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LUMBER LOGIC.

The United States census bureau having set at rest with its reports of the amount of standing timber the fears of a pine famine which have been excited of late by ill-advised calculations, the trade may settle down to a practical consideration of the situation and calmly determine at what rate of consumption the best results may be secured from their investments. We have, occasionally, in a facetious way, expressed the right of the present generation to cut and slash away at the forests while they could, as the only means of securing the greatest return for their investments, well knowing that would be the course pursued, whatever advice may be given. At the same time we have always believed and tried to teach that the utmost economy in the use of the timber should prevail. It is a fact, more readily recognized by others than by themselves, that the American people are careless and extravagant in the use of timber. Knowing that, although there is yet standing in the forests of this country a vast amount of timber, there is none too much, and that the future welfare of mankind on this continent depends greatly upon the amount of desirable timber this generation shall be able to leave, and the amount of new growth that shall be started, an intelligent and practical system of forestry should be inaugurated by the state and national governments, while at the same time a more economical and considerate use of the product of the forests is entered upon by the people themselves, and tree culture is encouraged and pursued.

What of the winter, is a question started by the reports which come in from nearly all quarters. To the extent that snow and ice are relied on to facilitate the movement of logs, it may be said that the conclusions are not very favorable for a large stock of logs. The general testimony of those in the woods is, that the crop of logs banked this winter will fall a good way below the crop of last winter in quantity. The lumber producing regions which have been blessed with snow and ice are an exception, and the logs banked have been got to the grounds by real hard tugging. The consequence is, that the cost has been increased to a considerable extent. Advices from Wisconsin are to the effect that the indications are decidedly unfavorable for a full cut of logs, and the same can with certainty be said in Michigan.

As to the markets, it may be said that the firmness which marked the closing weeks of the season of 1881 has been projected into the new year, and from every direction favorable reports are received. The eastern markets are steady and the movement of timber and lumber is decidedly active. In Chicago, too, a good deal of stability is felt, and the Lumbermen's Exchange has decided to allow the January list to stand for February, with the exception of advancing

common boards fifty cents to one dollar per thousand. The prospects of the log crop excited a good deal of attention, and a divided opinion prevailed. On the Saginaw River there is no special change to note, but prices remain firm and transactions active.—*Lumberman's Gazette.*

OUR FORESTS.

These, with our mines, are the chief, indeed the only, sources which we have to rely upon for an increase of Provincial revenue. It is therefore a matter of great importance that they should be carefully looked after with a view to their protection and development.

By "looking after," in the case of our forests, we mean by the active out door supervision of some competent man, who should be able to point out the different kinds of land, namely, that which is fit and proper for settlement purposes and that which should be reserved for the uses of the lumberman alone.

It seems to be very generally conceded by those best qualified to judge, that a vast amount of damage has been done to the public demerit by forest fires started by settlers in clearings made in or in the neighbourhood of spruce or pine lands, and it is in land of that character that fires have proved to be the most destructive. We have talked with a person well conversant with our timber lands, and he informs us that many, very many, of our settlements which have had much public money spent on the roads and bridges leading to them would have been to-day of much more value and the settlers themselves would in all probability have been in better circumstances if no attempt had ever been made to clear an acre of lands in them.

In order to determine the character of land for settlement purposes, a considerable amount of knowledge is requisite, and it is certainly unwise for the Province to spend money as it does yearly in opening up roads for the purpose of bringing in settlers to burn up and destroy its very best property, while these very settlers themselves are injured by the act of placing them upon poor lands. There must be certainly yet a sufficient quantity of good land in the Province upon which we can place intending settlers. The present system of settlement without proper supervision, our informant tells us, costs the Province yearly many thousands of dollars which, he says, might just as well be saved to the country.

Another matter in connection with our forests also demands attention—it is the rewooding and protection of burnt districts which are growing up in young timber. Although nothing can perhaps be done in this matter at present, it is well that, looking to the future, we should begin to collect information about the growth of young woods, and ascertain the length of time which they require to attain a size which will render them of marketable value, and also as

to how these growing woods can best be protected from the destructive effects of forest fires, either by leasing at low rates to individuals who shall be bound to protect them under certain penalties, or by some other methods which investigation may prove to be most necessary and proper.

We daily hear of manufactories being started for the preparation of pulp from small woods, for the making of spools, etc. It is well that the public should be kept accurately informed as to where these small woods can be found sufficiently near the sea or railroad to be made use of. This information might be embodied in a yearly report, which being circulated abroad would offer a ready means of acquiring knowledge to such as may be desirous of obtaining information about our woods.—*St. John, N. B., Sun.*

CAN IT BE ACCOMPLISHED?

The reproduction of the timber which is being consumed in this country and in Europe is a subject which is engrossing the attention of not only the statesmen, but the press of the United States, and in fact the whole world. The subject is fraught with momentous consequences, not only to the people of the present day, but to the generations which shall succeed us. It is a very knotty problem, however, the satisfactory solution of which has not yet been accomplished. Many suggestions have been presented, which may be considered good, bad and indifferent. Conventions have been called and meetings held to take into consideration this important question and endeavor to devise some remedy for the evil which is presenting itself with so much force—the rapid destruction of our forests. Not only is this destruction being accomplished by the removal of the timber which is utilized for the requirements of the people, but the forest fires are also aiding in the work. If the loss of timber were the only loss in this direction it would be less serious, but it affects the climate, agriculture, rainfall and much else, as has been amply demonstrated, not only theoretically and scientifically, but practically. But the important question is not the destruction of timber, but its reproduction. Of course much can be accomplished in adopting measures to prevent its destruction, either wantonly or by the numerous forest fires by which it has been devastated heretofore; but its reproduction is a vast and gigantic undertaking, from which those engaged cannot hope or expect to receive any benefit, and their reward lies solely in the satisfaction and knowledge that by their efforts provision has been made for the prospective wants of future generations. This reproductive work is not to be accomplished in a day or a year, but it takes nearly a century to produce a forest; and hence the difficulty surrounding the question. Suggestions have been as numerous as blackberries, but many of them have been

fallacious and not susceptible of accomplishment. Bonuses have been suggested in the shape of remittances of taxes for tree planting, which is a good idea so far as it goes; but it will require some systematized endeavor and action on the part of the people, the state and the nation, for the accomplishment of so vast an undertaking as even to reproduce the present consumption of timber by the actual demands of the mechanical requirements of the age. If some of the conventions which have been called, therefore, shall succeed in the development of some plan which shall be productive of such great and grand results, an inestimable boon will have been conferred on future generations which is almost beyond the scope of comprehension. The task seems almost a hopeless one, however, because of the disposition evinced on the part of the people to take advantage of present chances and allow the future to take care of itself. United action, however, and the concentrated thought of the writers and statesmen of the country whose attention is being brought to the consideration of this momentous and important subject may yet succeed in devising some method which shall result in the accomplishment of the object sought, but like all subjects which is completely void of selfish considerations, it is likely to be a movement of slow growth.—*Lumberman's Gazette.*

MAMMOTH BELTING.

We were yesterday shown some mammoth leather belting which is being manufactured by Messrs. Rubin & Sadler, 594, 596 and 598 St. Joseph street, for the Stormont Cotton Company, the Quebec Lumber Company and Messrs. A. W. Ogilvie & Co., of Winnipeg, Manitoba. The order from the Stormont Cotton Company amounts to about \$7,000, and includes a 36 inch double driving belt, 143 feet in length, and weighing about 1,000 pounds, and two 24 inch driving belts, 151 feet in length, which are intended to run side by side on a 50 inch pulley, besides 18, 15 and 12 inch and a large number of smaller belts. The order from Messrs. A. W. Ogilvie & Co., is for their new mill in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and is for nearly \$5,000 worth of belting. The order includes a 36 inch double driving belt, 112 feet in length, a 24 inch double driving belt over 100 feet long, and a large number of smaller ones, both single and double. The belts that are being manufactured for the Quebec Lumber Company, Etchemin, Que., include a very fine 28 inch double driving belt for the main driving wheel of the Company's saw mill. Six of the largest of these belts were weighed, when it was found that they were nearly two tons in weight. The general appearance of the workmanship of these belts reflects the greatest credit on the firm, who are doing a large and thriving business in leather belting.—*Montreal Herald.*