



PUBLISHED
SEMI-MONTHLY.

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

SUBSCRIPTION
\$2.00 PER ANNUM.

VOL. 2.

PETERBOROUGH, ONT., MAY 15, 1882.

NO. 10.

PRESERVING THE FORESTS.

At the first day's session of the Forestry Congress at Cincinnati a letter of some length was received from Richard von Steuben, the Royal Chief Forester of the German Empire. After expressing his sincere regrets at not being able to accept the invitation to be present, the writer said:—"There can be no doubt that every country requires a certain quantity of well-stocked woods, not only to supply the demands for building material and fuel, but more especially to secure suitable meteorological conditions, preserve the fertility of the soil, and out of sanitary considerations. The ratio of the minimum quantity and judicious local distribution of the indispensable forest to the aggregate area cannot be expressed by a universal rule, but the same can only be approximated by scientific investigation. Above all things, it is essential to prevent forest destruction where such would injuriously affect the fertility of the soil. It is important to preserve and to cultivate judiciously those forests which stand at the head-waters and on the banks of the largest streams, because through their indiscriminate destruction fluctuations in the stage of water, sand-bars, and inundations of arable lands are occasioned. In Germany, and especially in my more narrowly bounded fatherland, Prussia, it is regarded as of the greatest importance, not only to preserve the forests already there, but to extend them as much as possible. In the national appropriation bill, large sums are set apart for the purchase of such lands as are unfit for cultivation and for utilizing them in planting trees. In the German Empire 25.7 per centum of the aggregate area is occupied by forests. In Prussia the per centage of wooded land is 23.4 per centum of the entire area. Of the Prussian forests about one-third belong to the State, which produce a gross income of about 25,000,000 marks.

"The Government foresters," continues the letter, "come within the province of the Minister of Agriculture and Forests. At the head of this department is the chief master of the forests. In each Governmental district is one forest-master, who serves as a member of the Governmental commission, and the entire forest area is divided into 680 principal forest districts. The forest government is devised with the minutest detail, and may well lay claim to being termed exemplary. It strives not only to utilize the forest as a source of income, but the Government forests are used to continually satisfy the requirements of the country. In order to obtain a situation as Government officer of the forests, a course of study of several years at the Forest Academy is required, after which follows about ten years' preparatory service before a definite engagement can be made, the qualifications for which must be proved by several examinations. Even for the minor positions in the Forestry Department, several years' apprenticeship and

considerable preparatory service connected with the military service in the hunters' corps and two examinations are required. Besides the real Government forests, there are the forests of the Faithful Royal Veterans, Community Forests, Corporation Forests, &c." After explaining the Prussian and German laws relative to the clearing of timber land, the Royal Forester says: "It is evident that these Prussian regulations are not all applicable to the United States, as circumstances are so entirely different there. Unfortunately I am not sufficiently familiar with them to venture an opinion as to judicious measures to be taken for the protection of the forests, and it would have given me great pleasure to have informed myself on the grounds, and to have taken part in the deliberations. I trust you will grant me the favor to inform me of the result of your sessions, and consider me always ready to give all desired information concerning our forest arrangements."

"READY MADE" DWELLINGS.

A gentleman in Ottawa, Ont., has entered into a speculation which might profitably be taken advantage of in this region. It is nothing else than the construction of wooden dwelling houses in sections all ready to be put in position in readiness for occupancy. These houses being built at Ottawa, are intended for Winnipeg and other places in Manitoba, where they are to be transported on flat cars. Some of them are to be sold, and some of them are owned by the builder, who intends when they reach their destination to rent them as a speculation. The buildings are to be built in a substantial manner in sections to fit flat cars, and with a special view to being easily put together when they arrive at their destination. It is calculated that two or three men will be able to put one of these buildings together in a couple of days, which when erected, will be large enough for an ordinary family. The size projected by the gentleman who is entering into the speculation, as being most desirable and most convenient for transportation is 18x22 feet for the main building and a kitchen attached about 14 feet square. We can see no reason why this could not be made a profitable business investment in this vicinity. Lumber could certainly be procured at first cost, and the manufactured buildings could be loaded here for shipment to any portion of the great west. It is well known that buildings have and are being erected in some of the western territories, which are barren of native timber, from lumber procured at Chicago, which city gets a large proportion of its stock from the city and other portions of Michigan. As the buildings of the size alluded to could be built in sections, here, by machinery much cheaper than they could be constructed by hand from the rough, at the point of destination, and as the transportation

of the completed building would cost much less than the rough material from which it is built, a project of the kind alluded to seems quite feasible, and could be made a paying business, from the fact that there would be no lack of demand at the points for which they would be intended. But the business would not be confined simply to supplying the territories into which lumber has to be imported, but a demand would undoubtedly spring up for them even in the thickly wooded countries all along the lines of the different railroads, because of their adaptability and cheapness, especially in cases where farmers adjacent to the lines of railroad reach a position whereby they are enabled to supersede their log huts of the pioneer days with something more convenient and attractive. The project is at least worthy of consideration by parties who have idle capital and are seeking an investment of the same, as it would not only furnish the investment sought, but probably a profitable source of employment. — *Lumberman's Gazette.*

RELATION OF FIRES TO THE WEATHER.

A recent issue of the *Chronicle* discusses from an insurance point of view the probable influence of atmospheric conditions upon fire losses, the main factor considered being humidity. The discussion, which is a very suggestive, not to say important one, is not confined to the generally recognized increase in local fires during specially protracted seasons of dry weather, but seeks rather to discover the broader relations of general rainfall throughout the United States, and the observed fluctuations in the aggregate fire losses, year by year and month by month. "Assuming that the human hazard is a constant, and that the difference of states in respect to architecture and industry has been reduced by the law of average also to a constant, what is left to explain the increased or diminished aggregate fire loss of one year over previous years unless it be some meteorological peculiarity?"

Taking the statement of the precipitation, month by month, during the year ending with June, 1879, compared with the average for several previous years, as given in the last published report of the Chief Signal Officer of the United States, and using it as a basis of comparison with the fire losses in the same month of the two previous years, the *Chronicle* finds that an excess of humidity is steadily followed by a decrease in the fire loss, and a deficiency by a corresponding increase in the fire loss.

The same relation between rainfall and fire loss is strongly indicated in tables showing the periods of greatest and least fire loss in California, where the contrast between the wet and the dry season is so sharply drawn. Notwithstanding the fact that the wet months cover the season—the California winter—when domestic fires are most employed, thereby increasing the

relative fire hazard, the monthly mean of fire loss for the wet season is only about half that of the dry season.

From these and other tests the *Chronicle* deduces the following conclusions:—

(1) That there is an interdependence between the humidity and the fire loss; 2 that whatever affects the rainfall, such as the destruction of forests, etc., will affect the fire loss; (3) that there is a factor in the shape of an atmospheric hazard that should enter into the underwriter's calculations quite as well as the other elements of "moral" hazard, etc.; (4) that there are localities peculiarly adapted by meteorological conditions to a high ratio of fire loss; (5) that this natural hazard should determine, as nearly as practicable, the architecture of such localities, their means of fire protection, and the proper rate of premium for risks there written.

FORESTRY ASSOCIATION.

An interesting announcement comes from Cincinnati that the next meeting of the American Forestry Association will be in Montreal in August next. We presume this will be in connection with the meeting of the Scientific Association. It is to be hoped, however, that the benefit of this important gathering will not be lost in the shadow of the larger organization. To make the event mark a new era in the regard of Canadians for their forest wealth, an exceedingly desirable result, some preparations should be made for it. On the return of the Canadian delegates from the present session of the Congress at Cincinnati, it will be in order to consider what form organized movement to this end should take. It might be a good plan to call a meeting of all interested in the matter to hear the delegates give a report of the session. By holding the meeting in Ottawa, and inviting members of both Houses of Parliament to attend it, a movement might be inaugurated all over the Dominion without very much trouble or expense. — *Montreal Witness.*

WOOD UTILIZED.

The Northwestern *Lumberman* says the ways by which wood is utilized in Maine and other New England States should teach the owners of hardwood timber in the Northwest that they have more wealth in their standing trees than they can afford to burn up in log-heaps, if they will only wait a few years till the car of progress comes along, and brings the capital, the genius and the tools. The following little mention shows one of the ways by which white birch can be turned into money. Richmond, Thompson & Co., at Jay, Franklin county, manufacture druggists' boxes of white birch, and a local report states that they now have on hand 1,800 cords of that wood which will be made up into this kind of packages. The same firm makes advertising fan-handles at the rate of 100,000 a week.