



PUBLISHED
SEMI-MONTHLY.

The only Newspaper devoted to the Lumber and Timber Industries published in Canada

SUBSCRIPTION
\$2.00 PER ANNUM

VOL. 5.

PETERBOROUGH, ONT., AUGUST 15, 1885.

NO. 16

PRESENT CONDITION OF THE LUMBER TRADE.

Lumber, that is sawn lumber, has not taken that boom this season, which some had so confidently hoped for. A walk around the Chaudiere mills discloses the fact that a very large stock is on hand, but although that is the case, the mills are going full speed and the mills are going full speed and the buzz and zip of the machinery seems never to lull.

"How is the market this year?" enquired a *Free Press* reporter of a prominent lumberman to-day.

"Well, not a great deal of difference from last year. In the better quality of lumber the demand in the States is very brisk and prices are good, but unfortunately, we have not much of that species of lumber to dispose of."

"What percentage of first-class lumber do you calculate is cut annually at the Chaudiere mills?"

"We are of course obliged to cut an inferior quality of logs every year, so that the quality now cut is not so great a percentage as it formerly was. Of all the lumber cut just now, I think only about 25 per cent. can be reckoned as good, and made ready sale."

"Then how about the inferior qualities?"

"There is just about enough made out of the inferior quality of lumber to pay expenses and if there is a margin at all it is very small."

"Did the strike amongst the mill hands at Bay City, Saginaw and other points in Michigan have any effect in the demand?"

"On, not any visible effect. The state of Michigan has so many mills in operation, and the strike was of such short duration that it did not make any change in the market."

"Then the trade is on the average fairly prosperous?"

"Yes, fairly prosperous, and we expect the demand will rather increase before winter than otherwise."

"Could you give an idea of the amount of stock carried by the different mills?"

"No, I could not, nor do I think any of the owners at the Chaudiere could give you any thing like an approximate estimate from the fact that sales are going on every day and sawing—one pile going up and another down—so that nothing like a fair estimate could be arrived at."

"What do you think of the square timber trade. I see that one Ottawa lumberman got 30 cents a foot not long since?"

"Yes, I believe he did. It was a good big price, but remember the average of 65 feet is far above the common. From all I know there is very little timber of that size to go down this year. The square timber is small in quantity this year and not big on an average. This part of the lumber trade is growing less every year. There are many causes. In the first place the lumberman has to go very far back, that is, very high on the streams, where he looks for the

making of a raft. Then he runs the risk of having his timber stuck, being more unwieldy than logs, and requiring more water to propel the square than round stuff. Then again of late years the market was very shaky and unreliable for square timber, the European demands having fallen off from some cause or another."

"The lumbering enterprise has seen its best days I suppose," prebounced the reporter.

"Oh no, I look to the day, and not a very distant one, in fact before the laps of ten years, when the lumbering industry of the Ottawa Valley will be brisker than ever."

"How will that come about?"

"Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, the three Eastern States that are competing with Canada in the lumber market just now, cannot long, hold out at the present rate, their forests are disappearing, everything is swept off, nothing too small is left uncut. Now this dreadful slaughter cannot last long, in fact, people who have taken the pains to probe into this matter say that at the present rate of cutting the three great lumber states of the east will be totally devoid of marketable trees, and the demand for lumber must naturally look to the Dominion to supply the market."

"Yes I have a notion that the future has a bright outlook and if men engaged in the industry feel the times a little slack, they will make up for it in the time when Canada will command the market east of the Rocky Mountains."—*Ottawa Free Press.*

THE EASTERN SPRUCE TRADE.

Reports from the spruce logging sections confirm the statements made that the June rise had enabled all the mills to secure a good crop of logs, and already the various eastern markets have show a marked change in the general aspects of trade in that particular wood. The demand for spruce this season has been large, and previous to the June tide it was impossible for many of the mills to keep up with the orders received. The condition of the log crop aided by the unusual demand for the lumber, caused prices to advance, and remain firm at a figure somewhat in advance of values for several previous years, and even when the news was confirmed that the mills had been able to secure plenty of logs, it was claimed by many of the dealers that the market would not react, from the fact that but few of the yards had as yet been stocked, as about all the spruce which had up to the present time been shipped had entered into actual use in the buildings now in process of construction.

Under such a condition of the market, it did not seem at all probable that the spruce manufacturers would relax the profitable grasp they unquestionably held upon the future trade, but it appears that our estimate of the mill men was slightly overdrawn. Many of the

eastern mills are running to their full capacity, and shipping their product to Boston and New York markets to be sold by commission houses, a fact which shows them to be cutting beyond actual orders, and the consigning of the over supply to either of the markets mentioned has the effect of weakening values, and at the same time causing yard dealers to delay stocking up until they have been fully able to test the manufacturers' necessity for funds. In view of the fact that large quantities of spruce will be yet required to supply the actual demand, it seems foolishness on the part of a few short sighted manufacturers to blast the hopes of the entire trade by adopting a course, the result of which might, by ordinary foresight, be so clearly seen from the beginning. How much better it would be to go slow through the summer months and saw only for actual requirements, thereby nursing the trade until buyers find it actually necessary to make purchases, in which event manufacturers would be practically able to control the business in their own interests. It would be the correct thing for the spruce manufacturers' association to assert its influence, if it has any, about this time and show what it was organized for. It can do much towards regulating the product, and, that matter settled, the price will regulate itself to the satisfaction of all.

If the estimated shortage of 115,000,000 feet in the crop of spruce logs in Maine, as reported by certain large mill men, is correct, it seems to be the height of folly for even the smallest operator to consign any portion of his cut to be sold at auction, for, in view of the situation as outlined in the foregoing, the lumber will be wanted for actual use before use before the close of the season. *Northwestern Lumberman.*

ARTIFICIAL WEATHERING OF WOOD.

In an article on the preparation of wood for car finish, the *National Car Builder* mentions a Japanese method of treating wood for back grounds of ornamental work which it regards as well worthy of attention. It consists, it says, in removing the softer portions of the fiber so as to leave the remaining grain in high relief—a sort of artificial weathering by which the softer portions are worn away. The method has not been very clearly described, but it appears from the information given that materials like Dutch rushes are employed to scour or grind away the surface. The boards are sometimes quartersawed, but more frequently they seem to have been taken nearly through the heart and at a small angle with it. This gives long sweeping curves to the grain. After the required relief has been attained the wood is filled. The final coats seem to be a hard wax finish without a polish. For panels the effect is superb. As a back ground for metal work in

relief, or for carving it would be difficult to find anything richer. To produce such work does not appear very difficult. Although the cost of such panels in Japan is very great, they need not be expensive here. The hand labor necessary for wearing down the wood may be easily replaced by machinery. The desired effect would then be obtained quickly as well as easily. Probably the same results can be obtained by the use of the sand blast or with steel brushes. The first car builder who introduces this style of ornamentation will have something not only unique but beautiful. In many respects it would be more attractive than the stamped leather and the Lincrusta, now so fashionable. As patterns for stamped leather, these wood designs would be very desirable, and if we cannot have the original, it might be possible to get an imitation by the electrotype process which would answer every purpose.

GOOD ADVICE.

If you take up a trade, push it to perfection. As an apprentice, be prepared for many unpleasant things. To begin at the foot means more or less drudgery. Your inexperience will provoke ridicule, contempt, and sometimes abuse. Because you are a boy, any man in the shop may feel free to order you about. Be obstinate, sulky and dilatory, and none of them will care how long it takes you to reach a higher round in the ladder. Be cheerful, obliging and civil, and you will find every man ready and willing to speak a good word for you and help along your skill.

When you have become a finished workman, bear in mind the well worn but truthful maxim that "a rolling stone gathers no moss." Steady work at fair wages is what piles up the dollars. A large share of our workmen are over ready to listen to glowing accounts of the high wages paid somewhere else, and they spend a good portion of the year looking for the place. Next to be settled in your mind, be economical. One of the chief causes for dissatisfaction among mechanics and laborers springs from the lack of good management and the fact that so many are spendthrifts. In every city in the land a large proportion of workmen chew, or smoke, or drink. Their tobacco injures the system and robs the wallet. Drinks could be better replaced by cold water. Two dollars per week are taken to maintain injurious and selfish habits, and yet those who squander the most are loudest in their complaints about hard times.—*Detroit Free Press.*

Two guards at the St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary have been suspended and three others fined one month's pay as the result of an investigation into charges of insubordination and misconduct preferred by the Warden of the institution.