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Value in Sawdust. A vast amount of potential wealth has been, and is still being, sacrificed in connection with the lumbering industry of Canada, through the waste of that by-product of the mills, known as sawdust. In the manufacture of lumber it is of course inevitable that a very considerable per centage of the best of the timber should be reduced to a condition quite valueless for commercial purposes. This part of the wood has not only been wasted, but has been a serious injury by obstructing streams, and the necessity of burning it has in many instances imposed very considerable expense upon the manufacturer. In some parts of the world sawdust has already come to have an important commercial value, and that, one would suppose, might soon come to be the case in this country. Some kinds of sawdust are valuable on account of the turpentine and other products which may be extracted from them, and all kinds are capable of utilization as fuel. In Austria sawdust is pressed into the shape of bricks for fuel purposes. The sawdust is impregnated with a mixture of tarry substances and heated to the proper temperature; it is then passed over a plate of iron heated by steam, from which a screw conveyer takes it to the screw-press, where it is compressed into briquettes measuring 6 by 2½ by 1½ inches. The calorific power is about the same as that of lignite, with but four per cent. of ash. The cost of manufacturing the briquettes is said to be about 16 cents per thousand and they sell for \$1.00.

The Mosquito. We do not know that anybody has ever expressed affection for the mosquito. Probably no one has been moved to sing his praises—or should we say *her* praises? for we believe that the men of science say that the biting mosquito—which certainly is the kind which inhabits this country is a “her.” But peradventure some may have gone so far as to feel a measure of respect for the mosquito because of her independence and persistence, for the cheerful, business-like way in which she goes about her savage business and the openness with which she makes her attack. For the mosquito, unlike some other tormentors of the human race, does not steal silently and without observation upon her prey, and only opens a murderous attack from a secure ambush or some inaccessible point of vantage from which dislodgement is impossible. The mosquito gives you fair warning by lifting up its war-cry and rushing openly to the attack. But these virtues, such as they are, do not avail to make mosquitoes agreeable companions. Most persons are profoundly annoyed by their presence. Some prefer a cloud of tobacco smoke to their company, and even Christian Scientists, who do not believe that mosquitos can bite, are suspected of not being quite serenely at ease in an atmosphere too strongly impregnated with “mortal belief” in the presence of mosquitos. For ourselves, we have no doubt that blood can be drawn by a mosquito as surely as by “a woman of society”—though certainly with much less celerity and dexterity of aim. At any rate we are of the opinion that, unless and until the mosquito shall conquer her habit of making herself numerous in places to which she is not invited, and shall overcome her innate tendency to obtrude her long nose so unpleasantly into other peoples’ affairs, her company will be endured under protest except by that elect company who have received power to relegate the mosquito, with all the ills that flesh is heir to, to that unsubstantial limbo over which hang the shadows of mortal belief. With the progress of knowledge in the world it is becoming apparent, it would seem, that the mosquito is, without mitigation, the enemy and tormentor of mankind. It used to be said that the blood-thirsty insects probably served a benevolent purpose in using up the malarious gases of pools and marshes, and that if it were not for the mosquitos the people would suffer much more from malaria, so that we endeavored to part with some of our blood with a philosophical resignation, in view of the important compensation. Now, however, the men of science are telling us that quite the opposite is true, that malarious disease is propagated in the human system by the bites of some mosquitos, and probably in no other way. It is but fair however to our people, as well as to our mosquitos, to say that the mosquitos inhabiting this country are generally

not of the malaria-breeding variety. Further, the men of science tell us they have demonstrated that the mosquito—probably another variety still—is responsible for yellow fever. In fact the indictment against the mosquito has now taken on a very serious character.

Martyred Missionaries. News of the death, at the hands of savages in New Guinea, of two English missionaries, the Revs. James Chalmers and Oliver Tompkins, sent out by the London Missionary Society, was received some weeks ago. A circumstantial account of the terrible affair, given by a white man of the missionary party, named Ford, who was fortunate enough to escape, has now come to hand. The missionaries had left Brisbane on March 1st for an exploring and evangelistic tour among the people of New Guinea. The missionaries had been on the Island the previous summer, and had planned for the present year quite an extensive trip which was to last for two months. Many Americans were working in gold diggings near the coast where the missionaries landed, and in that part of the Island the natives appeared friendly. Six natives from the coast accompanied the party. They had proceeded some 75 miles, and the people in the villages passed had shown a friendly attitude. Then trouble was encountered. The missionary party arrived at a village the people of which were at war with another tribe. The King of the village accused them of being spies, and demanded that the men of the missionary party should remain and help his warriors fight their enemies, but it would appear that no chance was given them to save their lives even in this way. They were kept prisoners and closely guarded. Meanwhile the native warriors of the King suffered repulse at the hands of their enemies, and the King’s daughter, who was herself a warrior and otherwise a person of great importance in the tribe, was severely wounded. Her superstitious feelings were aroused against the white men, and she demanded their death. The pleadings, arguments and threats of the missionaries were all in vain. Mr. Chalmers was first struck down, and afterwards, when he had but partly regained consciousness, was the first to suffer death. Then two native attendants were killed and their flesh roasted and eaten. Afterwards Mr. Tompkins suffered a like fate with Mr. Chalmers, the savage murderers drinking the warm life-blood of the missionaries. Mr. Ford was spared it would seem for another occasion, but in the meantime he managed to escape and returned to the coast, where he informed the British representative of what had occurred, and a week later guided a party—sent apparently by the military authorities—back to the scene of the terrible tragedy, where summary vengeance was executed upon the murderous savages. Mr. Chalmers was a missionary of many years experience. He is described as tall and well-formed, a man of commanding presence and magnetic personality. He had been frequently exposed to dangers among the natives, but had been remarkably successful in dealing with them. The news of his martyrdom and that of his colleague has made a deep impression in England.

South African Affair. Replying to a question in the Imperial House of Commons on June 17th, Mr. Broderick, Secretary for War, gave the information that there were 40,229 persons in the “concentration camps” of the Transvaal and Orange River colonies. The deaths in these camps for the month of May number 98 women 318 children. So great a mortality is a sufficient demonstration that the conditions under which these people are kept are in a high degree unsanitary. The announcement was received with groans by the Irish members and cries of “Scandalous.” Mr. Broderick informed the House that the authorities were arranging for the release of those women and children who had friends to receive them, but that government could not undertake to feed them in isolated positions. The long-looked for end of the war is not yet at hand. De Wet met with defeat at the hands of Eloit’s column on June 6, with considerable tons of supplies, rifles and ammunition, besides 20 men killed and wounded and 45 taken prisoners, but this was offset a few days later by the Boers surprising 250 Australians of the Victorian mounted rifles, of whom 18 were killed 42 wounded,

52 escaped and the rest were taken prisoners. Too quick-firing guns were also captured by the Boers. Lord Kitchener, in a despatch from Bloemfontein, sends the following report of Boer casualties since his last weekly telegram, exclusive of the killed and wounded accounted for in the fight with DeWet, mentioned in his despatch of last Saturday: Killed, 24; wounded, 14; prisoners, 265; surrendered, 165; rifles captured, 137; small arm ammunition rounds, 8,200; waggons, 198; horses, 1,500; cattle, 3,000. Among the latest prisoners captured by the British is Mr. Tengbergen, the landdrost, a relative of Mrs. Botha, the wife of the Boer commandant-in-chief, who is now in Europe. Landdrost von Vrandis, of Piet Retief, has also been taken prisoner.

The Nova Scotia Western Association.

The Nova Scotia Western Association convened at Clarence with the Paradise and Clarence church, on Saturday, June 15th, at 10 a. m., in its fifty-first annual session.

A short season was spent in prayer and praise in which the blessing of God was invoked on the coming meetings of the body.

In the absence of the clerk, Rev. W. L. Archibald, on account of the serious illness of his mother, Rev. E. T. Miller and Bro. C. Morse were chosen as clerk and assistant clerk, pro tem.

After the list of delegates was prepared, the Association proceeded to the election of officers which resulted in the choice of Rev. W. F. Parker, pastor of the Temple church, Yarmouth, as Moderator, Rev. W. L. Archibald as Clerk, Rev. E. T. Miller and Bro. C. Morse as Assistant Clerks, and S. N. Jackson as Treasurer.

This was followed by an address of welcome by the Clerk of the church, Bro. S. N. Jackson, which was happily responded to by Pastor Porter, of Bear River.

The Committee of Arrangements reported according to a programme previously prepared, which was followed by the filling of vacancies on the different committees.

Seven new pastors who have settled within the bounds of the Association during the past year, viz., D. Price, E. A. McPhee, E. E. Daley, B. H. Howe, L. A. Cooney, and W. Flaier were given a hearty welcome to the work of the body by Pastor Saunders of Ohio, which was fittingly responded to by those brethren. Prayer was offered by Brethren A. Cohoon and L. D. Morse, and the benediction pronounced by Pastor Blackadar.

After the second session opened at 2:30 o’clock with prayer by Pastor Cooney, a season of prayer which was both edifying and uplifting. A cordial invitation to seats was extended to all visiting brethren of sister churches, among whom were Revs. C. Goodspeed, J. W. Mansing, W. H. Warren, T. B. Layton and Bro. G. A. McDonald.

A Committee on Questions in Letters was then appointed consisting of J. H. Saunders, C. Goodspeed, A. Cohoon, E. J. Grant, I. W. Porter, M. W. Brown, and D. Price.

A digest of the letters was then read by Bro. Charles Morse. This was discussed by Brethren Cohoon, McPhee, Porter, (I. W.) Langille, Balcom, and Miller, and S. Spurr, and Dea. Wm. A. Morse.

The letters from the churches show a decrease of membership. The total additions were 409, of whom 282 were by baptism and 127 by letter and restoration. The decrease by deaths and other causes was 599. Only 38 churches reported baptism and 40 report no increase. Those reporting the largest increase were 3rd Yarmouth, 26; 1st Sable River, 24; Lower Granville, 20; Nictaux 13; 1st Ragged Island, 14; Digby Neck 2nd, 17; Clements, 19; Lockport, 24.

At three o’clock Rev. J. H. Saunders, D. D., addressed the Association on “The Inter-relation of Baptism to Communion,” which emphasized the principles and practices of Baptist churches. It was a thoughtful and vigorous discussion of the theme, and was so well received by the body that a request was made for its publication in the *Messenger and Visitor*.

Saturday evening was given up to the discussion of the ever recurring subject of Temperance. The report was presented by Pastor Langille, in which Christian people were urged to unite with all workers for Prohibition. Pastors were urged to keep the subject well to the fore in all their public and private ministrations and the members of our churches were asked that in the exercise of their franchise they should vote only for such men as

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