

GO SLOW.

The Polosky, Mich., *Record* advises the farmers of English county, in that state, to "clear away the majestic maples" for the purpose of growing grass, because a stalk of timothy has been produced in that vicinity nearly six feet tall. Probably the advice will be followed, as farmers are rapidly settling on the hardwood lands of northern Michigan, and the splendid deciduous timber of that region will be rapidly slaughtered and reduced to ashes in the log heap. The same process has gone on during the progress of settlement ever since the first sound of an axe rang out over Massachusetts Bay. Before there was any considerable use for hardwoods in manufacture, the sacrifice of upland forests in the eastern states appeared to be necessary in order to obtain cultivatable areas. That necessity followed the Connecticut and Pennsylvania settlers to Ohio, and the New Yorkers to Southern Michigan. But in these more modern days, when the manufacture of agricultural implements, railroad cars, furniture, and the interior finishing of fine houses has made a market for hardwoods, it seems like a great waste of natural wealth to cut and burn up the "majestic maples" of northern Michigan for the only purpose of getting them out of the way, so that the land on which they grow can be cultivated. It seems as if there were a better way.

The *Lumberman* is not an agricultural journal, but it is bound to have its eyes open and take a common-sense view of things; and since a number of our largest operators have devoted their denuded lands to farming, this journal has a right to slip in a word now and then about the most profitable disposition of forest lands, after the timber is cut off, as well as while it is standing.

If there was excuse for the slaughter of forests in the earlier history of this country's settlement there is none now. If there is excuse for such sacrifice in the remote sections of the South or West at the present time, there is none for the settlers in northern Michigan, where the means of transportation by water and rail to the best hardwood markets of the country are abundant. The farmer who goes upon a piece of forest land in northern Michigan with the object of "hewing out a farm," as the poets say, is inclined to go a trifle too fast. He is anxious to clear up his farm so as to get on in the world. Large fields of grain and pastures are what he aims to have as soon as possible. For this reason he looks upon the standing trees, be they ever so straight and tall and fine, as in the way of his progress, and he attacks them, lays them low, with the only object of clearing them off the land, and with little or no thought of their value. If he would reflect that at the longest not more than five years will elapse before he can sell every tree for a good price, he would be inclined to drop the uplifted axe before it cleaves many a choice tree. It is true that the now occupier of forest land needs crops to support his family and feed his stock. But a five-acre patch, well cultivated, is better than 25 acres "logged over," as the good farmers say. The disposition of the new settler in the woods, or on the prairie, is to be shiftless with his farming and cover too much ground. A farmer who is trying to clear up forest land is especially inclined to slash down a great deal more than he can clear perfectly. If the now settlers on Michigan forest lands would cut off the timber no faster than they can clear the land well, they would make money by raising better crops, and by saving their timber. It would be well for them, when they begin upon their lands, to look about and see that their trees constitute a source of wealth that, if economized, will last them a number of years, and furnish a means of revenue in the winter time, when crops cannot be grown. Just at present many of them may be situated somewhat remote from dock or railway station, but in those times of rapid progress the day cannot be far distant before buyers will visit them at their homes and fairly beg for their timber. When the writer was a boy, maple wood in northern New York was worth but \$1.25 a cord; now there is but little maple wood to be sold at any price, and a maple log is worth too much for lumber to be cut into wood. The time will come in northern Michigan, much sooner than it came in New York, when there will be neither

maple nor beech to be cut into wood. Within ten years the man in Epimety, Choboygan, Charlevoix, Antrim, Grand Traverse or any other country of northern Michigan, who has slaughtered his hardwood for the sole purpose of clearing up his farm, will feel like sitting in the ashes of his log heaps with a gunney bag about him, mentally clubbing himself, like the repentant codgers of old, because he was such a fool as to send up in smoke so much forest wealth.

The *Lumberman* advises the farmers of that section to go slow on land clearing. Chop just enough each year so that the best value can be got out of the timber, clear the denuded land well, and wait a little for the waggon of progress. It is bound to come not long hence—in deed, it is in sight now, and the noise of it can be heard down the stumpy road. Wait a little longer, and the value of your standing trees will be more than you could raise on your farms in the way of crops in half a lifetime. And while you are waiting and clearing your lands slowly, you will learn to be good farmers by force of circumstances.—*Northwestern Lumberman*.

TREES AND CLIMATE.

In the *International Review* for August, there is an interesting article by Dr. Felix Oswald upon the effect of trees upon climate. He says that, owing to the destruction of its forests, Southern Europe is now what Africa was a thousand years ago, a region of rapidly growing deserts. The effect upon the climate has been to change the gentle warmth of summer to burning heat, and the clear, crisp, healthful cold of winter to warmth and moisture that generate deadly fevers. Coming to this continent, he says that in the Atlantic States there was such a redundancy of forests in the first place that their cutting away has not changed the climate for the worse; that it has made the summers a trifle drier and the winter considerably warmer. In the west Indies and some of the Gulf States the clearing of the primeval forests has produced extensive sand-barrens, with sand drifts and scorching summers.

Dr. Oswald brings together many instances of the gain effected by tree planting. For years the coast dwellers in France have redeemed by judicious tree culture, about 10,000 acres per year, and in other portions of Europe 8,000 acres have been rendered habitable. The writer tells the story of Mehemet Ali who, half a century ago, decided to plant with trees the sand plains on the coast of Egypt. It appears from a moderate estimate that 15,000,000 of fruit and forest trees were planted, eighty per cent. of which lived and thrived. As a result, the average yearly rainfall has increased from 0.60 to 14 inches, and the summer temperature of Suez decreased from an average of 92 Fahrenheit to 86 degrees. Dr. Oswald would have such a reclamation and revolution as this begun in both the old world and the new, wherever the axe has made need of it. He urges the State authorities in the West to encourage tree planting on the prairies, and says that drouths will be unknown when there is a forest in every county.

Dr. Oswald may be somewhat sanguine over his hobby, but undoubtedly tree planting would add vastly to the climatic advantages of regions like Manitoba and the Northwest.—*Winnipeg Times*.

CHIPPEWA RED LAKE RESERVATION.

Representative Washburn's bill, now pending in Congress, for the colonization of the Chippewa Indians, and the sale of their reservations in northwestern Minnesota, contemplates the following: The bill provides for the colonization of 10 reservations, and for removing the Indians to White Earth reservation. The lands from which it is designed to remove them are to be sold for their benefit. Mr. Washburn acknowledges that a strong opposition to the bill has developed in northwestern Minnesota and northeastern Dakota, and partly for that reason he has not felt so anxious as he otherwise would be for the passage of the bill at this session of congress. He says the people in the sections named have been clamouring ever since he has been in congress to have the lands of the Red Lake Reservation brought into market and sold, so that the population in that region might avail themselves of the timber there, but

the moment any practical steps were taken to affect that object, a strong opposition arose, especially at Grand Forks, and protests against it have been sent to Congress. As a safeguard against any possible grab on the part of capitalists, Mr. Washburn claims to have framed the bill so as to bar out such schemes. He says:—

The lands are to be sold in the smallest government subdivisions, to-wit, 40 acres, they having first been appraised by commissioners to be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, 90 days' notice of sale being given, and in no case to be sold at less than \$1.25 an acre. I had also proposed to amend the bill providing that only one-tenth of this land should be sold in any one year.

The opposition to the Washburn bill, as has before been stated, arises from a fear that the lumbermen of Minneapolis, or other capitalists, would gobble the pine lands before the less powerful, because less wealthy, interests at Grand Forks, or other places in the new Northwest, could get possession of their share of them. The matter is now likely to affect the next congressional election in northwest Minnesota. Possibly the reason why Mr. Washburn is not anxious for the passage of his bill this session is because the capitalists who have designs on the pine lands have signified their willingness to let the scheme rest for a while, with the object of tinkering the northwestern opposition with solder made out of gold and silver. With that object in view they can well wait a year or two, for the land cannot be sold till the Indian occupants are disposed of. In the meantime the Chippewas would like to know who is going to pay for the timber that will be stolen from them.—*Northwestern Lumberman*.

LUMBERING IN THE SOUTH.

The *Southern Lumberman*, published at Nashville, says:—The lumber trade of the upper Cumberland has been heavier during the season just closed than ever before. We are informed by Maj. L. T. Armstrong, president of the consolidated line of steamers plying between this city and points above, that for the season, commencing on the first of November, to the present time, fully 12,000,000 feet of sawed lumber has been brought down by his boats, all of which has entered into the trade here, having been purchased by our dealers and placed in yards, or shipped to various points east and west. Besides this amount, it is estimated that 2,000,000 feet more have been brought down by flat-boats belonging to private parties and by raft. This lumber consisted of poplar, walnut and ash, with some oak, though of the latter the quantity was not very considerable. The shipments were made from Creelsboro, 335 miles by water from Nashville, and from a few points above, all the way down to the city, the largest proportion being from Selma, in Clay county, and other landings in that region. A large amount of this lumber was walnut of good quality, which brought high prices. Owing to an almost total failure of the crops last year in the upper counties, the people along the river cut and hauled more logs than has ever been done before, and this accounts for the greatly increased cut of the mills. The season has closed, and most of the mills have shut down for want of logs, and will continue idle until after the crops are laid by, when active operations will again begin, both with loggers and the mills, the product for next season will not be so great by several million feet as that of the present year, for the reason that accessible timber is beginning to be scarce, and the large crops likely to be made will require more of the time of farmers.

DEMAND FOR CHARCOAL.

Mr. J. A. Mathieu has recently contracted to put in eighty charcoal retorts at Birmingham, Ala., for the purpose of supplying a blast furnace at that place with coal. If the southern lumbermen would depart from the ways of the saw mill men in the north, and instead of erecting hells to burn the refuse of the mills, would put in retorts and reduce their slabs and the lumber too poor to ship to charcoal, it would be money in their pockets. The lack of shipping facilities would prevent many of them from doing this, but along the waterways where cheap

freight rates can be obtained it would be feasible and profitable. Ironmakers recognize the value of charcoal, and, if it can be obtained, will use no other, providing they are ambitious to turn out the best quality of iron. The demand for this kind of coal will constantly increase, and for years to come they will probably be ready to take all the charcoal that will be put on the market. In fact a surplus of charcoal has not been known. To say nothing about the call that is made for it in the manufacture of iron, large quantities are used in every city for various purposes. In a large city it always finds ready sales, and the lumber manufacturers who are located within easy reach of such cities ought to put in retorts and derive a handsome profit therefrom.—*Northwestern Lumberman*.

NO SCARCITY APPARENT.

The *Timber Trade Journal* says:—The alleged scarcity of timber abroad is slow to show itself in this country, where the only thing the trade is afraid of is getting too much of it. Large cargoes come rolling into London, one over the other, as it were, as fast as berths can be found for the ships, and the cry is, "still they come." Ninety-seven arrivals of timber-laden vessels were reported at the Custom House the week ending the 2nd of August, forty of which were steamers. To say the least of it there is no evidence in this lot that any description of wood is running short abroad. We occasionally get a remonstrance from some foreign house or their representative here, because we refrain from adopting their theories, and urging them more warmly on our readers; we must refer them for our excuse to the shipping lists. When vessels return without cargoes, or half empty, because timber to load them was not to be had, we shall be ready to join with the shippers in recommending importers to secure what they can for their trade on such terms as are fairly obtainable and on the first opportunity that presents itself.

A BIG SAW MILL.

A correspondent writes:—During the week I had an opportunity of visiting the beautiful new saw mill of the Georgian Bay Lumbering Co. at Waubushene. The mill has been running about four months, and is scarcely in good running order yet. It is a beautiful structure, built on the site of the old mill that was burnt last fall, at a cost of \$85,000. The main building is 126x70 ft. with an engine house attached of 20x30, a boiler house of 36x40, and a machine shop of 60x80. The buildings are fitted up with the very best and latest styles of machinery, and it employs 71 men. The mill is driven by two large twin engines of 250 horse power each, and is so constructed that in case one engine breaks down it can be disconnected, and the mill driven by the other. The cylinders are 23 in. bore by 26 in. stroke, and drive three gangs of saws (1 stock pony and a slabbing gang) two twin circular saws, one large circular saw and the lath mill. With these saws they turn out an average of 150,000 feet of lumber and 30,000 lath per day of 11 hours. They saw an average of 1,200 logs per day.

TIMBER LAND SALE.

The *Northwestern Lumberman* says the Commissioner of the Federal Land Office at Washington, on August 11, forwarded to the receiver and register, at Duluth, Minn., a proclamation announcing a public sale of lands at Duluth on December 4. The offering will comprise the vacant land in about 135 townships, situated north and west of Duluth, much of it covered with pine. Lists for the offering of isolated tracts of pine and agricultural lands, the sale to take place at St. Cloud, Minn., are being prepared, and it is expected that they will be ready some time in January, when the lands will be offered for sale.

ISAAC BEARINGER has returned to Duluth to remain, and it is said that he will engage extensively in lumber manufacturing. His plans contemplate the erection of a mill equal, if not superior to that of the Duluth Lumber Company. Two other concerns also intend to establish lumber operations at Duluth the coming fall, but their names are withheld by the local papers.