

TREE PLANTING.

The following article appears in the *Montreal Witness* over the signature "Itusticus":

"Almost all the readers of the *Witness* already know that the American Forestry Congress held its last annual session in Montreal in August, at which a number of interesting papers on forestry were read and discussed. The proceedings of the various meetings held during the session were published in sheet form, and Mr. William Little, of Montreal, Corresponding Secretary of the American Forestry Congress, will be happy to furnish copies to any one who is about to engage in forest culture. I regret that the proceedings were not published in pamphlet form so that every farmer in the Dominion, who has a taste for tree-culture, might get a copy, for it would be most interesting and useful reading matter to pass the time, during the farmers' leisure hours, pleasantly and profitably. Even such farmers as those who, like myself, have spent many years in successful warfare against Canadian forests, might now "turn over a new leaf" with advantage, and derive much greater pleasure, if not profit, from re-planting with trees a portion of the land they so often watered with the sweat of their brows while chopping, logging, burning and stumping it. There can be no doubt but large areas of the cultivated lands in the Dominion would be much more valuable at present if they were still clothed with the primeval forests which adorned them previous to the woodman's invasion, and on many rough and infertile places, the best paying crop that could be raised would be a crop of timber, while many a dreary prospect might thereby be changed into one of rare beauty. There are many places all over the country where the roads in winter are in a semi-impassible state, at least for heavy loads, owing to the large drifts of snow which are piled upon them by every storm; yet if small belts of trees were planted alongside the roads in the more exposed parts they might become most delightful drives in winter or summer. These "drifting places" on public roads are an annual source of serious loss to the travelling public, amounting in some cases to more than sufficient to purchase a strip of the adjacent land and plant it with sufficient trees to prevent all future driftings there. Evergreen trees, such as pine, spruce, cedar and balsam, are the best to plant for shelter to roads, orchards or gardens, and it is generally admitted that the best time for transplanting these trees is in the month of August, when most farmers are busy with harvest work. In many places they can also be successfully set out in the fall when the young trees are growing within a moderate distance of where they are wanted. The following plan has been successfully practised in transplanting evergreen trees in the fall, or any other kind of forest trees: If of too large size to be transplanted in the ordinary way. If possible, select such trees as grow naturally upon dryer soil than the place where they are to be planted, and such only as were not shaded by other trees, so that they may have low bushy tops. Before the ground freezes up dig a small trench around them forming a circle of about four feet in diameter and leave them thus until the frost has penetrated in the soil to a depth of six or eight inches when the trees with the frozen earth around its roots can be drawn away on a stone-boat or low sled to where it is to be planted. To save extra labor a sufficiently large hole will have to be dug before the ground freezes to receive the tree with its accompanying mass of frozen earth. Two or three days spent before the ground freezes much, and a week or ten days more, after there is more or less frost and snow on the ground, would be sufficient to plant quite a strip of ornamental and useful trees of considerable size in the way above indicated. When in Great Britain and Ireland, I was surprised to see how much tree-planting is being done there now and for some years past. It seems to me that they are overdoing the thing there, for the country, which was always inclined to be moist, has lately become much more so, causing the work of harvesting the crops to become very tedious, and in many places rather precarious, and no doubt the increasing area of tree plantations for the gentry, and the urban masses for the breeding of mushroom, help materially in equipping the

increased humidity. The Scottish Arboreal Cultural Society at its recent meeting in Edinburgh awarded some six or seven silver medals and a number of other prizes to the writers of successful essays on the various subjects connected with tree-culture. We ought to have Arboreal Cultural societies and writers of prize essays on tree-culture in Canada, where they are much more needed than in Britain with its abundant supply of cheap fuel. Almost every farmer is aware how valuable second-growth white ash is in making and repairing farm machinery, yet few of them have ever planted a dozen ash trees. There are many patches of low, wet, poor land throughout the country which originally were tamarac swamps and which might again be replanted with the same kind of trees, which would become a source of wealth to their future owners. While travelling in the North-West in the spring of 1879 I observed groves of ash-leaved maples which sprang from seeds deposited by the flood of 1852, yet these young trees had already become useful in the production of maple sugar. These beautiful ash-leaved maples would readily grow in any part of Ontario or Quebec, and plenty of the seed or young shoots could be got from Manitoba.

SAVE THE HARDWOOD.

The Big Rapids, Mich., *Pioneer* is trying to stir up the citizens of that town to the desirability of more manufactories there that employ wood as a raw material. The advice is timely; but judging from efforts in that direction that have come within our own experience, the only way to promote manufacturing at any given point is to make somebody who has capital see that money is to be made by it. Nobody is going to invest money in Big Rapids, or anywhere else, for the sake of building up the town, unless, perhaps, he has an eye to a real estate speculation. But, really, if there could be a large increase of manufactories of wood goods of great diversity in Northern Michigan, it would be of vast benefit to that portion of the state; and for this reason: Farming population is rapidly settling on the hardwood lands, and, if local manufactories are not established so as to give these settlers a market for their maple, elm, birch, ash, etc., quite near home, they will do as all settlers in a forest country have done, slash down the trees and burn them, as the easiest way to get rid of the incumbrance. But if hardwood saw-mills and factories for working up the various kinds of hard timber are put in proportionately with the rapidity of settlement, the local value of the forest growth will become such that it will be considered folly to slaughter and waste it. Northern Michigan and Wisconsin are remarkably well situated to profit by their hardwoods if their citizens did but know it. They are right in the heart of the most populous part of the country, with a timberless area, including several states to the westward, that are developing space. The conditions of these two timbered sections are vastly different from the eastern timbered regions, where there was at the time of the settlement but little market for hardwoods. It is to be hoped the sacrifices to agriculture will not go far before the money interest will arrest it.—*Northwestern Lumberman.*

THE LUMBER TRADE.

Lumber shipment by water being now over for the season, we have made some enquiries among the firms and companies represented here, as to the character of the season's trade and the prospect for the coming cut. All agree that the business of the year has been remunerative. A good demand has prevailed and good prices have been obtained for lumber of all kinds. The stock to be wintered over in the Peninsula and on the Georgian Bay will probably be smaller than last year. At some particular points there may be more, but upon the whole the supply will be less.

It is too early, as yet, to discuss the probable make of log during the season of 1882-3. The mills have this season cut just as much as they could do, and whatever favoring weather may permit to be done in the way of logging this winter, it will not be possible for steam mills to cut more lumber than they did this present year, unless, of course, their number is increased, and we hear of only one impor-

tant addition, that on French River. The disposition appears to be to restrict the cut. And that this is the feeling in the United States is shown by the circumstance that one firm of operators in Michigan, who last season got out 60,000,000 feet of logs are getting out this season only 40,000,000 feet. The argument being that if excessive quantities are produced the price will be weakened, which, having regard to the increased cost of labor and logging plant, is a matter which manufacturers do not desire.

At country points in Ontario the demand for lumber is steady; at this point it is not specially brisk, for there is rather a lull in building which during the year has been decidedly active, if not overdone, in this city and suburbs. Prices continue firm, but will likely be unchanged until the spring opens, or until the winter season has so far advanced as to enable an intelligent forecast of the crop to be made.

On the south shore of the St. Lawrence, in the Province of Quebec, the past season's operations in lumber have been more encouraging than for several years, although it is true that till late in the fall there was but a light demand for wood goods for the English market. A firm of operators on the Chaudiere and St. Francis rivers thus express themselves as to the business:

"While business has been much more active, with higher prices ruling for most classes of sawn lumber, there are several facts in connection with lumbering that must not be overlooked. Wages have increased from 15 to 25 per cent. in one year; the prices of staple provisions, connected with the lumbering industry, have been very high, and the Crown (speaking of the local Government of Quebec) has increased its tariff of stampage. The manufacturer does not, therefore, immediately benefit much by the improved state of things, though with the prospects of a more favorable future the horizon assumes a brighter hue."

The trade in hard-wood lumber is good. The American demand is active, and appearances indicate that there will be a market for all we can furnish. Some kinds are growing scarcer and prices may be expected to advance.—*Montreal Times.*

NEW BRUNSWICK TIMBER SHIPMENTS.

The St. John, N. B., *Globe* says:—"The shipments from the whole Province for 1882 will show a falling off compared with 1881. The totals for Chatham are:—1882: 100 vessels, 58,545 tons, 48,700,679 s. f. deals, etc., 3,556,726 pieces palings, 210 tons birch, 1,224 tons of pine timber. 1881: 142 vessels, 71,374 tons, 62,892,000 s. f. deals, etc., 2,371,440 pieces palings, 1087 tons timber. The totals for Newcastle are:—1882: 138 vessels 77,462 tons, 63,716,000 sup. feet deals, battens and ends, 4,844,000 sup. feet boards and scantling, 524,000 pieces of palings and laths, 583 tons birch, 723 tons pine timber. 1881: 142 vessels, 74,776 tons, 59,772,000 sup. feet deals, etc., 6,599,000 sup. feet boards and scantling, 639,000 pieces of palings and laths, 452 tons birch, and 523 tons pine timber. The totals for Bathurst are:—1882: 34 vessels, 20,242 tons, 17,412,806 sup. feet of deals, etc., 348,109 sup. feet boards, 55,869 sup. feet plank, 193,495 pieces lath and palings, 4,213 railway sleepers, 12 telegraph poles. 1881: 40 vessels, 18,697 tons, 16,156,371 sup. feet of deals, boards, etc., 125,954 pieces of palings and laths, 12,000 shingles, 218,000 pieces staves, 8,312 sleepers, 161 tons of timber. The totals for Dalhousie are:—1882: 38 vessels, 20,687 tons, 15,552,566 sup. feet sawn lumber, 14,800 pieces palings, 64 cords lathwood, 4,011 tons timber. 1881: 41 vessels, 21,277 tons, 15,838,127 sup feet of deals, ends and battens, 43,000 palings, 4,907 tons timber.

We have not heard the amount of shipment from Shediac and one or two other small ports. A very good idea of the business of the year can be gathered, however, from the above statements."

LUMBER SHIPMENTS FROM ST. JOHN, N.B.

The St. John *Globe* says:—"The shipments from St. John for the year 1882 will probably be somewhat under the shipments made last year. For the eleven months ending 30th Nov. they are twelve million feet less than in the same period last year, the total shipments being

for 1882, 187,495,815 feet; 1881, 199,533,621 feet.

We append particulars:—

Port.	No. of vessels.	Tons.	Deals, etc. super feet.
Australia, 1882	2	1,661	14,810,000
" 1881	4	4,232	3,115,814
Dartmouth, 1882	10	8,007	7,991,134
" 1881	3	1,022	1,460,165
Bristol Channel, 1882	46	32,661	37,819,063
" 1881	38	20,712	28,192,130
Continent, 1882	26	10,650	17,950,566
" 1881	43	25,194	22,032,303
Ireland, 1882	72	30,063	30,111,042
" 1881	80	45,114	42,117,143
Liverpool, 1882	85	63,400	77,747,787
" 1881	76	62,033	71,529,873
London, 1882	5	4,040	3,085,400
" 1881	20	20,678	10,577,062
Scotland, 1882	8	7,685	6,565,712
" 1881	13	8,770	7,987,133
Wales, 1882	4	2,006	621,067
" 1881	5	2,155	1,172,144
Sundry, 1882	0	4,709	4,387,885
" 1881	3	1,407	1,402,815
Total, 1882	205	214,182	187,495,815
" 1881	290	221,872	199,533,621
A. Gibson, 1882	118	112,194	103,534,047
" 1881	60	70,258	73,062,480
W. M. McKay, 1882	85	28,432	22,282,836
" 1881	20	22,603	18,321,285
Carvill, McKean & Co., 1882	42	25,401	23,233,849
" 1881	50	30,473	28,201,036
R. A. & J. Stewart, 1882	31	23,723	19,729,572
" 1881	73	54,518	49,956,106
Guy, Bovan & Co, 1882	10	10,450	9,606,247
" 1881	24	20,532	18,193,285
S. Schofield, 1882	11	6,840	2,508,868
" 1881	9	4,623	2,332,363
Sundry, 1882	12	7,142	6,019,306
" 1881	16	8,847	6,980,087
McLachlan & Wilson, 1881	3	1,453	926,400
Total, 1882	265	214,182	187,495,815
" 1881	290	221,871	199,533,621

POLISHING WOOD WITH CHARCOAL.

All the world knows of those articles of furniture of a beautiful dead-black color, with sharp, clear-cut edges, and a smooth surface, the wood of which seems to have the density of ebony. Viewing them side by side with furniture rendered black by paint and varnish, says the *London Cabinet Maker*, the difference is so sensible that the considerable margin of price separating the two kinds explains itself without need of any commentary. The operations are much longer and much more minute in this mode of a charcoal polishing, which respects every detail of the carving, while paint and varnish would clog up the holes and widen the ridges. In the first process they employ only carefully selected woods of a close and compact grain; they cover them with a coat of camphor dissolved in water, and almost immediately afterwards with another coat, composed chiefly of sulphate of iron and nutgall. The two compositions, in blending, penetrate the wood, and give it an indelible tinge, and at the same time render it impervious to the attacks of insects.

When these two coats are sufficiently dry, they rub the surface of the wood at first with a very hard brush of couch-grass (chiendent), and then with charcoal of substances as light and friable as possible, because if a single hard grain remained in the charcoal this alone would scratch the surface, which they wish, on the contrary, to render perfectly smooth. The flat parts are rubbed with natural stick charcoal, the indented portions and crevices with charcoal powder. At once, almost simultaneously, and alternately with the charcoal, the workman also rubs his piece of furniture with flannel soaked in linseed oil and the essence of turpentine. These pouncings, repeated several times, cause the charcoal powder and the oil to penetrate into the wood, giving the article of furniture a beautiful color and perfect polish which has done of the flaws of ordinary varnish. Black wood polished with charcoal is coming day by day to be in greater demand; it is more serviceable, it does not tarnish like gilding, nor grow yellow like white wood, and in furnishing a drawing-room it agrees very happily with gilt bronzes and rich stuffs. In the dining-room, too, it is thoroughly in its place to show off the plate to the greatest advantage, and in the library it supplies a capital framework for handsomely-bound books.—*Furniture Gazette.*