of forests as to have but insignificant areas of these in proportion to their sizes. These vast woodlands in Canada include a very considerable portion of Ontario and the eastern provinces, and of British Columbia, whilst in Manitoba, the country, excepting in the Eastern and North-Western sections, is chiefly prairie, and in the North-West Territories, the true forests are largely along and north of the Saskatchewan.

A few facts will give some conception of the importance of these vast woodlands to us, and at the same time of the enormous annual drain on our lumbering resources now going on. In the three