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CHARACTER SKETCH.

MR. J. B. MILLER.

"Every person has two educations, one which he receives from others and one which he gives himself."—Gibbon.

IN the LUMBERMAN character sketch of a month ago we told the life-story of one of the pioneer lumbermen of this country, Hon. J. K. Ward, of Montreal. We shall talk this month of one of the younger men of the trade. Mr. Ward is seventy-two years of age. Mr. J. B. Miller, of whom we now write, has yet to celebrate his thirtieth birthday. Between these two leading representatives of the Canadian lumber trade there can be drawn not a few parallels, as well as contrasts. Mr. Ward's activity in business, at an age when men usually seek retirement and ease, is an illustration of the vigor and continued effort that may accompany years of active work. In Mr. Miller, who is president of the Parry Sound Lumber Co., one of the largest concerns in this province, operating several mills and extensive timber limits, we find a type of the young men of the present day, who are to be found everywhere, controlling many of our largest commercial concerns.

Mr. Ward represents the lumber trade of Quebec with its own individual conditions and indigenous characteristics. Spruce more than pine is the product of that province. Mr. Ward has shown his loyalty to his convictions in the valiant battle he has waged for a readjustment of the spruce duties on lines more conducive to the growth and prosperity of this important wealth-producing element of Quebec. In Ontario, where Mr. Miller's interests are placed, white pine is king, and from his point of view we can understand that the president of the Parry Sound Lumber Co. has no serious quarrel with the duties on lumber as they rule at present, whilst he would be satisfied, doubtless, were it so decreed that we should have entire free trade in lumber.

It was a saying of Napoleon that "he never blundered into victory; he won his battles in his head before he won them in the field." Mr. Ward could never have attained the success that crowns his seventy-two years busy life, nor would it have been possible for Mr. Miller to have grasped the details and volume of business that were given over to him before he had reached his majority, owing to the declining health of his father, who was principal of the Parry Sound Co., and handled these with magnificent success ever since, without each first fighting out their respective battles in their head. "With what do you mix your colors?" was the innocent enquiry put to a celebrated artist by one who had been dazed with the beauty of the work he was viewing. "With brains," was the laconic but forceful reply of this master on canvas. This is the element that Mr. Miller for twelve years past has thrown into the management of his varied and extensive undertakings.

Mr. J. B. Miller was born in the County of Leeds in July, 1862, consequently he is a month away from his thirtieth birthday. His father was J. C. Miller, M.P.P., a lumberman of extensive operations, who died in 1884. The younger Miller was educated in Toronto, primarily at the model school, following up the years at that institution with a course in Upper Canada College. His father's health declining he abandoned his academic studies in 1880 to assume the responsibilities of the extensive business conducted by the senior Miller. How completely he fitted into the large niche which the continued illness of the father, followed later by his death, made necessary, has been intimated in what is already written of this sketch, and finds ample illustration in the growth, extent and present position of the Parry Sound Lumber Company with its manifold connections and operations.

The principal mill of this company is that on the

Seguin river, having a capacity of 15,000,000 feet annually. Every facility has been given to manufacturing in the first-class equipment of the different mills of the company, and in shipping conveniences in the erection of splendid docks from which an immense barge, the largest lumber barge in the upper lakes, and costing \$100,000, plies, connecting with several ports of the Georgian Bay and Lake Huron. Over 400 square miles of pine lands, heavily timbered, are held by Mr. Miller.

Mr. Miller is interested in a number of commercial undertakings in Toronto; prominent among these is the extensive works of the Polson Iron Co.

In 1883 he married Miss Hunter, daughter of Robert Hunter, now deceased, and formerly of the firm of Hunter, Rose & Co., Toronto.

Mr. Miller is a resident of Toronto. During the summer months, with his family, he finds no inconsiderable enjoyment voyaging around and exploring the many beauties of nature that have their place in the picturesque region of Muskoka and Parry Sound.

Standing an onlooker at Eton one day, observing the students at their games, Wellington remarked: "It was



MR. J. B. MILLER.

there the battle of Waterloo was won." "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." Taking an occasional respite from the laborious duties imposed by a business of the size of Mr. Miller's, he but acts on the lines so wisely suggested by the remark of the Iron Duke. He takes a lively interest in military affairs and is a lieutenant in the Queen's Own. Just how genial and sociable Mr. Miller is at all times ask those whose privilege it is to join him in one of his yachting expeditions, or in other ways meet him in social intercourse.

LABOR-SAVING DEVICES.

NEW machines can not be prevented, nor should they be, since they enrich the world, and have made the workman's progress to be what it is already. He never had a fraction of his present comfort till steam machinery began to do his work for him. House, clothing, good food, education, clubs, newspapers, all his advances are the result of modern machinery. It is the Atlas which carries the world's welfare on its shoulders; every bit of work it does is so much lifted from the strain and drudgery of the laborers as well as of the rest of us. By cheapening production it increases consumption,

which calls for more labor, which new labor is easier than before the machine went to work. Think of the toil of the old fashioned farmers in the harvest, compared with that of him who now sits on his reaper and binder in comparative ease all day! The workman who learns to understand new machinery rapidly and helps to work it, is the man of his time, and this should be the model and ambition of all. The times reward the nimble and quick-witted—which all should make haste to become. And the duty to do so is laid upon them by nature, not by society. Society can not prevent men from thinking out improvements which nature puts into their heads. And, therefore, the workman must keep himself right with nature, as, indeed, he is learning to do.

The readjustment of laborers consequent upon the perpetual invention of improved machines is a source of perpetual disturbance everywhere, and always has been in civilized societies. So are changes of fashion, as when shoe buckles went out, a large body of buckle makers were brought to destitution. Both, however, are only a part of the general social movement, which is incessant and endless. The only way the individual can keep his place is by enlarging his range of industry. The workman must be quick to learn new things. He must cease to think of stopping the flood of novelties, and learn to swim in it. Business men of all kinds are troubled by the same instability of affairs. He who will not change is submerged; he who changes with the times gains by the times' changes.

POLISHING WOOD WITH CHARCOAL.

A METHOD of polishing wood with charcoal, now much employed by French cabinet-makers, is described in a Parisian technical journal. In this cosmopolitan city may be seen many articles of furniture of a beautiful dead-black color, with sharp, clean-cut edges and smooth surfaces, the wood of which appears to have the density of ebony. As against furniture rendered black by paint or varnish, the difference is so sensible that the great margin of price value between the two kinds of work explains itself. The operations are much longer and more minute in the case of charcoal polishing, which respects every detail of carving, white paint and varnish would clog up the holes and widen the ridges. In the first process only carefully selected woods are employed, of a close and compact grain; they are covered with a coat of camphor dissolved in water, and afterwards with another, composed chiefly of sulphate of iron and nutgall. These two compositions, in blending, penetrate the wood, giving it an indelible tinge, and at the same time rendering it impervious to the attack of insects. When sufficiently dry, the surface of the wood is rubbed at first with a hard brush of couch grass and then with charcoal of substances as light and pliable as possible. Any hard grains remaining in the charcoal scratches the surface instead of rendering it perfectly smooth. The flat parts are then rubbed with natural stick charcoal, and the indented portions and crevices with charcoal powder. Alternately with the charcoal, the workman also rubs the furniture with flannel soaked in linseed oil and essence of turpentine. Repeated punctions cause the charcoal powder and oil to penetrate into the wood, giving the furniture a beautiful color and also a perfect polish without any of the flaws of ordinary varnish.

A THREE CENT STAMP DOES IT.

ON receipt of a three cent stamp we will mail free to any address a copy of our little hand-book entitled "Rules and Regulations for the inspection of pine and hardwood lumber," as adopted by the lumber section and sanctioned by the Council of the Board of Trade, of Toronto, June 16, 1890. Address, CANADA LUMBERMAN, Toronto, Ont.