

where the wear of soft wood under similar conditions is half an inch per annum. The Saw Miller's Association, of Melbourne, recently waited on the Victorian minister of lands to ask him to take certain steps calculated to aid in the development of export of wood blocks for street paving and the suggestion was made that blocks that had been down for a number of years in the streets of Melbourne should be taken up and sent to Europe and America as samples of the durability of this kind of paving. One great difficulty that will meet the Australians in the development of timber trade with Great Britain, wherever there is competition with America, will be the freight. Mr. Scott admits that it will hardly be possible to compete in freight to England with America. On another page we publish an article giving interesting particulars of the nature of Australian hardwoods.

#### WOOD PAVEMENTS.

WHERE wood paving is growing into large disfavor in Canadian cities the opposite is the case in many parts of Great Britain and on the continent. The methods adopted there in placing the blocks are no doubt of a more careful and scientific character, but the experiments that have been made with wood paving are from almost every standpoint of a satisfactory character. In Berlin investigations have been going on for a period of fifteen years to discover, if possible, the best paving wood for the most frequented streets, and especially those subject to a heavy teaming traffic. Granite blocks and asphalt have both been tried in these cases. Recent reports state that the authorities of Berlin, after these very thorough methods of investigation, have concluded to maintain the wood paving where there are horse car lines, and have already paved with wood 66,600 square metres, using 3,460,000 blocks, or 52 blocks to the square metre. These tests cover 42 streets, squares and bridges, and of the woods used 23,000 square metres were paved with German pine, 15,000 with Swedish pine, 14,700 with beech, 1,000 with American yellow pine, and 3,200 with American cypress. In Paris wood paving has been given the preference over asphalt for the boulevards and pleasure drives, and is also preferred on the streets subject to great wagon traffic. The greater part of the wood used for paving in Paris is spruce from the department of Landes. Some foreign woods have been used, including Jarrah and Karri from Australia. Commenting on these investigations Hardwood remarks: "The great enemy of wood pavements is the combination of owners of the great asphaltum beds in Trinidad and elsewhere, who have used every possible means to discredit the use of wood, for the purpose of advancing their own interests. The European authorities have submitted these questions to thoroughly educated and practical engineers, who, after tests covering a decade of years or more, have decided what is best. Their example might well be followed by the authorities of American cities (what of Canada?), where at present boodle seems to be the only test." City Engineer Keating, in a report presented to the Toronto Board of Works a few days since, has this to say of cedar blocks, in a municipality where the prejudice against this method of paving is strong: "I am aware that there is considerable opposition to cedar block pavements, on the ground that in a few years they become rough and uneven, but it cannot be denied that the existing cedar block pavements have done good service in their day, and that they are the cheapest class of pavement which can be laid in this city at present. If their assessment lifetime is limited to five years on gravel or boards and eight years on concrete, and the surface could be entirely renewed at the expiration of these periods, this class of pavement would probably be more popular with the public than it is to-day."

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

LUMBERMEN of the Maritime Provinces are experiencing some trouble, owing to the rapid rising of a number of the streams, and also from ice jams that have taken place in some of the rivers. At Marysville, the home of Alex. Gibson, the water a few days since rose a foot and a half within an hour after the ice started, and the saw mill had to close down consequently. At Bedeque, P. E. I., the heavy freshets produced serious

trouble. Bridges and mill dams were washed away in short time. It is not anticipated, however, that the trouble will be at all general or continuous.

THE litigation that has been pending effecting the validity of the charter of the Ontario and Western Lumber Co., of Rat Portage, Ont., has found an ending in the Dominion Government announcing that the fiat that had been issued against the company had been withdrawn. This is considered tantamount to a decision that the charter has been sustained and the proceedings to annul the company's charter will not now be entertained. Large financial interests were at stake in the litigation, and it was feared that if the charter was annulled that it would open up questions far reaching and most serious in their results. For the sake of the lumber industries of this section of the province, the present news will be welcomed.

ONE of the leading hardwood points is Grand Rapids, Mich. Located there are a number of the best equipped and most extensive furniture factories of the States. Where at Saginaw, Bay City, and other points in this state industries for the manufacture of pine flourish, Grand Rapids gives its special attention to hardwoods. All indications point to a busy season this spring and summer. Never before, we are told, was so much hardwood lumber cut as last winter, and a prominent lumber dealer states that 350,000,000 feet would be cut in Grand Rapids before September next. The Grand Rapids Chair Co. has banked 2,500,000 feet; The Grand Rapids Barrel Co., 7,700,000 feet; The Veneer Co., 5,000,000; Harrison Waggon Works, 2,000,000; Widdicomb Furniture Co., 5,000,000, and other firms have hardwood lumber banked to swell the sum to over 25,000,000 feet. The situation finds a measurable parallel at many other points, emphasizing what we have said in these columns before, that the hardwood trades will, more and more in the future, assume improved and larger conditions. Considering that there yet remains a considerable quantity of hardwoods in Canada, and especially in different points in Ontario, lumbermen here are interested in this growth of the hardwood industry.

CERTAIN privileges granted by the Ontario Government at the recent session of the Local Legislature to Edward V. Douglas, of Philadelphia, and Francis H. Clergue, of Bangor, Me., is an indication of the importance that is attached to the pulp industry of the province. These parties represent a syndicate, who have secured control of the large water power at Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. The proposal is to utilize this power for electric purposes and build up, if possible, a large manufacturing district. Pulp and paper mills will be among the leading industries. The syndicate in this agreement promises to erect a mill at a cost of \$200,000, and to expend further sums, which would amount, in addition to what they have already invested in the enterprise, to about \$200,000 more. The expectation is that 400 hands will be employed for ten months in the year. In consideration of the establishing of a factory on this basis the syndicate have been granted the privilege of 50 sq. miles of timber for their use, from which they could cut wood as they desired, paying to the government twenty cents a cord for spruce and ten cents for other varieties, for eight years, the price to be thereafter fixed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. They are also to be allowed to cut elsewhere, if necessary, wood sufficient to keep their mills running for the next twenty-one years, but the amount cut within the fifty-mile reserve in any year in which they cut elsewhere must never be less than one twenty-first part of the entire quantity required for the year. The present price charged by the government for the wood as named, is spruce twenty-five cents a cord, and for other kinds twelve and one-half cents per cord. This will show the extent of the concession in this particular. The proposition, as explained by the Hon. Mr. Hardy, was favorably received by all parties in the House, though the opportunity was not lost by the Conservative leaders to have a little fun at the expense of a Reform Government ready to grant protection to Canadian industries. The pulp industry is reaching remarkable proportions in Canada. Senator Warner Miller, a prominent American manufacturer, interested

in pulp mills, when in Montreal recently, stated that Canadian spruce was about the best material in the world for the manufacture of pulp. Within ten years this industry in Canada has reached a point where nearly \$3,000,000 of capital is invested, and the annual output exceeds \$1,000,000. United States capitalists are undoubtedly looking to Canada for their supplies of pulp-wood, even almost to a greater extent than are Michigan lumbermen looking here for pine.

THE question whether Cypress is a hard wood or a soft wood has given rise to the larger question, whether hard woods and soft woods are properly classified by lumbermen. The fact is a number of woods as much entitled to be termed soft woods as white pine are always listed as hardwoods. The primary cause of the erroneous classification seems to have arisen from the fact that in the earlier days of lumbering pine was the wood chiefly considered. It was put down as a soft wood, and all other woods were hardwoods, and this classification has remained practically unchanged up to the present time. Even when wrong it is not a simple matter in business to disturb conditions that custom, if not right, has made law. This has been noticed in the changes in methods of weighing and measuring. And yet it is best always to have right prevail. The New York Lumber Trade Journal has taken the initiative in the classification of lumber, and enlisted the services of Mr. B. E. Fernow, chief of the division of forestry, for the United States. The woods are divided into two classes, viz: A, coniferous (non-porous) woods; B, broad leaf (porous) woods; and to make the classification more correct, class B is divided thus: A, hardwoods; B, soft woods. Under this classification red cedar (pencil cedar), red cedar (Pacific arbor vitae), white cedar, southern, (juniper), white pine, basswood, butternut, cottonwood, sycamore, white wood, (same as poplar, yellow poplar and tulip) are classified as soft woods, whilst long leaf pine, short leaf pine, eastern spruce, (black and white), Douglas (same as red and yellow fir), sitka (western spruce), ash, beech, birch, cherry, chestnut, elm, hickory, mahogany, maple, oak and walnut are classified as hardwoods.

WHAT the log supply will be is always a live question from the time the loggers leave the woods until the drives are all down. Necessarily a good deal of speculation is indulged in, for the reason that so many conditions exist to alter the situation before the season is finally over. The possibilities at present are bright enough in some sections, whilst in others there are complaints of low water, and it is not unlikely that considerable quantities of logs may be tied up at some points. Of the actual cut it may be said that in Ontario this will not differ very much from that of a year ago; if anything, it will likely run somewhat less. The big fires of last summer increased the cut in Minneapolis, Wisconsin and Michigan, it being generally stated that one concern alone, the Diamond Match Co., of Otonogon, Mich., has banked 180,000,000 feet of logs, perhaps the largest cut made by a single concern. In the Wisconsin Valley a reduction has been made, but this stands out as the one great exception on the Wisconsin river. Because of the fires the cut in Minneapolis is heavy, though at this point there is some question whether the logs will all come down. Michigan has reached the point where the cut does not figure with as much importance as in former years, and lumbermen from there rest, as has been usual for some time, on Canada for their supply. The Secretary of the Northeastern Lumbermen's Association, of Boston, has been figuring out that there will be a large shortage of spruce logs in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, but, as will be noticed from our New Brunswick letter, lumbermen in those provinces are disposed to doubt the statement. So far as information comes to us, it would appear as though the cut will by no means be a small one. From some sections, certainly, a good many logs will be brought down the streams. British Columbia lumbermen are just now getting to work logging. The seasons there do not run parallel with those in the east.

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