

may find among foreign trees valuable additions to our plantations; such as, I think, the Russian pine, native of the north of Russia. Our climate suits it admirably, and it appears a more vigorous grower than our Canadian White Pine. I cannot give any opinion as to the quality of the timber, as they have only been sown in the spring of 1873. They started rather slowly, and their height and thickness are less than those of the black walnuts sown two summers later, in November, 1874; but they are now beginning to make more rapid strides. I measured the season's growth of one of them last year, on the 3rd day of July. It showed twenty-six inches in length, gained in about thirty days, as the buds of the conifers do not open much before the beginning of June; the year's growth was already over, and from that moment it only thickened and hardened into wood.

Since the growing season of our trees is so short, we ought to lose no time if we wish to help them along, by thinning, removing useless branches, mowing the ground, or otherwise; all that ought to be done before June, so as to afford them every chance during the growing month. I think the *Abies Nobilis*, or White Fir, of Washington Territory, is the fastest grower among the Conifers.

POPULAR.—I must beg the indulgent reader to listen to my plea in favor of this tree, and not condemn it unheard. I speak of the kind known as Cotton Wood or Populus Canadensis (not to be confounded with the Balsam Poplar and the Aspen). Its growth is wonderfully rapid; twenty-three years ago, in November, 1858, I stuck in the ground three cuttings, it was my first trial at tree culture. They are now over sixty feet high, one is twenty-five inches in diameter, the second twenty-four inches, and the third twenty-two inches, an average of one inch a year in diameter. In every new plantation, in a country completely denuded of forest-trees, and especially in re-wooding our Western prairies, I would recommend, at the start, a plentiful use of this Poplar, without neglecting, of course, more valuable trees. It strikes at once from cuttings, which can be procured and transported anywhere with the greatest ease. Thanks to its rapid growth, it will soon enrich the scenery (as it is a handsome tree), afford shade, shelter the other trees in the plantation and supply timber, not of the first quality, but better than none, until the slower growing trees are ready with their more valuable contributions, and it can easily be cut down when the room it occupies is wanted for better trees. This poplar has been introduced from Canada into Franco, where it is designated as the "Peuplier du Canada," and considered as a useful and profitable tree.

I must now close this long article. The results of my experiments are nothing to boast of; practical men would have done much better. If I had chosen the soil for the different kinds of trees more judiciously, had not left them much too long without thinning them, and been able to attend to them in the proper seasons, I am convinced that, as a whole, they would be much finer. At all events, it shows that any one who will take the trouble, can begin the culture of forest trees without previous training. I do not speak of orchards here. Having no School of Forestry in Canada, we must educate ourselves; we have got books written on the subject by eminent and practical men, and we have got, always opened before our eyes, the great book of Nature.

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GRINDLEY vs. RYAN.

At the last sitting of the Court of Assize, held at Ottawa, an action for damages was brought by Mr. Grindley against Mr. Ryan, for trespassing on the limits of the plaintiff on the Montreal river. The trial extended over several days, the chief, indeed the only, question at issue being the value of the timber taken, inasmuch as it was admitted by the plaintiff that the trespass was unintentional.

After a careful review of the evidence Justice Wilson submitted the following questions for the consideration of the jury in coming to a conclusion as to what damages the plaintiff in the case was entitled to, if any:—

1. What was the quantity of timber taken estimated at as standard logs; plaintiff says 5,250, defendant 4,450?
2. How should that number of standards be classed? That is, should they be classed as logs or as square timber, or partly as logs and partly as square timber?
3. If partly as logs and partly as square timber, what proportion do you consider to have been fit for square timber? The defendant said 55 per cent., that is 11 trees out of every 20.
4. If you find any part of it fitted for square timber, what was the Quebec price of it in 1880? The witnesses have varied from 21c. a foot to 31c. a foot.
5. What do you allow for the cost of the manufacture of square timber on the Montreal River, and getting it to Quebec from there (not noticing for the present the bad shoots and rapids, and the bad place known as the notch)? Mr. Grant said it cost from 13½c. a foot to take it from the Kippewa to Quebec. Mr. Bryson said 15c. and Mr. Nagle said 17c. to take it from Lake Temiscamingue to Quebec.
6. Was there any extra expense manufacturing on the Montreal River by reason of the difficulty of getting men and provisions to the limits? Do you think the convenience of haul would make up for that?
7. Would there be any extra expense in getting square timber down the Montreal River by reason of the shoots and rapids and of the notch? If so, how much? What I mean is, by the breakage and by damage done to the corners of the sticks, and causing loss of measurement, as it is said always happens, and by any extra delay of the men? What percentage?
8. What do you value the saw logs at by the standard?
9. What would be the cost of manufacture and driving the logs?
10. What do you allow the plaintiff (if any thing) for waste of trees cut and left lying on the limits by the defendant?
11. The plaintiff's survey cost him \$800. Do you allow it or any part of it to him?

His Lordship also impressed on the jury that the trespass was not a wanton one, but inadvertent, and that no extravagant damages should be given.

The jury returned the following answers to the questions which had been submitted for their consideration by the Bench:—

1. We take the defendant's statement to be correct.
2. Partly as logs and partly as square timber.
3. We consider 55 per cent. to have been fit for square timber.
4. Twenty seven cents a foot
5. We say it is worth seventeen cents per foot to manufacture the timber and take it to Quebec.
6. We think the short haul would make up for the difficulty of getting in men and provisions.
7. About 10 per cent.
8. One dollar and fifty cents.
9. Eight cents per standard.
10. Two hundred dollars.
11. Allow him two hundred dollars.

THE VERDICT.

The result of these answers having been considered by the Bench, the total amounts involved in them were computed, and a verdict for the plaintiff was given for \$5,746.

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