

WOOD IN BRITAIN.

By the British Board of Trade Returns for September, it appears that the import of timber and lumber into the United Kingdom at the end of September exceeded that of the same date last year considerably, leaving the stock on hand some 73,726 loads greater. The figures for the nine months are: wood, to end September, 1883, 4,717,000 loads, hewn and sawn, value £11,731,000, being an increased import, according to the *Economist*, of 1.5 per cent. in quantity and 1.0 per cent. in value over the corresponding period of last year. The supply from Russia, Sweden and Norway was smaller this September than the one before, both in hewn and sawn wood, but from British America the quantity sent forward to the old country was more than doubled. "Canada, in the face of its threatened scarcity, has managed to spare us," says the *Timber Trades Journal* of 13th inst., "100,000 more loads in a single month than came thence last year at the same period; and, whatever price was paid for it, the value of the wood is lower in this country now than it was then. Spruce, the staple of the lower ports, is comparatively a drug in Liverpool now, as the demand is stated by our correspondent to be quite inadequate to the quantities injudiciously thrown upon that market. There has seldom been, we are told, any deficiency of transatlantic timber in Liverpool since steam has taken up the carrying trade and rendered it to a great extent independent of the winds." The journal considers that "our North American colonies had not contributed so large a quota in excess of their usual figures in September, there would have been a smaller importation last month than in the same month last year. The alleged shutting down of their saw-mills does not appear to have been decided upon a day too soon."

It appears that the import of pitch pine fell off during September. The United States sent that month 47,000 loads less than in the like month last year, which is some offset to the excess import of pine from Canada. The decline in Baltic timber shipments accelerated the demand for pitch pine, according to the London market report of the 12th instant.

The official figures of wood imports into the United Kingdom were as follows for the nine months ended 30th September of this and year:

	Quantity.	
	1882. Loads.	1883. Loads.
Timber (hewn).		
Russia.....	227,702	224,024
Sweden and Norway.....	404,108	470,893
Germany.....	224,092	204,031
United States.....	140,648	95,471
British India.....	30,664	30,000
British North America.....	151,187	211,707
Other countries.....	260,882	260,882
Total.....	1,530,253	1,560,314
Timber, (sawn or split planed or dressed).		
Russia.....	920,110	797,657
Sweden and Norway.....	1,271,281	1,255,520
British North America.....	623,642	765,023
Other countries.....	289,486	278,244
Total.....	3,107,419	3,127,114
Staves (all sizes).....	91,907	102,600
Mahogany (tons).....	21,675	33,996
Total hewn & sawn.....	4,643,702	4,717,428

We find the statement in the *St. John Telegraph* that operations in the woods of northern New Brunswick are to be decidedly curtailed during the coming winter, so that a comparatively light export may be anticipated for 1884. In view of what is said above a step in this direction is needed.

The shipments of lumber to the 12th October this year on the Miramichi, compared with same date last year, were as follows:—

	1883.	1882.
Deals.	104,333,160 spl. ft.	85,922,315
Scantling.	4,794,926 "	3,485,824
Ends.	5,275,333 "	4,100,944
Boards.	4,265,843 "	1,959,932
Total spl. ft.	118,669,267	95,478,015

Sales in London up to the 11th ult. were slow, and although an improved tone was observable, yet it did not perceptibly affect prices. Good pine, however, brought very fair figures. Waney board brought £5 5s to £5 15s per load, some square pine went as low as £3 7s 6d to £3 12s

Gd. Miramichi pine, best stuff, 12 to 20 ft. and 11 to 10 inches being sold without reserve at £12; with £10 10s for seconds. The wood, however, is described as being of a very coarse nature.

At Liverpool, on Friday 5th and Wednesday the 10th insts., auction sales had been made of Nova Scotia birch timber 84 inch and up deep at 23½ per foot, down to 13d, for under 15 inch. St. John spruce deals up to 27 feet, 3x11, brought £7. Hull report mentions the receipt of 17 tons of furniture wood from New York.

Accounts from the Clyde ports are that the consumption during the quarter ending 30th of September last, shows great activity, being about as follows: Quebec waney boardwood and yellow and red pine logs, 16,900 loads; Quebec oak logs, 1,800 loads; elm 980 loads; birch (all sorts), 723 loads; pitch pine logs, hewn and sawn, about 13,000 loads. Compared with like quarter in 1882 an increase is here shown to the extent of 9,000 loads. The stock of birch is very low, not much having reached there from lower ports. — *Monetary Times*.

A SIGNIFICANT WARNING.

WASHINGTON, October 18.—The Northwest Lumberman's Association, becoming alarmed at the rapid depletion of the forests of the Northwestern States, and at the falling lumber market, has resolved that the cutting of timber must be curtailed. Mr. William Little, of Montreal, who was actively engaged before Congress last winter during the discussion of the tariff on lumber, has contributed to an English magazine, just received here, an interesting article upon the alarming destruction of American forests. After quoting from the census reports of the United States to prove that, at the present rate of destruction, the entire white pine of the Northwest will be exhausted within seven or eight years; and from the report prepared by H. G. Joly, late Premier of the Province of Quebec, for the Dominion Council of Agriculture, in which it is shown that the supposed enormous territory of Canada is really confined to a comparatively small area, and that the best lumber is yearly becoming less accessible to the markets, Mr. Little continues:

"It has often been said that there would be found a substitute for wood; if so, it is quite time the discoverer brought it forward, for up to the present the 'everlasting Yankee' has not even touched the subject. Notwithstanding the fences of wire, the use of iron in building, the terracotta and straw lumber, the consumption of our old friend wooden lumber increased nearly 50 per cent. in the ten years from 1870 to 1880, the former being 12,755,543,000 and the latter 18,091,356,000 feet. . . . And yet we are informed that we are within seven years of the time when the supplies of white pine and spruce lumber must cease. . . . The value of the lumber now produced in the north exceeds \$300,000,000 a year as it falls from the saw, and to replace it would cost from two to three times this sum, even if the same lumber could be obtained elsewhere, which it cannot be, and \$600,000,000 a year would not replace it; so that in a very short time this section of the country, instead of having a great and profitable industry advancing and helping every interest will be called upon to pay out hundreds of millions of dollars annually for such material."

It has been estimated, says the writer, that it would take the entire sailing tonnage of the world to convey the amount of timber annually consumed in America from any foreign lumber port. But where to get it at any price in the enormous quantities used in this country is a question that would puzzle those best informed on the subject to determine. Mr. Little commends the policy of the Province of Quebec in restricting the cutting of pine trees to those which measure more than twelve inches through at the butt, and in charging the same timber dues upon the small logs as on the larger ones, which has had the effect of curtailing the cutting of the small pine and spruce trees in that province.

With respect to forest fires, which are made an excuse for the ruthless destruction of the timber of the country, he says they are largely due to the practice of leaving the branches, tops, and other refuse of the timber to become dry, and thus food for fires. As a remedy he

suggests that if the timber-laden owner would annually spend the same percentage he is willing to expend in insuring other property of like value toward putting his timber property in safe condition, he could so place it that it would be difficult to set it on fire so as to do any serious injury.

Returning to the annual product of sawn wood in the Northwest, and the increase in value since 1878, he estimates \$1,000,000,000 as the present annual value of the forest products of the United States at primary points of production or manufacture. When it is seen that this manufacture now stands at the head of the manufactures of the United States in value, and that the white pine, which has been in the past and is still the most important factor in this great industry, is rapidly approaching extinction, the writer feels that he cannot be far astray in concerning this, as regards America; what he has already called it—the most important economic question of the day. The confusion in names has led many people to suppose that the yellow or pitch pine of the South will make an excellent substitute for the white variety of the North. This he says can never be; for the woods are most dissimilar. The Southern pine, although excellent for many purposes, is hard and resinous, about the same weight as white oak, or nearly double that of pine or spruce, and hence not so easily brought to the mills as the lighter varieties of timber, which are taken with but little difficulty from the most remote sections, wherever water-courses exist. — *N. Y. Post*.

REDUCE THE CUT

A correspondent of the *Northwestern Lumberman*, writing from Grand Rapids, Michigan, says:—It is with pleasure we daily hear from different sources the intention of lumbermen to largely curtail their logging operations the coming winter, but we fear with many it is only talk, and for the purpose of inducing their brother lumbermen to do less, while they will put in their ordinary and full stock. We hope, however, such a policy will not be pursued by anyone. Yet, "actions speak louder than words," and when such men are operating side by side it is very easy to see their intentions from the force of men and teams employed by them to do their work. Never in the history of our lumber operations could conservatism in the winter's operations bring forth such favorable results as at present. We have been favored this year with a very large demand. Nevertheless prices have been gradually going down on all lower grades, which affects from 50 to 75 per cent. of the entire stock, from \$2 to \$3 per thousand, while at the same time grades of lumber have been going up, until to-day our No. 1 boards and strips equal our regular grade of common boards ten years ago, and other grades in like proportion. This, together with the reduction in prices, will show lumbermen, when they take their invoice of this year's business, why the result is so unsatisfactory. If it were possible to make this invoice to-day it would require but very little, if any, urging, to induce them to reduce this cut largely; but after their men and teams have been sent to the woods we fear they will be disposed to leave them there and hope for "something to turn up" which will let them out. We see nothing in the past season's trade and the prospects for 1884 to warrant them the realization of any such hopes. Under the circumstances would it not be well for lumbermen to "look before they leap," and see their landing? What, with an actual shortage and subsequent advance for 1884, can they lose? Their small stock of lumber will sell for more money; they will be in better shape financially; have more standing timber, and of an increased value. When men have everything to gain and nothing to lose, they feel safe, and such is the condition of lumbermen to-day, providing they are found next spring with not to exceed 40 per cent. of their usual stock of logs.

FOREST CLEARING.

Those who are laudably endeavoring to stop the wholesale destruction which has been carried on in clearing out the forests of this country will be glad to hear that the lumber manufacturers of the North-West have decided that the work of cutting off the valuable timber of

the Northwestern States must now be retarded. Their reasons for coming to this decision are not from any love of the beauty or the benefits which the forests confer on the country, but simply because they find it is not paying them to clear off the forests at the rate they have been doing, and that if continued it will pay them still less. They have over-stocked all the markets, and as a consequence prices have sunk so low that the trade has become comparatively unprofitable. In this way the destruction of the forests has unintentionally received a check, and before the havoc is resumed perhaps the matter of their better preservation may receive the attention of the National Legislature.

It is time that the subject did receive attention. The Commissioner of Agriculture has shown that the supply of various kinds of timber will be exhausted within a very few years if the present rate of consumption is kept up. In the State of Maine pine will only last four years, and spruce fifteen; and the pine forests of Michigan and Minnesota will be cleared out in ten years, and those of Wisconsin in twenty. Already lumbermen are turning their attention to other states. According to Governor Berry they "are pouring into the State of Arkansas every day from Michigan and Wisconsin." The sawmills in that State have more than quadrupled since 1880, and the production of lumber there is twenty times greater than it was just seven years ago.

As we before pointed out, the question of preserving a proper proportion of forests for the benefit of the climate, the streams, the soil, and indeed the general good-of-the-country, is a national one. Private individuals cannot reasonably be expected to sacrifice their rights and interests for the good of the community at large without due compensation. To the lumberman the forest is just so much money so soon as he can clear it out and place it in the market, but in the North-West he finds he cannot do that profitably, and so he has called a halt; however, he will be up and at it again so soon as the markets improve, quite regardless of any other result than simply what the lumber will bring. And no one can blame him; it is not his duty to preserve the forest, but that of the nation or the state. — *Scottish American*.

Timber Purchase.

A part of the Casselman estate, consisting of 5,357 acres of heavy wooded land at Casselman, situated 30 miles east of Ottawa, on the Canada and Atlantic railway, has been purchased by Flatt & Bradley, of this city, for \$132,000. Mr. Flatt has gone to Casselman, and is making arrangements for the immediate erection of two large saw mills and a general store. Men and teams are being sent from this city, and lumber operations will commence at once. The South Nation river flows through the property purchased and joins the Ottawa, giving a straight drive to Montreal. — *Hamilton Spectator*.

Decorative Tree Planting.

The Commissioners of the Woods and Forests, of England, are trying to plant a large extent of crown lands in the Isle of Man with forest and ornamental trees. The experiment, which is watched with interest not only by those who regard with apprehension the gradual denudation of forest and woodlands, leads to comment on the growth of a taste for planting, for transforming to artistic plots grounds which are ill-favored and uninviting; for digging lakes and forming cascades, resulting in splendid combinations of sylvan charms. — *American Garden*.

Purchase of Timber Limits.

W. J. Edwards paid \$37,000 at Ottawa on Saturday for three timber limits, containing 100 square miles, situated near the head waters of Lake I des Quinze, near the boundary line between the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, on the upper Ottawa.

The *Winnipeg Times* says that the machinery for a shingle mill recently brought in from Winnipeg by Messrs. Watson & Cowie to their mill near Rock Lake was found to be so badly damaged on arriving at its destination that the proprietors considered that it would be useless to put the machinery together.