

years ago (the census of 1870 returning the whole lumber product of all kinds in every State at 12,755,543,000 feet), while the cut of shingles last year, in the same region, was 4,698,975,800 pieces, made almost exclusively from white pine, which, if added to that sawn into lumber, would make the total consumption of this timber from that section alone fully 9,000,000,000 feet.

But this frightful slaughter of the forests has about reached its end. The 29,000,000,000 feet reported as standing in lower Michigan ten years ago, by the census of 1880, had dwindled to but 3,000,000,000 or one-tenth that amount last year, as was ascertained after investigation by the editor of the *Chicago Timberman*; and if we deduct from the total of 84,170,000,000 feet, estimated by the census of 1880 as then standing in these three States, that cut during the past ten years, which amounted to 74,463,054,858 feet, it would leave only 9,706,945,142 feet remaining, or but one year's stock on hand, an amount that would have been about consumed in making the 41,303,373,085 shingles turned out during that time, so that had the lumbermen confined their operations to the same character of timber as was estimated for the census, there would not be a merchantable white pine tree standing in that whole territory to-day!

But the necessities of the lumbermen compelled the cutting of inferior white pine, red pine, hemlock, basswood, white and black ash, and such other floatable timbers as could be obtained by water, as well as hard woods and pine inaccessible to convenient drivable streams, which are now brought to the mills by rail, or sawn into lumber by mills erected in the vicinity of the timber, so that their operations on a reduced scale may be continued for a short time; but the end is almost at hand. Even to-day, for every mill owner who has five years stock remaining, there are ten who have not one; and their mills are being dismantled—burnt-over stump lands are being again cut over—all floatable timber of every kind is being taken to the mills to be converted into lumber, and they are now making onslaughts on our Canadian pine to keep their, otherwise useless, saw mills in operation. Now, while this has been the result of the operations of the lumbermen in the Northwest, it must not be presumed that those they left behind in the older sections neglected to employ their energies in using up the remaining forests of spruce and hardwoods, for they, too, have been equally successful in their efforts "to get rid of the timber."

The comparatively small amount of uncut spruce ten years ago in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, returned at 7,265,000,000 feet, with an annual cut of 653,281,000 feet, equal in ten years to 6,532,810,000 feet, would appear to leave but 732,190,000 feet on hand, or a little over one year's supply; and the spruce in the Adirondack region of New York, estimated ten years ago at 5,000,000,000, with a limited amount in the mountain districts of Pennsylvania, has now been pretty well harvested. So that in this whole vast territory it is now really hard to find any considerable area