

TREES ON THE PACIFIC SLOPE.

George H. Hamm, the well known correspondent, who is "doing" British Columbia in the interests of the *Winnipeg Manitoban* writes as follows:—"The timber supply of the province is apparently inexhaustible, and will doubtless prove a mine of wealth before many years. Already shipments are made to the Australian, South American and Chinese markets, but the volume of trade has not as yet reached the proportion that it is capable of. The principal tree is the Douglas fir, which ranges from four to twelve feet in diameter, and from two hundred to three hundred feet high. It is straight and tough, and capable of bearing a great strain and is almost unequalled for bridging, framework and for shipbuilding, while its great length and straightness make it especially adapted for masts and spars. Besides the Douglas, the following trees are to be found in the province—the list being obtained from a work issued by the local government. Western hemlock, large, found on coast and Columbia river; Englemann's spruce, eastern part of province and interior plateau; Menzies spruce, very large mostly on coast; great silver fir, coast tree of great size; balsam spruce, abundant in Gold and Selkirk ranges, and east of McLeod's lake; Williamson's Alpine hemlock, too scarce and too high up to be of much use; red pine (yellow pine or pitch pine), a variety of the heavy yellow pine of California and Oregon, very handsome, four feet diameter, common in drier parts of interior; white pine (mountain pine), Columbia region—Shuswap and Adams' lakes—also interior of Vancouver island; white-barked pine, small; western cedar (giant cedar or red cedar), wood pale, yellow or reddish color, very durable, often found 100 to 150 feet high, and 15 feet thick; yellow cypress (yellow cedar) mainland coast, Vancouver and Queen Charlotte island; western larch (tamarac), Rocky Mountains, Selkirk and Gold ranges, west to Shuswap lake, large tree, yields a strong, coarse, durable wood; maple, valuable hardwood, on Vancouver and adjacent islands, Queen Charlotte island and the mainland coast, up to 55 deg., attains a diameter of four feet; vine maple, very strong, tough whitewood, confined to coast; yew, Vancouver and opposite mainland shores, very tough and hard, and of a beautiful rose color; crab apple, along all the coasts, wood very hard, takes good polish, and withstands great wear; alder, two feet thick, on the Lower Fraser and along coast, good furniture wood; western birch (paper or canoe birch), Columbia region, Upper Fraser, Peace river, range and value not much known; oak, on Vancouver island 70 feet in height, and three feet in diameter; dogwood, Vancouver and coast opposite. Arbutus, close-grained, heavy, resembling box; reaches 50 feet in height and 20 inches in diameter, found on Vancouver and neighboring islands. Aspen poplar, abounds over the whole interior, reaching a thickness of two feet. Three other varieties of poplar are found, commonly included under the name cottonwood. One does not extend above Yale, and is the same wood largely used in Puget Sound to make staves for sugar barrels for San Francisco. The other two kinds occur in valleys in the interior. Mountain ash, in the interior; Juniper (red cedar or pencil cedar) east coast of Vancouver, and along the shores of Kamloops and other lakes in the interior.

There are already some very extensive saw mills in operation—and have been cutting for a quarter of a century—and yet this branch of industry is only in its infancy. Not only is there the trans-Pacific trade, gigantic as it should soon be, but with cheap freight rates the treeless plains of the northwest could be readily supplied and profitable interchange of commodities spring up.

COLUMBIA'S BIG TREES.

The *Montreal Gazette*, referring to the Canadian Pacific railway exhibits at the Dominion exhibition, has the following regarding the extensive timber of British Columbia.

In entering the tent the attention of visitors is first drawn to the examples of the enormous timber which grows on the Pacific coast. The largest is a specimen of the Douglas fir, so called after Sir James Douglas, the original (Hudson's

Bay Co.) governor of Vancouver island and British Columbia, which, in 1839, were two separate Crown colonies. This tree is also known commercially under the appellation of "Oregon pine." It grows to a height of some 270 feet, and the trunk is not only very valuable for ordinary lumber, but has a special usefulness for ships' masts and spars, of which cargoes are made up for all parts of the world. Among ports most constantly supplied direct from British Columbia are Marseilles, Sydney, Hong Kong, Calcutta, Singapore, besides the naval dock yards of Great Britain. The specimen at this exhibition is a section of about one foot in thickness and has a diameter of eight feet. The age of the tree is estimated by a computation of the rings which indicate the annual growth, and show it to have been 561 years old when it fell a victim to the axe of the woodman. In the immediate vicinity of where this tall tree grew were stumps, one of the largest of which measured seventeen feet six inches in diameter. Those who feel an interest in yachting may like to know that it is timber of this class obtained from Oregon, British Columbia and Washington Territory that the masts and spars of celebrated racing yachts such as the *Puritan* and *Galatea* are supplied. Owing to these trees growing so close together and to such an enormous height, frequently 150 feet without a limb, the grain is exceedingly free from knots or faults of any kind. The quantity in existence in British Columbia is very great, but owing to the lack of snow in the valleys where the largest specimens grow, special means have to be employed to transfer these giants of the forest to points where they can become merchantable products. The other specimen mentioned is of British Columbia spruce, also a very valuable timber. It measures seven feet in diameter. Between these sections of timber, on a pedestal, is displayed a block of coal from the Galt mine at Lethbridge, in Alberta. It weighs some 800 pounds and was cut out specially for this exhibition. Though not adapted for every purpose this coal makes an exceedingly valuable fuel; it burns with a hot flame and is used in Manitoba in open grates, in globe heaters and cooking ranges, and is sold at present at \$8.50 per ton. The utilization of the black diamonds of the Northwest has effectually solved the difficulties of the fuel question, which previously oppressed the minds of the residents in this part of the country six or seven years ago, at a time when the somewhat meagre supply of available timber for Manitoba was being rapidly exhausted and when hard coal, imported from the United States in bags, brought \$25 a ton.

HINTS ABOUT CIRCULAR SAWS.

When hauging a saw the first thing to do is to see that the saw is true and straight, and that the mandril is correct in every particular. Examine the collars with a straight-edge, and see that the steady pins when driven into the collar have not raised small bunches around them by being too tight. If there are bunches they should be taken off with a file or cold chisel. The fast collar should be slightly concave on its face, but should never be convex; the loose collar may be straight faced. The mandrel and steady pins should not fit too tight into the saw, for if they do the least warmth in the journal box will expand them and cause the saw to bind or spring. When the saw is fastened between the collars it should be perfectly flat on the log side, but if found to be bulging or wavy loosen the nut to see whether the fault is in the saw or the collars. This should be carefully seen to before using it. The arbor should have some end play, and the guide should be one that can be adjusted in or out. The pins of the guide should run as close to the saw as possible without producing friction. The saw should hang so that the front edge inclines slightly toward the log, so that the back edge will not cut or scar the log. Some of these points may be considered fine-haired by some persons, but they are essential to first-class work and ease of running. When a top saw is used, it should drop down into the kerf of the lower saw about three inches. For good work the top saw should run in an opposite direction to the lower saw, and should have a spring guide which will allow to follow any irregularity in the track of the

lower saw, but which will bring it back to its neutral position when out of the cut. Water should not be put on a running saw when it is hot, as it will spoil it. Water may sometimes be used on a saw running in pitchy or gummy wood to keep it clean or prevent friction. When this is done a small stream should be directed near the eye of the saw of both sides, when by the centrifugal action of the saw it will diffuse itself evenly over the whole surface.

The arbor boxes should be what is technically known as water boxes, as they are better calculated to keep the arbor cool. When an arbor becomes heated the heat is conveyed to the saw, causing it to be lumber and "run hot." The speed of a saw should be from 12,000 to 15,000 feet per minute, though some have been run as high as 20,000 feet per minute.—*Wood and Iron.*

THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK.

After months of the deepest business depression, affecting all lines of trade of the entire country, favorable indications were seen a time for full business approach. The marked increase in volume, and margin of transactions, that characterized the beginning of September were augmented day by day, throughout the month, and to-day the country enjoys a genuine business boom, that has all the appearances of permanency. It has not been brought about through speculative methods, but from the honest needs of a rapidly growing and needful country. A stimulus has been given to trade that bolsters up the hopes of all merchants, that few dared dream of a few months ago. The best element of the present boom, the most cheerful aspect lies in the conservative and solid basis upon which it is made. Confidence is everywhere established, and the business world takes on a new hope, buys liberally, and prosecutes with vigor and faith, certain that energy will be repaid. The condition of the trade is healthy. The iron business, which is generally the leader in an upward or downward move, is a pretty good barometer of the business tendency. That iron has taken on the most activity ever known in this country, is a pretty clear indication of the approach of good times. All old blast furnaces, and many new, are running at full capacity, and hundreds are contemplated and in course of construction. Iron enters into about every branch of manufacture, and consequently the present enormous output is a pretty good test of the faith the iron men have in the stability of the country, and the needs of the near future. Its a good index to base operations on, if we had nothing else for a guide; but we have.

Reports gathered from almost every line of trade indicate a largely increased business over last fall. There is no doubt but that stocks of all kinds are exceedingly low in the interior towns, and merchants must buy largely to replenish their stock to meet the demand. There is a short European crop, while flattering accounts are made as to our own panning out largely in excess of midsummer estimates. More cotton will be baled in the South than was anticipated. Cereals, lumber, iron, real estate, in fact, all properties, are increasing in value steadily. The demand will be good for all of next year, at least. The only danger lies in over-production and especially is this the case with the manufacturers of lumber. The Northwestern Lumber Manufacturers' association can do much to prevent this deplorable outcome. They have shown their ability to grapple with the situation by their joint movement in the past. They can curtail the cut, so as to meet the requirements of the country and sustain fair prices, or, they can overproduce and unsettle values.

It is a difficult problem to contend with, when lumber is advancing in price. Every lumberman wants to cut as much lumber as the capacity of his mill will turn out. Owing to the short hauling season this year, it may not be deemed expedient to reduce the amount of logs to be hauled the coming winter. The present is what we have to deal with, and the immediate future prospect, and we are pleased to chronicle a very bright view.

The railroad reports show phenomenal gains in earnings. Seventy-five of the extensive lines show a gain last month of nearly \$4,000,000. The main trunk lines are crowded beyond their

capacity to handle shipments. The post-office, express, and bank clearances denote only too clearly the enormous amount of business transacted the past month, in comparison with the past. We are certainly on the eve of a prosperous season.—*Chicago Lumber Trade Journal.*

THE BULGARIAN CRISIS.

The People Will Not Yield to Russian Dictation.

SOPIA, Sept. 30.—General Kaulbars to-day received a deputation of prominent Bulgarians, who called upon him to endeavor to induce him to withdraw or modify his circular. The deputation was composed of 114 of the most respected and influential citizens of the principality, and was headed by Dr. Voulcheff, who acted as spokesman. He stated to General Kaulbars that the circular had surprised the Bulgarian people, and asked him to reconsider the Russian demands, particularly for the postponement of the elections for two months. The nation was anxious, Dr. Voulcheff continued, to speedily settle the choice of the prince to occupy the Bulgarian throne. In addition to that modification the doctor said the people desired Russia to withdraw her demands for the immediate raising of the state of siege, and also the demand for the instant release of the prisoners in custody for the complicity in the coup d'etat. The continuance of the state of siege was the only guaranty the Government had for the preservation of peace, which the rest of Europe desired as well as Bulgaria. The Bulgarians, deeming that the Czar had no desire to prolong the crisis, begged General Kaulbars to telegraph to him to hasten the choice of a Prince. The constitution stipulated that the Grand Sobranje, elected to select a ruler, should meet within one month after the elections. In regard to the liberation of political prisoners Dr. Voulcheff said it would be a dangerous precedent to establish, to liberate without trial or punishment those responsible for such a momentous an act as the deposition and kidnapping of Prince Alexander, besides being contrary to the laws which were the safeguards of the country. Besides, if the prisoners were released as demanded, the probabilities were that the people would kill them in the streets, such was the popular indignation against the implicated men. The Government thought the imprisoned officers should be tried first and subsequently offered clemency. In conclusion the deputation assured General Kaulbars that Bulgaria was thankful to the Czar for his past protection, but maintained that the laws of the country must be respected. No other Ministry than that at present in power could extricate the country from its crisis. Gen. Kaulbars in reply, said the Bulgarians know very well that the Czar had the prosperity at heart, but they must confide in the Czar, and carry out his wishes. Dr. Voulcheff interrupted Gen. Kaulbars at this point, and said, "If that is all you have to say, we will retire." The deputation then withdrew.

AWFUL POWDER EXPLOSION.

Four Men Blown to Fragments—A Building Completely Wrecked.

BARLOW, N. Y., Sept. 30.—A terrific explosion occurred at the Ditmar Powder Works, at Bay Chester, on the Harlem River branch of the N. Y. and N. E. R. R., about ten o'clock this morning, resulting in the instantaneous death of four men who were employed in the factory. The explosion occurred in the packing house. The men were putting up and packing cartridges when the explosion occurred, shattering the building to splinters, and blowing the four men to fragments. The exploding powder, of which there was a large quantity, shot up in the air as high as 50 feet, and splinters of the building were blown a great distance. The names of the men were Ernest Dralon, John Rusch, Max Shafholt and Reinhart. The foreman of the works says the explosion was caused by two fellows shooting into the building.

THE FISHERY DISPUTE.

Views of the United States Government—Discussion Inopportune.

NEW YORK, Sept. 30.—The *Tribune's* London correspondent says:—The American Government, while desirous of coming to some amicable understanding on the points in the fishery dispute, is understood to consider the present an unfavorable time for entering upon the discussion. When Great Britain shall have brought Canada to reasonable views, and when Canadian irritation has subsided, a good understanding between the two countries may be embodied in a suitable treaty.