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FOREST DEVASTATION IN NORWAY.

We take the following from Dr. John Crombie Brown's "Forestry in Norway:"

"The reports of forest officials all ring the changes on the same topic, the rapid disappearance of the forests, especially those of fir. They report that the Government must do the work itself; nothing or little can be expected from private proprietors; only one of the latter is spoken of approvingly as making a movement in the right direction.

The rights of pasturage are reported to be a great obstacle, as the young trees must be fenced in order to protect them from sheep, which in Norway seem to be very agile in that particular part of the west coast, needing a higher fence than usual. The expense of fencing falls, of course, on the improving proprietor. One writer says Government should interfere on this point, for nothing will be done so long as sheep can roam at large. Another brings the same complaint against cattle.

It is recommended that the heath under the trees should be cut down when there is a good seed year, as it chokes the young plants. Another suggests that all woods attached to clerical or other offices should be resumed by Government; their extent is small, but the operations would give instructions to proprietors in the neighborhood. In some places land is cheap, and could be bought to advantage, in others it is very much subdivided, and difficult to obtain.

All write gloomily, and the only hope is in the Government buying and replanting large stretches, and limiting the rights of pasturage.

It is recommended further, that Government officials should be required to assist all who wish their help in making attempts at forest culture. In general the people only care for money, and are careless of the future, with, of course, cheering exceptions. One English company, it is reported, has been buying down at a great rate.

Something similar may be said of the reports on the economical condition of the kingdom, made by the prefects of nineteen prefectures, and a report of the same to the king by the Department of the Interior, with copies of the administrative instructions, and forms of tabulated returns required, and copies of tabulated returns received in regard to agriculture and cattle, including meteorological observations, in regard to fishing and the chase, in regard to industrial occupations and products, in regard to commerce, navigation, and roads, and in regard to finance and financial conditions for the years 1861-1865; and there are given official reports on the economic conditions of the several prefectures for the years 1866-1870.

In the report on the forest condition of Lister and Mandal—a report made to the Department of the Interior by Forest-Assistant Aar, published in successive numbers of the *Christ-*

iansand Stiftavis in the latter months of 1870, the whole series is charged with most interesting minute local descriptions; but the burden of the whole is complaint of the disappearance of the forests. The first district mentioned, Vauso and Horred, is described as subject to inundations of drift sand; and the planting of the ground with trees, and the covering of the sand with sea-wood are suggested as remedial measures, the adoption of which is urgently called for. Of the Praesterfeld, or parish of Fjotland, the clergyman writes that "things are bad and every day becoming worse; as time goes on every stick growing will be converted into money, and then—?" From another district the clergyman writes that there is no hope unless the Government come forward and purchase the remaining forests. From a third district the clergyman, after pouring out a large Jeremiad of lamentations, winds up with a like suggestion as the only measure likely to prevent utter devastation; and from the Praesterfeld, or parish of Siredalens, the report is that the destruction of forests has been carried so far that even the interposition of the Government could effect nothing in preventing desolation, as some places must ere long be almost uninhabitable.

The report was furnished to me by the Government; it is in exact accordance with what I have seen of the results of reckless felling elsewhere.

THE AUSTRALIAN TRADE.

Some interesting statistics have been compiled with regard to the growing trade between Australia and the United States. In the year 1883 the United States exported to Australia \$352,000 worth of agricultural implements, \$225,000 carriages and carts, \$242,000 drugs and medicines, \$1,203,000 from manufactures, \$252,000 steel manufactures, \$111,000 leather and manufactures of leather, \$555,000 kerosene, \$370,000 fish, \$169,000 sewing machines, \$796,000 tobacco, \$224,000 lumber, \$229,000 household furniture, and \$231,000 manufactures of wood. The total export amounted to \$6,730,000, which is an insignificant sum compared with the total value of British exports to Australia, amounting last year to \$91,000,000. Although England is nearer to Australia than America, the latter yet hopes to do a large trade with our distant colonies, as there are many articles which could be produced and sent out at a greater advantage. The Australian export to the United States is at present very little, amounting only to \$2,088,000 in the aggregate for 1883. Some fears have recently been expressed with reference to wool-growing in Australia, the staple industry, but the Federal Australian does not share in the or] forbodings. At the same time it urges the desirability of seeking new outlets for Australian wools in countries like China and Japan and some of the European

centres. "We have done this," remarks the journal in question, "not because we labored under the jaundiced impression that the English market was likely to be glutted with American wools this year or next, and that the price of the Australian staple would fall 22 per cent. in consequence, or that our ideas of the present and following season's clip were so buoyant as to lead us to believe that the immense surplusage would create a panic in prices in the London market, but simply because we see that as the development of western Australia, the northern territory, and Queensland proceeds—and it has been going on rather rapidly of late—a large increase in the staple may be reckoned upon." In 1872 122,256,496 pounds of wool was imported into America. In 1882 the quantity imported was 55,964,236 pounds, while the population had increased from 38,500,000 to 50,000,000. This great falling off in imported wool would appear alarming and perplexing were it not for the fact that in 1870 the amount of the domestic-grown wool in the United States was only 100,102,387 pounds, while in 1880 it had increased to upward 200,000,000 pounds. Australia does not fear this increase, as the quality of wool grown in the States can not compete with that grown in the colonies. Owing to the nature of the soil in many of the American States it would not pay the farmers to turn their attention to wool growing instead of the cultivation of cereals. And, as a matter of fact, great as has been the increase in wool growing in America it bears no proportion to the enormous increase in the production of other articles. As Australia and America are nearly alike in superficial area, and as the territory of the latter is being rapidly utilized for cereal and cotton products, while the more distant continent—or such portion of it as is settled—is nothing but a huge sheepwalk, there is no danger for some time to come of Australia losing her supremacy in wool growing.—*London Times*.

LUMBER NOTES.

Under the head of "Logging Notes," a St. John paper, of August 2nd, states that Mr. Robert Connors does not agree with the opinion of Mr. Gilson, the lumber king, that there is as much spruce lumber in the Province of New Brunswick now as twenty years ago. He states that in many districts of the Province, where lumbering was formerly carried on heavily, log cutting has been totally abandoned of late years, as the difficulty of working in the woods becomes more and more difficult every year. The logs are becoming scarcer, smaller and more remote from the streams. It takes fully 100 years for the spruce tree to reach its growth, and when it grows on burnt land it never reaches its natural size. Mr. Connor believes, however, that with moderation in the annual output the spruce forests will be available for use for many years to come. A correspondent of

the *Northwestern Lumberman*, writing from Midland, Ont., last week, declares that bill stuff and coarse lumber are about 50 cents to \$1 lower than in the spring, but good lumber is steady at about last season's prices. Lath has been good, and up to last year, but now it is dropping. Shingles, 18-inch, have declined from 50 to 30 cents, and 16-inch about 25 cents. "There will not be nearly so much lumber made here this year as last. There are several mills idle that have not run any, and the Parry Harbour mill was burned lately, which shuts off about 15,000,000 there. There are about 10,000,000 feet of logs hung up on the Muskoka and Maganetawan that will not come out, and about 10,000,000 more in the Muskoka that will come out too late, if they come at all. There are also about 400,000 cubic feet of square timber hung up on the above rivers, intended for the Quebec market."—*Monday Times*.

FAILURES OF THE LAST SIX MONTHS.

Several large disastrous failures have been reported recently by the mercantile agencies. The reason of these failures has been the overstimulating of production, the drop in prices, inability to realize on stocks, and other purely trade causes. Looking over the list of failures for the past six months, it is seen that the majority are of traders doing business with a capital of \$5,000 to \$10,000. This class of traders suffer more than the larger ones, and their suffering is due to a great underlying cause, to which too little attention is given, viz.: that this is an age of centralization. Large concerns are eating up the little ones. We see the consequences of combination on every side. Thus, limited capital is less able to stand pressure than is large capital. Small traders will slowly disappear; in a few years, if this tendency continues, we shall see immense concerns in every department; immense farms made up of numerous small ones; immense factories built with the money that otherwise would have been expended in a multitude of small ones. *Southern Builder and Manufacturer*.

THE AU SABLE NAVIGABLE.

During all the years that lumbering has been conducted on the Au Sable river it had never yet entered the head of any person until the present season that that stream was navigable, but David Cameron has demonstrated the fact pretty satisfactorily that it is or can easily be made so. Mr. Cameron passed Miss recently on a flatboat, having 15 tons of provisions for the J. E. Potts Salt and Lumber company. This was an experiment to demonstrate that the Au Sable would be navigable for flat-bottomed steamers from Graylag down. It is also stated that Mr. Cameron has contracted to deliver the iron for the Potts railway, and that he will float it all down the river.