

**EXCHANGE ECHOES.**

Eureka, Cal., Times.

The redwood does not grow north of the California line. Its largest body, amounting to 500,000 acres, according to estimates, is in Humboldt county, extending about fifty miles north and south of Humboldt bay. This body contains more timber than all the other redwood forests in the state. Redwood has been manufactured on Humboldt bay for thirty-five years, the present output being 200,000,000 feet in a year. Most of the lumber is marketed in San Francisco and the interior valleys of the state—though considerable shipments have been made to Australia, the Pacific islands and the west coast of South America. But with the exception of Eureka, the coast towns are built up in large part with other woods, redwood being mainly employed for finishing purposes. Eureka, however, is built up with redwood almost entirely, and is claimed to be the only city on the coast of any age that as not suffered seriously by fire. All the cities that have been swept by fire were constructed mainly of fir—so-called pine.

Timberman.

The towing of immense log rafts through the lakes is very likely to result in serious legal complications because of their disturbances of buoys, and consequent danger to vessel property. Navigators are already experiencing considerable difficulty from this cause and threatenings of resort to law for redress are not infrequent. The buoys at Port Huron, at the mouth of the Saginaw river, and at other places on Lake Huron, have been moved a considerable distance and some of them have been carried off by the monster rafts towed from Canada and the upper peninsula of Michigan. A number of these removals of buoys are attributed to carelessness.

Northwestern Lumberman.

The enormous amount of machinery for saw, shingle and planing mills that is constantly being turned out and sold might be taken as evidence that, rapid as has been the rate at which timber has been converted into lumber and shingles, the thirst for money was so great that lumbermen was multiplying and reaching out, and that the standing timber was bound to go faster than ever, in spite of all that could be said. Such a view would be only partially correct. True it is that men are ambitious to make money where it has been made before; thus old plants are enlarged and new ones established. But the opening of new regions—not only in the south and on the Pacific coast, but in parts of the northwest where railroads have tapped bodies of timber not hitherto accessible—accounts for a large part of the demand for new machinery. Nor is this all. The improvements being made all the time in mill equipments result in the replacing of much old machinery with new. Most lumbermen are wide-awake, and they want the best appointments of all kinds. New mills go in fast, but the rapidity with which the country fills out and expands calls for some increase in facilities for lumber manufacture, the trouble being that where there is a promising opening for manufacture the thing is pretty sure to be overdone.

Timberman.

In all the history of progress and development, so far as machinery for industrial pursuits is concerned, there is possibly no line so marked by advancement and perfection as that of wood-working machinery, noted in every line and feature, from that which takes the monstrous sawlog from the mill boom, transfers it to the mill, passes it through all the varied and numerous ramifications until it emerges from the monstrous industrial hive in the form of the best grades of lumber possible of extraction, untouched by human hand from entry to exit, except to pile it on the truck, down to that which manipulates the lumber into every conceivable device, even from the complete building ready for shipment to the diminutive match and tooth-pick. In no line of industry has American inventive genius evinced such wonderful accomplishment as is displayed in wood-working labor devices.

**CASUALTIES.**

Willie Dunn had three fingers of his left hand cut off by a circular saw in the big mill at Deseronto recently.

Pierre Leduc, of Ottawa, while at work in the Kippewa limits, recently, had his thigh badly fractured by a fallen tree, and narrowly escaped losing his life.

Mr. Berieault, working at E. B. Eddy's mills, Hull, Que., had three of his fingers on his right hand cut off by a circular saw, Sept. 27th.

Mr. Wm. Read, employed at Doherty's mill, Rock Forest, Que, while reaching over a butt saw to clear away some sawdust, had his arm nearly severed between the elbow and the wrist.

A young man named George Hargreaves was killed at McCormack's camp, Maple Island, Parry Sound District, on Sept 27th, by a tree falling on him. The young man was a stranger and had only arrived there four days before he was killed.

The boiler in John Durvey's shingle mill, Lindsay, Ont. exploded on Oct. 10th. John Poles, the engineer, the only person on the premises at the time, was killed. The place was leveled to the ground.

Louis Boulanger, a Frenchman from Lower Canada, when on the way to the C. Beck Manufacturing Co's lumber camps at Spanish River, fell off their steam barge Chamberland and was drowned.

**FIRE RECORD.**

Fire at Brockley & Douglas' mill, Manistee, Mich., last month destroyed over 1,000,000 feet of lumber and 300 feet of docks and tramways. Loss \$125,000.

One of the dry-kilns, with sixteen carloads of lumber and the blower, at the Canadian Lumber Cutting Company's mill, Belleville, was consumed recently; loss \$2000.

A fire in Cook Bros. lumber yard at Serpent River, Ont., Oct 12th, burned 14,000,000 feet of lumber. The stock was insured for about half the loss.

Cartwright's mammoth lumbering establishment at Horton City, Pa. burned Oct 11th. Over 15,000,000 feet of lumber was consumed. Loss \$175,000.

F. Lambert & Co's saw mill at Disraeli, Que., burned Oct. 13th. Loss about \$12,000.

**AMERICAN AND CANADIAN LUMBER.**

Experts in forestry as a rule have intimated if not asserted directly in their discussions that the supply of choice lumber in the United States is nearer exhaustion than the Canadian stock. This view is broadly controverted by Consul Hotchkiss, of Ottawa, who says that if he were asked whether Canada or the United States would probably be the first to reach the end of supply of marketable commercial woods, he would reply unhesitatingly, that Canada must first face these conditions. Mr. Hotchkiss believes that it is "safe to say" that the encroachments upon the Canadian pine, in particular, are serious, and that by the process of culling, in order to meet the English demand for clear lumber, the forests of the Dominion have become so reduced that the greater part of the output hereafter will be found available for the markets of the United States only. The English market maintains a peculiar demand for quality and shape, and takes only the product of the choicest trees.

The consular report to which reference is made was written in February, and appears in the August pamphlet. It would have been more timely in one respect if published earlier. Reporting on the Canadian export tax on logs, Mr. Hotchkiss says that he learned that the order-in-council of last November increasing the duty on pine logs sent out of the Dominion from \$2 to \$3 per 1,000 feet would on no account be rescinded; on the contrary, "if \$3 per 1,000 did not work as a preventive to timber going out to the States, an additional advance would be made until the prohibitive point would be reached." Nevertheless the Dominion government within three months has reduced the duty again from \$3 to \$2 per 1,000, the latter rate having been in force from 1886 until November, 1888. Prior to 1886 the tax was \$1 per 1,000 feet.

The Canadian export tax on logs is purely a protective duty, and is intended as an offset for the United States duty on sawed lumber. Whenever lumber is put on the free list of our tariff, either directly or by a treaty of reciprocity, the export duty on logs on the other side of the boundary will at once be remitted. The Canadian government argues naturally on the whole that American capitalists who are protected by an import duty on Canadian lumber ought not to complain of a corresponding export duty on standing timber which they buy in the Dominion. In former years large quantities of logs were shipped by American lumbermen from Western Ontario across Lake Huron to Michigan mills, but the business is hazardous and expensive. In 1887 6,350,000 feet of logs, all told, were exported from Canada to the United States, but in 1888 only 468,000 feet. The value of the timber even in the former year was less than \$50,000, while \$335,000 worth of pine logs and round and manufactured timber was imported into Canada from the United States. This stuff went mainly from northern Minnesota. A considerable part of the imports from the Dominion moreover usually consists of long round timber not desired for lumber and

worth more than sawlogs. As a protective duty the Canadian export tax is a success in so far as it checks the exportation of logs. The cost of collection, however, is said to be greater than the revenue obtained.

Forests in Canada, it should be understood, cannot be bought outright for the purpose of getting possession of the timber standing thereon as in the northwestern American states. The "timber limits" are held by lease from the government under fixed regulations. The increase in the export tax last winter naturally enough put a stop to cutting logs for exportation. The American lumbermen who are engaged in the business were not greatly exercised over the former and present \$2 rate, but could not do business while \$3 per thousand feet was levied. Mr. Hotchkiss reports sales of pine leases in 1888 to the amount of \$2,000,000, of which amount nearly \$500,000 was invested by Americans, but this was all prior to the increase in the duty.

Great quantities of logs cut in Maine are floated down the St. John river every year to be converted to lumber in the mills of St. John. This lumber is then brought back to the United States free of duty. During the last three years from 106,000,000 to 115,000,000 feet of logs have been exported annually in this way, chiefly pine, spruce and cedar. The New Brunswick mills in which the logs are cut up are supposed to be owned exclusively by American citizens, though Canadians of course do the work. These operations are carried on under a treaty which was ratified in 1842. In the fiscal year 1888 the value of the lumber imported free, having been sawed under the above regulations in New Brunswick, was \$1,164,865. American and Canadian lumber at St. John differ in price approximately by the amount of the import duty.

**THE VALUE OF OUR FORESTS.**

Intimately connected with this question is the indifference shown for a number of years past by the Ontario Government as to the absolute necessity which has existed for greater care in the sale of timber limits and better management of the provincial forests, if we are to be eventually saved from the scarcity which now threatens the Northern States of the Union.

A very important point in this consideration is the fact that as the timber of the United States decreases in quantity, ours will increase in value, thus proving that in this, as in so many other cases, Canada's day is coming. A hundred years ago throughout Maine, Vermont, New York, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, were to be found vast forests, and immense timber resources, while all claims and pretensions on behalf of these States as timber-producing regions, have now to be finally abandoned, and the people are obliged to look for their supplies from California, Oregon, Alaska and Canada. The chief of the forestry division of the United States, reported a couple of years since, as follows:

"Leaving out of consideration the forests of the Pacific slope, the balance of forest land in the United States, it is believed, cannot long meet the enormous demands on its resources." \* \* \* "We are nearing, therefore, a time when regard to the husbanding and the careful management of our forests is required for the purpose merely of furnishing new material."

That we have in Canada enormous resources of timber of all kinds, hardly requires repetition, but it is well to bear in mind that our forests are liable to the same influences which have so entirely depleted those of the American Republic. During the last census year in the States—1880—there were over, 900,000 acres burned over, with an estimated loss of more than eight million of dollars. The figures of Canada are not obtainable, but they must have been proportionately great.

The United States Government has considered this subject of such importance as to warrant the issuance of instructions to special timber agents to "Use all possible means to check the progress and extinguish forest fires in their respective districts, and to employ assistance, and if necessary, expend a reasonable sum for such purpose."

In view of the importance of the question; the fact that lumber is an ever-increasing branch of our export trade, and that we may yet be called upon to provide the entire continent with its timber supplies, it would seem to be the duty of every man who has to do with our forests to exercise a wise care in the management or control of what will some day be of immense value.