

the fish. In most cases it is piled up on the banks of the rivers, where, from the size of the heaps, they are justly called "mountains of sawdust." We have seen sawdust as cast aside form features in the landscape of the Swedish river banks altogether dwarfing the mills and their surroundings, and we have no doubt but other countries, such as Russia and Canada, can give like experience of this waste product. In England sawdust is not generally a waste product; it is compressed with a solution of resin, and becomes an article of commerce for lighting fires; it is also used for strowing on the floors of certain shops after the manner of sand, as boulding for horses, and for packing purposes, &c., but the bulk of it is mixed with coal and other refuse and burnt under the steam boilers.

As sawdust can be practically applied to the manufacture of illuminating gas, it is clear, as in the above instance, that, where the supply is at hand, towns may be illuminated by it; but it strikes us as being applicable in a smaller and more general degree in the case of illuminating saw-mills, joinery works, and other establishments where sawdust is produced. We take it that its manufacture could be conducted on a simpler plan than that of coal gas, because it would be more free from mineral residue, and require less labor and plant in connection with its purification. Further, the coke or ash remaining would be a valuable fuel for heating and cooking purposes, where sulphurous fumes were objected to. We can well understand that sawdust would produce a good illuminating gas, for it is of all materials the most combustible, or capable of producing flame; for domestic purposes it would be most valuable, as its combustion would be free from such deleterious ingredients as sulphur. We think there is an opening here for the operations of our engineers to produce small cheap plants for gas-making from sawdust; such plants, although not largely applicable in England, where there is plenty of coal and but little sawdust, would be freely used on the Continent, where there is little or no coal and plenty of sawdust or waste wood.

#### REDUCE THE CUT.

The London *Timber Trades Journal* says:—Now that the time approaches when arrangements for work in the forests will have to be made, we cannot too strongly urge upon manufacturers at the various shipping ports the necessity there is for conducting these operations on a scale that will assist in adjusting the balance between supply and demand, which has been sadly thrown out of gear the past few years. Cutting this year should be considerably reduced, and certainly no fancy prices ought to be paid by mills for log lots.

The cause this year of the unsatisfactory state of the trade and the consequent falling prices may in a great measure be accounted for by the large winter operations of 1881-1882.

As long as the supply is in excess of the demand there is no chance for prices to recover; on the contrary they must continue their downward tendency, and no first cost, however low the scale, will be reliable as coming within the scope of the markets over here while the over-production lasts.

It is generally believed that not alone in the timber trade, but in other manufactures, the wave of depression which is passing over the commercial world is traceable to their being "too much of the commodity." The result has been greater clearance sales either by public auction or in the ordinary way, but in which the first cost of the article disposed of has been left out of consideration altogether. The present condition of trade has reached a climax that necessitates some alteration or another if it is to be conducted on any system at all. The haphazard style of doing things cannot possibly be satisfactory to the manufacturer, and must lead ultimately to immense losses on one side or another.

Even if goods could be bought first hand to leave a profit at the prices now current, unless the over-stock ceased the downward tendency would remain unchecked. Hence from every point of view it is most desirable, especially at the Swedish ports from whence the bulk of the timber supplies come, that the forest cutting should be kept this winter within moderate

limits, so that the following season might admit of the present over-stock being realized at something like paying prices.

#### WHOLESALE TIMBER REMOVAL.

A consequence of the greedy wholesale removal of timber, which is well worthy of consideration, is mentioned in William Morris' article on "Irish Local Government," in the last *Macmillan*. He is writing of the spread of bog in certain districts, and he says:—"On the bottom are found the stools of immense trees which kept those areas free from the clinging black peat. These trees were cut down, and furnished in many cases the export timber trade in Ireland in the seventeenth century. Subsequently to this original state the land grew under—or brushwood, and as peat grew simultaneously this growth of wood dwindled till finally it ceased, and so the hazel stools are left at certain heights in the peat as mill-stones, marking the progress in the age or rather state of bog, and after this depth of peat had been attained the areas only grow heather and the other moorland plants." The following expedient is pointed out as the remedy for this waste:—"Taking the waters into the stone by deepening the old channels and opening up new would arrest the development of this process."

#### LUMBER TO MAURITIUS.

Mauritius is an island in the Indian ocean, lying east of Madagascar, and belongs to Great Britain. Far away as it is the lumber market there depends on Sweden mainly for its supply of pine. It comes either direct from Scandinavia or by way of England. It is shipped in the shape of 3-inch deals, and some of it is re-sawed into 1½-inch and 1-inch stuff, with the ends left joined so that the 3-inch sawed piece can be handled as one instead of two or three pieces. The lumber is very evenly cut; and importers believing that lumber could be sawed equally as well in America, ordered lumber from here sawed in a similar way, but were disappointed at the "shallow" way the work was done, considering the perfection we claim for our wood-working machinery. Alexander Duff & Co., of Boston, have shipped lumber and shingles to Mauritius, T. B. Robinson having charge of their trade at Port Louis, the principal place on the island.—*Northwestern Lumberman*.

#### AN ILL WIND BLOWS GOOD.

The *Timber Trades Journal* says:—The great destruction of property caused by the recent heavy gales cannot help giving the consumption of timber some stimulus. The damage to many of the piers and piers at the watering-places of the south coast will have to be made good in the first instance by timber, and the local demand at those which have suffered the most severely will doubtless become active for a time. It is a true saying that it is an ill wind which blows nobody any good, for the winds of Saturday and Sunday evidently blow the timber merchants down Channel way, a plum. So with the destruction of shipping, due to these gales, repairs will be necessitated that will call into requisition timber of different kinds, and which, though small in themselves, must mount up in the aggregate to something like a respectable total, which will assist shipbuilders in reducing their stocks, and thus promote the trade.

#### New Brunswick Exports.

The business of shipping piling and firewood from the port of St. John has been more extensive this season than ever before, and greater preparations will be made for next season. The amount of piling shipped was 94 cargoes, containing 49,252 pieces of piling, and the large shipment made in the cribs is excluded from this. The greater portion of the piling was shipped to New York, but some cargoes were sent to St. John's, Newfoundland, to be used in the construction of the dry docks at that port. The firewood shipped was 133 cargoes, containing 8,462 cords. Of this quantity, by far the larger part was shipped to Rock and Rockport, Me. Many schooners are constantly engaged in the latter trade. Besides this quantity, many cargoes of both piling and firewood were shipped from Quaco, Musquash and Lepreau.

## Chips.

A HOTEL to go up at St. Augustine, Fla., will require 2,000,000 feet of lumber.

TERRIBLE forest fires have been raging in the neighborhood of Hall's Bay, Newfoundland.

A SALE of 600,000 feet of black ash lumber was made recently at Saginaw, Mich., at \$13 a thousand.

THE Bolloville *Intelligencer* says that another consignment of timber is on the way here, from Bobcaygeon.

THE Brandon *Mail* says: "The American Lumber Company have sold their business in this city to Mr. P. McLaren. Mr. R. F. Edgar, wood dealer, will be connected with this firm."

THE *Monetary Times* says: "At the Rankine mill, on the St. John, the wharves have been rebuilt, fitted with tramways, and so enlarged that they have now capacity for 10,000,000 feet of lumber."

RUSSIA has been for a long time suffering the effects of reckless forest devastation. *Nevae Vremya* says that the wanton destruction of timber threatens to turn some of the best wooded provinces into a barren waste.

A WRITER in the *Home and Farm* used about a quart of sawdust on each hill of a plot of potatoes and none in another plot. The sawdust hills yielded nearly twice as much as the others, and the potatoes were larger and smoother.

THE total length of public roads in Franco is 18,760 miles, of which 7,230 are bordered with trees, while 4,500 miles are at present being planted. The number of trees already planted is 2,678,003, consisting of elm, poplar, acacia, plane, ash, sycamore and lime.

THE *Monetary Times* says: "The quantity of lumber shipped down the St. Clair River is very great. On one day, between Detroit and Baby's Point no less than twenty two propellers and vessels were met laden with lumber of various kinds and shingles, one carrying tan bark and another cedar posts."

AN Ottawa correspondent says:—The Chaudiere mill men are filling up their yards rather than sell at a reduced price. Many of them are extending their piling grounds. There is considerable of a stir among American boatmen just now and freight rates have been somewhat reduced. Many of them are taking their last cargo for the season, which accounts for the reduction.

THE *Northwestern Lumberman* says:—Lively logging is reported from Hubbard Lake, Mich., district. On Tuesday, September 4, 338 pine trees were standing in that locality, and by the Friday following the trees were cut down, sawed into logs, hauled to the railroad, carried to Lake Huron, 30 miles, towed to Oshtemo, Alpena County, and when scaled were found to measure 250,000 feet.

THE republic of Guatemala has engaged a Celon planter to introduce into that country 500,000 cinchona trees, for obtaining peruvian bark, from which is distilled the salt known as quinine. President Barrios was led to try this experiment owing to the great increase in the use of cinchona bark, not only for quinine and as an ingredient in a substitute for hops, but for various commercial purposes.

AN Ottawa despatch of Sept. 12th says:—At the Russell House to-day the extensive timber limits of A. & P. White, Pemoroko, were offered for sale. The first parcel offered was nearly four hundred square miles, on the Magnissipi; the highest bid was \$200,000, but the owner considered the figure too low, and withdrew the parcel. Seventy nine miles square and a small saw mill on the Deux Rivieres were then put up and withdrawn.

THE Kingston *News* of Sept. 19th, says:—Mr. W. Leslie has had three rafts made at French Bay, each of which is five tier deep. One of them has arrived at Port Dalhousie in tow of the tug McArthur. In the three rafts there are 480,000 feet of timber, equal to about thirty vessel loads. In the formation of each raft about 40 tons of chain is used, so that it will stand the sea as well as a barge. If the experiment of bringing timber down the lake in rafts is a success the timber vessels will suffer.

THE *Monetary Times* thus summarizes a portion of Mr. W. J. Paterson's valuable report on the trade of Montreal: "Exports of lumber and deals, especially to South America, which had declined some years ago, have recovered. The figures indicate that Montreal is attracting a good share of the deal export business. This increase is by no means accounted for by the revival of the River Plate trade, which had declined from 36,673,919 ft. in 1873 to 3,487,000 ft. in 1876, but now gives evidence of assuming its former proportions, the quantity exported last year from Montreal being 21,733,292 ft., some 48 vessels sailing hence for the Plata.

The Toronto *Globe* of Sept. 15 says:—A case has arisen in the township of Glamorgan which is likely to prove of great interest to lumbermen generally. Mr. Hilliard, of Peterborough, and a number of other, timber licensees from the Government, have been assessed for their interest in timber in question. This is the first time that such an interest has ever been assessed. A rule nisi for a prohibition to the township from proceeding with the assessment was applied for by Mr. Barron, of Lindsay, and granted yesterday. Lumbermen in the township are much interested in the result of the case, which will shortly be argued at Osgoode Hall.

W. A. EDGARS, of Frankville, was cured of Liver and Kidney Complaint after life was despaired of. He had remained from ten to fifteen days without an action of the bowels. Burdock Blood Bitters cured him, and he writes that he is a better man than he has been for twenty years past.

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