

used. Here is a problem in transportation that may profitably engage the attention of those interested. That it ought to be possible to market this product which is now going to waste is a self evident proposition, but how under present competitive conditions it can be accomplished is decidedly problematical." How Canadian lumbermen would relish a fixing of rates on the basis here suggested is an interesting question to propound. There is certainly an advantage in allowing poorer grades of lumber to be carried on a low rate, and this might have the effect of causing activity in lumbering in certain sections to day where the better lumber is cut away. But there is much to be said in another direction, and this would be, as Rudyard Kipling has said, another story. The matter in any case is suggestive, and we would be glad to have letters from our readers saying how the Railway Review's proposition strikes them.

AN illustration of how thoroughly the growth of Canadian communities has centered around the lumber industry is found in a review of the lumber trade of Belleville, published in the fine special issue of the "Daily Sun" of that city. We are told that the history of the lumber industry in Belleville is almost a history of the city itself. The growth and development of the lumbering interests was, for many years, a barometer of that city. And then when the decline of the industry set in the city reverted for support to the agricultural and dairy interests. To-day the lumber industry is represented by but one concern that makes a sole business of lumbering in all its branches. This is the business of Mr. C. P. Holton, who first established in Belleville in 1872. At the time he commenced business there were no less than thirteen mills in and around the city all within a radius of three miles and all in active operation. A prominent lumberman of the early days was the Hon. Billa Flint. At that time there were also the following well-known lumbering firms established in Belleville: H. B. Rathbun & Co., Buck & Stewart, Job Lingham, Geo. Hanwell, Jones & Vandusen, Page & Co., Lewis & Kerr, Alexander Sutherland, D. D. Bogart, Wm. Bleeker, Foster & Sutherland, W. A. Ostrum, James Ross, John T. Lattimer, Baker, Jones & Co., Jacob Sills and Pope & Andrews. When these establishments were all running a large export business was done, but at the present time trade is almost entirely of a local character. What has been Belleville's history has been the history of many other towns and cities in the province, and will be the history of others, as the forests become depleted and the available timber removed from the saw.

FROM the north, the south, and away off on the Pacific Coast, comes the one call for an advance in lumber prices. Seldom have we seen so generally expressed a desire that lumbermen in all districts should resolve on falling into line with the hardening of values in iron, steel, leather, wheat and other commodities, and secure an advance in prices. Lumber for two years past, at least, has been sold at most profitless prices. In some sections of the country these conditions have been more aggravated than in others, the greater recklessness, to use a term none too strong, being manifested on the Pacific Coast. But white pine men have no occasion to feel elated at the margin of profit that has been left to them of recent years. Yellow pine men have this time led in the van and organized themselves and fixed on better prices. Perhaps they had as great occasion as anyone to take this step, for everyone knows how prices in the south have been slaughtered for years. Others can now well afford to follow their example. In the natural course of commerce, it is expected that with a revival in business in almost every line, lumber must follow a like course. But after all, what is done will depend upon lumbermen themselves. If they are satisfied to let things drift and not move in the direction of better prices, they will be just that much longer in placing their business on the improved basis that, seemingly, is going to be the record with other trades. Let lumbermen in the different sections shove up their prices a notch or two and it will not be long before the trade generally will fall into line. For it is something everyone is waiting for, though no one seems to have the courage to take the first step.

THE town of Medford on the Wisconsin Central Railway was struck recently by a cyclone, which overturned buildings and uprooted trees but left intact a new hotel which was in process of construction, and this hotel it seems was framed with hemlock timber, which has a reputation for toughness. The circumstance has caused Wisconsin papers to raise a boom for hemlock lumber, and it has brought this wood before the lumber trades in a manner which was quite out of the regular history of hemlock. This wood is found in large quantities in Wisconsin, the bark being used extensively for tanning purposes. For some little time, however, hemlock has been coming more to the front, and the suggestion has been made more than once that the future would find it largely put to uses that hitherto had not been the case. And as white pine becomes scarce it may be expected that hemlock will serve as one of the substitutes. One thing is sure, that in those districts where hemlock is stripped for the sake of the bark the wood itself cannot be allowed to go to waste. In different parts of Ontario hemlock is to be found in considerable quantities, and it has been noticeable that in the reports throughout different parts of the country published regularly in the Weekly Lumberman, hemlock has been spoken of by a number of correspondents as being in growing demand. In the issue of June 12th Mickle & Dymont, of Gravenhurst, reported that hemlock is among the woods in largest demand. Geo. Thompson, of Wingham, tells the same story. The growing scarcity of white pine will force many different classes of wood to the front, and in this particular interesting changes will be made in the lumber business, which intelligent men will study with profit.

LUMBERMEN owe much to Mr. W. C. Edwards, M. P., the well-known Ottawa lumberman, for the persistent and intelligent manner in which he has agitated for greater care in the preservation of Canadian forests from fire. He has recently written a letter of length to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Quebec, making many valuable suggestions on this matter. He speaks with a minutely familiar knowledge of the lumber districts of eastern Ontario and Quebec. His suggestion is that fire rangers be appointed, to be named by the lumbermen, the crown and the lumbermen each to contribute one half the payment of their salaries. An important matter, he says, would be the appointment of wise and judicious men who would create a good feeling among the settlers and impress upon them the great and important truth that the preservation of the forests and the continuance of the lumber trade is their salvation from two sources, namely, in supplying them with both work and markets for their produce and also averts to as late a day as possible direct taxation, which must surely come when the revenue from the forests ceases altogether or is lessened very much. He points out also another serious source of loss to Quebec, and at the same time a great wrong to limit holders, namely, the practice of buying lots in certain townships ostensibly for settlement, but really for the purpose of securing at nominal cost the standing timber. He says: "For instance, in our case, all the limits we hold are old limits, which were very greatly cut over before coming into our possession. In buying we were influenced in the price paid in nearly every purchase, by the quantity of other timber, apart from pine on the limits, but we find we are pursued both on the north Nation river and the Gatineau by men who are robbing both the crown and ourselves by buying up lots at nominal prices on which we have paid ground rent for years, doing us out of our just rights and at the same time getting quantities of timber from the crown for comparatively nothing." In certain states of the American Union, Wisconsin in particular, and some parts of Michigan, this policy has been pursued with the result, as was outlined to the CANADA LUMBERMAN a short time since by Mr. McBurney, of Callender, Ont., who had lumbered in that section, that valuable timber lands drifted into the hands of speculators, many of them who had themselves gone in originally and ostensibly for the purpose of taking up land, but with the ulterior purpose of simply carrying out the necessary settlement conditions, and then disposing of their lots at a fancy price, because of the great value contained in them through the rich timber which they

grew. Better things had been expected in this country, and it would hardly seem possible that after this evil has been pointed out so fully and clearly by Mr. Edwards, that the Quebec government can do less than take firm and vigorous measures to amend their land policy.

#### SPRUCE NOTES.

AS the business of pulp wood manufacture grows, it is to be expected that efforts will be made to utilize other classes of wood besides spruce. It has been a conviction with some that jack pine, despite the resinous matter it contains, can be utilized successfully in pulp manufacture. Recently a car load of jack pine was forwarded to the paper mills of William Barber & Bros., Georgetown, for the purpose of experimenting by Mr. A. F. Neuman, who holds the patents for this manufacture. In a letter to the CANADA LUMBERMAN, Mr. John R. Barber writes that the experiment has proven quite successful. He says, it is somewhat more difficult to work than spruce, but equally as good a paper making fibre. "We use the pulp in both news and book papers with equally good results." Word from Michigan contains information that Alpena business men are considering a project to erect a factory for the manufacture of jack pine pulp wood. A proposition has been made to the Alpena people, which, it is said, meets with the satisfaction of Mr. Neuman.

WE do not know that all the expectations of the recent organization, composed of leaders in the spruce trade in the Maritime Provinces and Maine, have been realized. There are reasons to believe that the standard of prices sought to be established by that organization are being shaded at times. These conditions, however, arise more through a lull that has taken place in trade and the necessity of small manufacturers, who are outside of the combine, realizing on their product. It is claimed by members of the Association that all circumstances combine to show that spruce will from year to year enhance in value, and that the lumberman who carries over a stock of logs into 1896 will find them worth from 20 to 25% more than the selling price in 1895. Such an advance would certainly represent a good interest on the capital invested in logs. It is sagely remarked by Secretary Geo. B. James that no more lumber is used when it is crowded into market at inopportune times than if sent along judiciously as required. The manufacturers have it in their own hands to control the situation by feeding the market as the appetite for lumber appears, not undertaking to force the dealers to eat six meals a day for one week and only one meal a day for another week. It is far better to supply them with three meals of good lumber per day. Then digestion will be ample.

THE reference made by our New Brunswick correspondent to the building of a new pulp mill in Miramichi is only one of many instances of the activity that prevails in this branch of business, which is so intimately related to the lumber trades. The pulp business will be developed to a large extent at Sault Ste Marie, Ont., manufacturing facilities there being of a very complete character, and encouragement being given to capitalists by recent legislation of the Ontario Government. The Keewatin Power Co., who are in possession of splendid water facilities in the Lake of the Woods district, may also be expected, and we believe it is their intention, to develop the manufacture of wood pulp. The rich resources possessed by Canada in this direction gives subject for comment to capitalists in and outside of our own country. The immense wood pulp mills at Appleton, Wis., and other concerns in that section, have incorporated what is known as the Pulp Wood Supply Co., to furnish the pulp wood needs at the various manufacturing facilities. And the Northeastern Lumberman is authority for the statement that this concern is looking to Canada for its supplies of the raw material. How the situation strikes our contemporary is indicated in the following sentence: "Canada would wake up some day and double up the present price of spruce stumps, or put on an export duty that will make these pulp wood concerns squirm, who are dependent upon Canadian sources of supply for spruce wood."