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A QUEBEC despatch says that Mr. P. Ouellet, of Lewis, has purchased from the Bank of Montreal more than a million feet of timber belonging to the estate of the late Leandre Mohot, of Cap St. Ignace.

MR. VACHON has purchased all the lumber on the seignory owned by the Seminary of Quebec. Over one hundred men are engaged in cutting timber and building a dam on the Montmorenci river about half a mile above the natural steps.

INDIAN Superintendent Dingman has been making inquiries into the sale of timber on Walpole Island. One chief declares that he received \$250 in cash and a promise of ten trees to support Mr. Tennant's contract, and a further sum of \$100 to make an affidavit that the tenders were voted on honestly.

TIMBER, such as hickory, dogwood and persimmon, which a short time ago was almost worthless in North Carolina, is now in demand at \$6 per cord, for sawing into blocks for the purpose of manufacturing them into power-loom shuttles. A factory for doing this has been started in Statesville, N. C., another at Elmwood, on the Western North Carolina Railroad, and still another at the Iredell Mills.

COTTONWOOD, like hemlock, a few years ago was regarded as almost worthless. It was principally used by raftsmen for buoying up cyprus logs, and found little or no market. Now it has come into extensive use in New Orleans and other southern cities, for the manufacture of packing boxes and is claimed to be the best wood in the world for that purpose. The milling price for seasoned lumber is \$13 per thousand with prospect of an advance as the supply readily obtainable decreases. The *American Lumberman* thinks it highly probable that this wood will ultimately come into favor for ceiling and other inside work, as experiments in that line have proved very satisfactory.

A BILL has been introduced into Congress directing the withdrawal from the market of the fine government timber lands yet undisposed of, which are principally valuable for their timber, and the appointment of a sufficient number of examiners skilled in woodcraft to make an examination of the pine lands already surveyed, and report a full description of them, giving the quality of the soil, the springs and streams of water, the quality and quantity of pine and other matters tending to fix the value of the land. After the filing of the reports with the Secretary of the Interior, he is authorized to offer the lands for sale in the manner now prescribed by law, but the notice of sale shall contain a description by legal subdivisions, and the quality and merchantable value of the lands.

#### TO GROW FOREST TREES FROM SEED.

The following paper was read at the meeting of the American Forestry Congress at Montreal, by D. W. Beadle, of St. Catharines, Ont.:

It has occurred to me that there may be farmers who want to plant young trees, either for useful purposes or for ornamentation, and if they want to plant largely may find it impossible to get them in sufficient quantity from nurserymen, who generally confine their cultivation to fruit trees, and have not grown to any great extent forest trees for timber. But these parties can form a nursery of these trees themselves by procuring a small piece of ground and have it especially prepared and well manured, so that there will be strength in the soil for a few years, and then they can raise whatever kind of tree they want. Seeds of the elm, maple, ash and of the walnut and butternut can be found in almost any part of the Province. The important point in planting seeds is that they should be planted as soon as perfectly ripe. Some of our trees ripen their seeds quite early. The soft maples, the dasycarpum and rubrum and the elms, ripen their seeds in June. (Mr. Beadle here exhibited two seedlings of soft maple grown from this year's seeds.) These maples ripen their seed in June, and it should be gathered and sown at once so that you can get a tree of considerable growth before the winter season. The seed of the elms should also be sown at once; it should be sown in drills not deeply, but covered very lightly. These small seeds require to be covered with only sufficient earth to keep them moist, and they will produce plants in a very short time, and gain sufficient strength to tide over the cold season. But it is not true of all the maples that they ripen their seed so early in the season. The sugar maple ripens its seeds late in the autumn, as well as the ash-leaved maple, and unless you wish to sow them in the autumn, you have to preserve them and sow them in the spring. If you are not in a position to sow the seed at once, and wish to keep them till the next spring, they should be mixed with sandy soil and kept damp, yet not so damp as to cause them to germinate, and not be allowed to get dry. In this way you may preserve them with safety. If kept dry in papers some of them will have vitality the following spring, but many of them will not germinate next season, and the proper way to preserve them is to mix them with moist earth. Now come the butternuts, chestnuts, and walnuts; these all ripen in the late autumn, and in suitable soils may be planted as soon as gathered, and allowed to freeze and thaw with impunity, as they will not suffer therefrom, but will germinate freely in the spring. But in soils which heave out the nuts under the effect of alternate freezing and thawing, it will be better to mix the seeds with soil in sufficient quantity

to keep them moist, and prevent them from moulding, and keep them until spring before planting, or they may be spread out very thin upon the ground, and covered with a sod, in which manner they will keep fresh. It is not necessary that the nuts be subjected to frost, that is a matter of perfect indifference; the important thing is not to permit them to become dry. These trees can be grown in nursery fashion, until they attain sufficient size to be planted where they are to remain, especially the elms, maples and ashes. The nut-bearing trees will make better growth if they be planted in the nut where they are to remain.

#### FAR WESTERN PROGRESS.

One of the most noteworthy examples of current progress is the opening up of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington by railway construction. The remote regions of the Rocky mountains in Idaho and Montana, as well as eastern Oregon and Washington, hitherto inaccessible save by means of the slow-plodding mule and the long-suffering horse, will soon reverberate with the shrill locomotive whistle and the thundering train. The vast regions thus opening to traffic are mostly without adequate timber resources, and as their mining and stock-grazing interests are developed, and towns and cities spring up, a field of lumber distribution as large as that now tributary to Chicago will be added to that which is calling on the supply.

All are familiar with the building of the Northern Pacific, which now lacks only 200 miles of completion, and will sweep across the northern part of the mountain region. The Union Pacific company is pulling out to reach Oregon and Washington abreast of its great northern rival. It is constructing the Oregon Short Line, which leaves the main line at Granger, Wyoming, and strikes off through Idaho in a generally northwest direction toward Oregon, and is intended to connect with the Oregon system at, or fifty miles east of, Baker City. The road will be opened to Shoshone, Idaho, on March 1, a distance of 321 miles from Granger. Shoshone is at the junction of the Wood river branch, which extends northward. The Short Line not only will connect with the Oregon system, but is striving after Puget Sound business and this interest is spurring the Northern Pacific company to put in the projected road across the Cascade range from its trunk line to a Puget Sound outlet. Not only are these two great rival trans-continental companies thus reaching and straining after north Pacific traffic, but it is said that the Chicago & Northwestern company is stretching for the Pacific through a region midway between the lines of the Union Pacific and Northern Pacific, and will soon have a road completed to Deadwood, in the Black Hills. Further progress westward across the Rockies is only a question of time. These

three great trunk lines will quite thoroughly open up the regions of Idaho and Montana, and each is sure to throw out branches as the two that have already penetrated the country have begun to do. It is safe to say that, within three to five years, Idaho, Montana, eastern Oregon and Washington will be as well supplied with railroads as Iowa and Minnesota now are. This, of course, means settlement, hundreds of new towns and cities, and the use of any amount of lumber.

The territory in question will derive a large part of its lumber supplies from the growths in the mountains of Montana around Lake Pond D'Oroille, the western slope of the Rockies, and on Puget Sound; but these sources of supply will not be nearly adequate to supply the demand. The white pine of the regions of the great lakes will furnish a kind of lumber that will be wanted in the mountain states and territories, and the supply will be drawn upon as long as it shall last. - *Northwestern Lumberman.*

#### THE NORTHWESTERN TRADE.

We learn from the *Northwestern Lumberman's* report of the proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Chicago Lumbermen's Exchange, at the president called upon Major Camp, of Camp & Walker, Minneapolis, Minn., to address the meeting. After a few complimentary remarks, by way of sugar coating a bitter pill he was rolling up for them, he launched the opinion that the prospects were that trade in the northwest would not be as good as it was last year. They should cut the same amount of logs that was cut last year, but they went in for more. Providence had kindly stepped in and saved them from the foolishness they had intended (meaning the intervention of deep snow and extremely cold weather). The demand in Dakota and Manitoba will not be as great as it was a year ago, and the prospect was a little discouraging. Yet they were working along and maintaining prices. He could say for the firm of Camp & Walker that it had not sold a foot of lumber yet below list prices. When they should find that their prices were above the market, they would reduce their figures and issue a new list. The trade of Chicago and the Minneapolis district the coming year would have to meet a heavy competition. There would be a heavy increase of production in northern Wisconsin, fully 200,000,000 feet, on account of numerous new mills having been put in. Chicago will not get a chance to ship to Manitoba, as it did last year, because he (Camp) would prevent it if possible. The dealers of his section would also crawl down into Iowa and Nebraska, and in those fields try to work off some of their surplus. This talk might not be palatable and encouraging to some of the dealers present, but it was nevertheless true. When Mr. Camp had done speaking, the president adjourned the meeting.