

directed public attention to this subject as one of the gravest character. Memorials have been addressed to the United States Congress and the Canadian Parliament. The question has been fully and ably discussed by intelligent men of both countries; and, notwithstanding the imminently serious condition of the situation is fully confirmed, whenever any investigation has been made; yet the Governments of both countries I was going to say "do nothing." No—worse than that—each does its best "to get rid of the timber"—that of the United States by imposing a restrictive duty on lumber, and that of Canada by lowering the export duty on logs.

The alarming condition is now painfully apparent to the most casual observer, who will contrast the character of the timber manufactured at the present time, running largely into the different grades of culls, with the magnificent black walnut, black cherry, butternut, chestnut, hickory, buttonwood, whitewood, black and white ash, red and white oak, red and white pine, which, when not used for fencing or fuel, were burnt up in the log heaps of Ontario in Canada, and in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin in the United States, only a few years ago, and which, when manufactured, the product thereof, ran largely into the grades of selects and clear lumber; and, while this matter is hardly given a thought by any one, we are almost face to face with a problem that must be quickly solved, or disastrous results will surely and speedily follow.

New lines of railway are being built, or extended, into districts, dependent almost entirely on the timber trade for business—the carrying capacity of the Lake marine is being increased at an enormous rate—cities, towns, and villages, depending largely on the lumber industry, are enlarging their borders, as if the supply were inexhaustible. But timber cannot be grown like a crop of corn—its growth is a matter, not of years, but of ages, and when once gone, cannot be restored during the lifetime of those now living, while the really good timber of the north Atlantic and Lake region is not only not inexhaustible, as many suppose, but actually about exhausted.

Beginning at the north Atlantic seaboard, the lumbermen started in to procure that most valuable of all timber, the incomparable white pine; and, after exhausting the original forests of the New England States and coast region, extended their operations through northern New York, Pennsylvania, and Canada, till they finally settled in that paradise of the lumberman, the States of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, and here their crusade terminates, for they have now reached the confines; and one can realize with what relentless energy they have pursued their victim, when we consider that the amount of this timber converted into lumber the past season, from this section alone, reached the enormous aggregate of 8,305,833,277 superficial feet (according to the admirable compiled statement of the *Northwestern Lumberman*)—an amount equal to two-thirds of the entire cut of all descriptions of timber in every State in the Union but twenty