

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, MAY 11, 1923

14

Our Vanishing Forests

Ottawa's 97-Year-Old Active Lumberman Blames Fire—But Canada Won't Conserve Till Forced

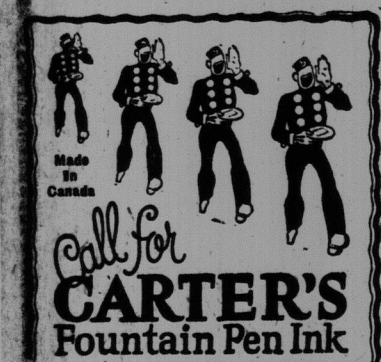
(Toronto Telegram.)

American, yes and Canadian, who has talked of Canada as a land of limitless and inexhaustible forests might rid themselves of this misconception, if John R. Booth, Canada's oldest active business man, were to converse with them. On 8th April last this Grand Old Man of the lumber industry stepped blithely into his 97th year and spent his birth on his timber lands in Madawaska woods.

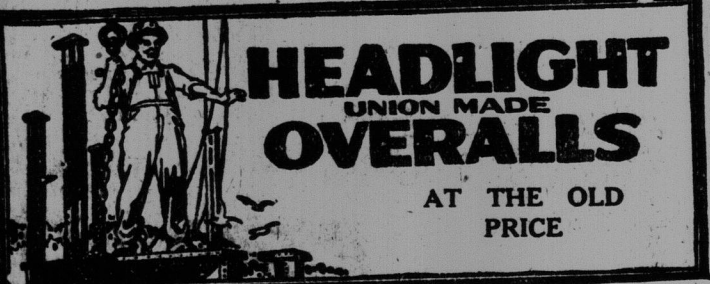
John Rudolph Booth, who is still the very real ear of the big corporation which bears his name first saw the light of day just 12 years after Waterloo had been fought. He has spent twenty-five years as an active lumberman in Canada and in that time has seen a densely packed empire of forest give way to one third of its old time dimensions. In his long business life he has seen the finest white pine have been turned into deserts and principalities of hardwood have been swept ruthlessly away. And the old lumber baron blames fire as the chief destroyer. He says that for every tree taken out as timber at least twenty have been burned up.

Talked for Publication.

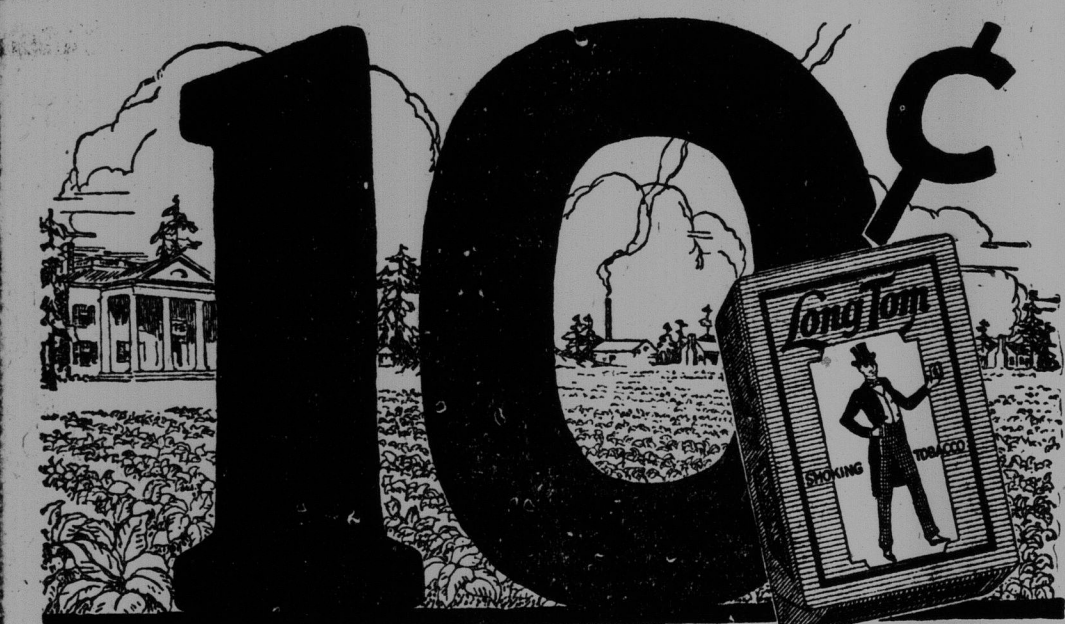
This veteran of the lumber camps has no liking for newspaper interviews. They tell of a writer who came thousands of miles to get a story from him. He found Mr. Booth at his daily routine of driving through the timber yards in an ancient buggy behind an equally ancient horse. "You are just wasting your time and mine," exclaimed John R., and drove on to the next place of scuffling. But the nonagenarian, who not long ago wrote to a friend every appreciative note in a firm, clear hand, thanking him for a present of some trout, is not inextensible in his attitude towards the press. He made an



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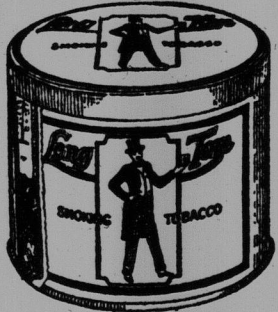


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used this 97-year-old captain of industry who has been lumbering continuously since 1848, "and I am frank to say that I believe every dollar's worth of timber taken from forested lands has cost the country a hundred dollars in destroyed timber. Why not make a business-like calculation on the price we pay for letting the prospector loose on the country? The showing would make us rub our eyes."

"With fire eliminated would Canada have a self-perpetuating supply for all time to come?" asked the interviewer. "With the larger limit holders that would undoubtedly be true. The nation has been forced to the edge of a timber dilemma, not by the lumberjack, but by forest fire. The consumer of forest products will pay for all that at his lumber yard. And he will pay through his daily and weekly news-

paper. Prices for all forest products must ascend. Nothing can stop them."

Here Mr. Booth mentioned some old documents he had been rummaging through that morning. One of them referred to lumber sales made seventy-five years ago when the price of white pine was just \$12 and \$13 a thousand feet. The price for the same grade in 1923 is just \$80 a thousand feet.

"I can see no other remedy for the ever increasing ruin of the forest resources of this country," observed Mr. Booth, who started his career years before there was a single mile of railway in Ontario, and when Toronto, a little city of 27,000 souls, was itself to be the place of export for large rafts of square timber, "except to let the people bring themselves to such a tragic condition of scarce timber and pulpwood, with extreme costs for every foot or cord they buy that some drastic cure will be sought and applied. Forest conservation will arrive when the absence of it pinches our population hard enough."

PREDICTS COAL AND IRON MINING FIVE MILES AT SEA Sydney, N. S., April 14.—(A. P. by Mail).—Engineers in time will be able to take coal and iron ore from under the sea at distances of five miles or more from shore, according to F. W. Gray, executive of the British Empire Steel Corporation, Workings already extend two and a quarter miles to sea at Sydney mines, and 70 per cent of the coal produced in Nova Scotia comes from beneath the ocean. The cost of bringing deposits to the surface rather than failure of the seams, will place a limit on submarine mining operations, Mr. Gray thinks. Although coal is being taken from under the sea at several points in Great Britain, Australia, Japan and China, the Nova Scotia coal areas and the iron mines at Wabana, Newfoundland, are the scenes of the largest undersea mining workings in the world. According to Mr. Gray, they are capable of indefinite expansion, some of the Wabana seams being 25 feet thick. Inundation is the greatest danger added to the usual hazards of lead operations. Engineering skill, however, has reduced the number of these accidents, the chief of which occurred at the Takashima colliery in Japan, where many lives were lost, and on the Cumberland coast in England in 1848, where 8 men were drowned.

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Copy of Elegy By Gray Brings \$2,800

Spirited Bidding For Book at a New York Auction

New York, May 11.—A copy of the rare first edition of Thomas Gray's "An Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard," brought \$2,800 at a sale in the Anderson galleries of books and autographs from the library of Thomas J. Knapp of American Falls, Idaho, the estate of the late Daniel Paine Grier of Lenox, Mass., and the estate of the late Grace Wilkes of New York city. After spirited bidding the poem went to Gabriel Wells.

The first issue of the poem was printed in London in 1751. This edition has the word "hidden" instead of "kindred" in the fourth line of page 10.

Gabriel Wells also purchased for \$300 one of the other high-priced items of the day, Charles Dickens' "A Child's History of England." This was a presentation copy of the first issue of the three volumes, "Grace and Harriet Wilkes, from their affectionate friend, Charles Dickens, Twelfth February, 1854."

Twenty-nine mesostichs from pictures painted by John Constable, engraved by David Lucas, were bought for \$270. Breckinridge's \$412 for a presentation copy of the first issue of the first edition of Charles Dickens' "American Notes." On the half-title of volume 1 is the autograph inscription, "David Golden, Esquire, from his friend Charles Dickens, Nineteenth October, 1842." Mrs. C. Millner gave \$300 for a French illuminated manuscript of the 18th century, "Horse Ad Usam Romanum."

Policeman Shoots Brother Officer

Aim Poor While Chasing Speeding Car in Springfield

Springfield, Mass., May 11.—After a wild chase through the city streets, Patrolman Ins. E. Klase was shot in the hip and seriously wounded by the poor marksmanship of a brother officer, Patrolman Thomas E. Bracken. The pair were part of a detail sent out to arrest a speeding motorist.

Klase and another officer managed to catch up with the speeder, when the latter took too close a turn on a corner and came to a standstill. The driver immediately started up again, however, but with Klase and another officer on the running board.

After riding half a mile through the heart of the business section, the police patrol came within firing distance and challenged the driver. Officer Bracken fired three shots, two in the air and one toward the ground. The latter took effect in Klase's hip.

The chase was one of the most spirited ever participated in by the Springfield policemen. At one time the two machines came so near that the police patrol was nearly pushed off the road. The driver, who gave his name as William Monahan, was arrested for speeding.

Officer Klase was taken to a hospital, where the bullet was removed. His condition is not critical.

CLAIMS AGAINST LAWYER'S ESTATE TAKE ALL BUT \$2

O. B. Thomas' Widow Asks Settlement—Both Figured in Krauss Will Litigation

New York, May 11.—An application to the Surrogate's Court for the judicial settlement of the estate of Oscar B. Thomas, a lawyer, who died suddenly in November, 1921, reveals that he left just \$2 over the claims against his estate.

Mrs. Adeline Thomas, the widow, who made the application as administratrix, placed the value of the estate at \$1,291, consisting of office furniture, a bank balance and some jewelry. Against this were charges of \$889 for funeral expenses and other debts and a claim of Frank A. Munsey for \$550 for office rent at 280 Broadway.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas figured in the litigation over the will of Samuel Krauss, who was vice-president of the Eagle Penell Company. Upon the death of Mr. Krauss a will was filed by the Thomas couple which left three-fourths of the testator's \$1,000,000 estate to Mrs. Thomas, referred to in the will as "my daughter."

The will was subsequently declared a forgery, and it was proved through court proceedings that Mr. Krauss was a bachelor and had not entered into even a common law marriage with the mother of Mrs. Thomas.

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THE RAZOR THAT SHARPENS ITS OWN BLADES

ROBBERS BIND QUINCY BOY; RANSACK HOUSE Boston, May 11.—Robbers knocked down Ernest Page, 18, of Quincy, at the door of his home, ransacked the apartment and fled without taking any of the loot they had pulled from drawers and closets. Mrs. E. C. Ford, another tenant in the house at 98 Revere road, found the boy unconscious near the front door on the first floor, bound and gagged. All he could remember was that two men struck him and rushed past, after he had opened the door in answer to a ring of the bell. He is the son of Nathan Page, in whose apartment on the second floor he was alone at the time of the attempted robbery.

AUTO SUPPLANTS DESERT CAMEL

Washington, May 11.—The United States consul at Aden, Arabia, states

in a despatch that the automobile has supplanted the camel as a mail and passenger carrier between Djibouti and Zella over the hot sands of the desert. A light car, he affirms, can make the trip in four hours, whereas it takes a camel caravan a whole day.

The average Norwegian gives about thirty-five per cent. of his time to work and fifty per cent. to out of doors sports and games.

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