



"I OBSERVE that you act as Canadian correspondent to the Chicago Timberman," remarked a gentleman to me the other day. I assured him that such was not the case, and enquired how he had arrived at such a conclusion. "Why," said he, "I have noticed that the Canadian correspondence in the Timberman consists almost entirely of matter which has previously appeared in THE CANADA LUMBERMAN." In the light of the above conversation, it does not require the aid of a microscope to discover the source from which our Chicago contemporary's Canadian correspondent draws his inspiration.

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Dows in Haliburton county there grows tamarack and balsam in abundance. The owner of some of this timber dropped in on me during fair week, and asked if there was any demand for the product of such timber, and why it wasn't quoted in THE LUMBERMAN'S prices current. The tamarack, he said, would produce lumber from 10 to 20 inches wide, equal in strength to hemlock, of better color, and capable of better finish. The balsam, which was of less diameter, but of great length, should cut satisfactorily into scantlings. My answer was that balsam and tamarack are only to be found in certain localities, and while abundant in a few places, the quantity generally available was probably too small to warrant dealers in handling the material. This opinion seemed to be borne out by a remark which my enquirer let fall during the conversation, viz., that although brought up on a bush farm, he had never seen a balsam tree prior to going to the county of Haliburton. He believes, however, that as pine and hemlock become more scarce, there will arise a demand for such woods as tamarack and balsam as substitutes, which opinion I doubt not is well founded.

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The worthy representative of Nipissing district in the Dominion parliament is Mr. James B. Klock, who, with his brother, Robert A., comprise the lumber firm of R. H. Klock & Co., with head office at Klock's Mills. A visit to Toronto a few days ago afforded "Eli" an opportunity of meeting Mr. Klock, who was en route to Montreal and Quebec. He informs me that while the United States market was never, perhaps, more depressed, the export trade from Canada, some of which is done through United States houses, is steadily improving. His firm are taking out a little square timber, and he thinks as a whole the quantity of square timber taken out this winter will probably be greater than last year, owing to the fact that the weak demand for lumber is causing some operators to turn their attention to timber. The change, however, is not a wise one, as it may result in over-stocking the British market. Regarding the extent of the season's operations in the woods, Mr. Klock is of the opinion that they may be

slightly curtailed, but this will not result in a reduction in the lumber output should the market improve, as many manufacturers in the Ottawa valley have a number of logs left over from this season.

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FROM surveys made from time to time by the Geological Survey at Ottawa, the statement has been made by Dr. Bell and others that there are to be found in the northern part of Ontario and Quebec large tracks of heavily timbered land, spruce predominating to a large extent. These reports have been questioned by some, who, probably, have given the matter little or no attention. When in the office of the Clerk of Forestry at Toronto the other day, I was shown two samples of timber which had been brought from the head of Lake Temiscamingue, one of cedar and the other of spruce. The diameter of the cedar was over two feet and of the spruce about eighteen inches. Heretofore it has been generally believed that about six or seven inches was the extent of the growth of the trees in that district, but this theory is now shown to be an erroneous one. No doubt it will be similarly shown that much unexplored country in the northern part of Ontario and Quebec possesses valuable timber, which, if properly conserved, will prove a perpetual source of revenue to the government. As the use of the logging railway becomes more general, with the consequent cheapening in the cost of construction thereof, sections of country which hitherto have remained unexplored will be under tribute to the lumberman. The system of floating logs down streams has already been abandoned in some sections in favor of the logging railway.

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ALTHOUGH Algonquin Park was set apart by the Ontario government as a reserve, and contains upwards of one million acres, little is as yet known of its character by the general public. Mr. Thomas Southworth, Clerk of Forestry, returned from a visit to the park early last month. He informs me that lumbering operations are being actively carried on, and one of the largest manufacturers is reported to have contracted for his entire cut of deals next season. The operations in the woods this winter, he thinks, will be on an extensive scale. "One who has not visited the park," said Mr. Southworth, "has little idea of its magnitude and forest wealth. The density of its forests is remarkable, and the only means of travel is by the numerous lakes and rivers. To attempt to travel through the woods is useless, and even in the winter time, when the snow is deep, the axe has to be brought into use before a toboggan can be taken through. It is estimated that 25 per cent. of the total area is water. All the licenses except one, which was granted many years ago, are for cutting the pine only, but there is considerable hardwood which will require to be cut at an early date. In my opinion it is a waste of wealth to allow timber to stand for years after maturity. The Ottawa, Arnprior and Parry Sound Railway is now completed to park headquarters, and affords splendid facilities for lumbermen." In speaking of the question of reforestation, Mr. Southworth remarked that the belief that the clearance of pine was always followed by a growth of other varieties was somewhat erroneous. On a tract of pine land in

the park which had been burned over, the small pine were to be seen growing between the birch and poplar, which clearly indicated that the pine seeds had not been altogether destroyed. He believed that under a proper system of forest preservation, by which fires would be prohibited, that pine would be succeeded by pine. The fact that pine was followed by a growth of other varieties was due to the destruction of the pine seeds by fire. The light seeds of other timber, which may be carried long distances by the wind, naturally take their place. The growth of the pine tree during the first ten years is very slow, but after a time it gradually outgrows the other varieties.

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A HALIFAX architect with whom I had a conversation recently informs me that it is no longer possible to obtain in Nova Scotia clear native pine for interior finish, the supply having become exhausted. Such pine as is now obtainable must be puttied and painted to make a presentable appearance. Such clear pine as is used is brought from Ontario, but owing to the distance it has to be carried, very little is imported. White wood, imported from the neighboring States, is chiefly employed as a substitute, but of course is not equal in quality. Most of the more pretentious buildings are now constructed of brick, and those of low cost of wood. The latter are shingled on the sides as well as the roof. The climate will not admit of the use of clap-boards. The moisture from the foggy atmosphere, followed by the heat of the sun's rays, causes the clap-boards to warp and split. The method was tried of boring out the centre of the log and sawing the boards diagonally to the centre, but even boards cut in this manner succumbed to the influence of the weather. Cedar shingles for roofing and siding are imported from Bangor, Maine, at a cost of from five to six dollars per thousand. The shingles are held in place by heavily galvanized nails, and when properly put on are said to have a life of about twenty-five years. It is not possible in this climate to use galvanized sheet iron for exterior cornices and ornamentation in the manner so common in Ontario. Stone, copper, and such like durable material, must be employed. While the cost of building is thus necessarily increased, there is less incentive to the dishonest use of materials.

TO MEND A CIRCULAR SAW.

Drill a one-fourth inch hole at the lower end of the crank, but do not countersink or rivet. Then drill a one-fourth inch hole one-half inch from the top through the crank, and countersink to center from both sides. Make a rivet that fits the sole slack, about twice as long as the saw is thick. File the ends true, then upset rivet by striking square on the end, holding the saw a little up from the face of the anvil. Then turn the saw over and upset from the other end. After upsetting so that it fills the hole plate out to fill countersink and finish smooth by filing or grinding. I have mended several in this way and never had any of them give away. One that I mended had a large piece broken out of it, afterwards spoiling the saw, but did not start the old crack. When the saw wears down nearly to the rivet drive out the rivet and put another lower down.