

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A CIRCUMSTANCE that tells of the growth of lumber interests in the southern states is found in the large increase that has taken place of late years in the establishment of wood-working concerns in that territory. The wood-working establishment that would thrive must, if possible, get near the place where there is abundance of timber, and whilst this is not as necessary in these days of many railroads as was the case some years ago, yet it is important. Certainly it is the case, that if wood-working concerns will pay anywhere they will pay where the necessary raw material can be readily obtained. The suggestion carries with it some importance for Canadians, who would find it profitable to cultivate the establishment of wood-working plants in districts where they are not known to-day, and yet where the necessary forest product is near at hand.

A MATCH is a little thing, but the extent to which the match business is growing in Canada is a matter of importance to the lumber trade. The raw material, of suitable kind, is here in rich abundance, and with easy means of transportation to foreign markets, Canadian matches should be exported in large quantities to almost all parts of the world. Progress in this direction is taking place. The exports of matches and match splints in 1894 amounted to \$216,038, as against \$204,410 in 1893, \$196,185 in 1892, \$168,237 in 1891, and \$114,712 in 1890. In England, however, there are yet imported, despite the fact of the large manufacture of matches there, \$1,500,000 of the finished goods, which, as has been remarked before, ought to come from Canada. The field open in Great Britain has a relative existence in other countries. It is stated that taking the world throughout, \$50,000,000 are invested in the match business, figures that are very suggestive of the possibilities of the business.

THE average man does not take a long look ahead. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof with him. Were the suggestion of a contemporary, that farmers plant trees along the lanes, highways, and other places not suitable for crops, generally adopted, there would be less likelihood of a scarcity of timber in this timber country in the days that are to come. There is little or no expense to be attached to the planting of rows of maple, oak, pine, beech, hickory, walnut and other trees on the farms and country sections of the Dominion, and while the people slept the trees would grow, and in due time there would be a forest produced worth good money. The suggestion has already been made that it would be an investment that would pay large interest, for the farmers of Ontario to set aside a corner in their farms, and reforest these with suitable trees. Timber is becoming more scarce every year, and future generations, if not the present, would reap a rich legacy by the adoption of this method.

WORD that comes to the LUMBERMAN from a correspondent in Newfoundland that the forest fires in that colony have not been nearly as damaging in their outcome as was generally reported at the time is cheering. It is the case, however, that even when bush-fires secure comparatively little headway the loss sustained is heavy. A recent report from British Columbia conveys the news that heavy losses in timber limits have been made in that province from this cause, and the unfortunate aspect of the case there, as almost everywhere, is found in the fact that these fires invariably result through carelessness, or designedly. In British Columbia it is pointed out by a local contemporary that the fires there have usually occurred through the careless dropping of a match or by the indifference and carelessness shown by those engaged in camping and picnicking throughout the woods. The matter is of sufficient importance, and indeed so serious, that the reiteration of a word of warning, is not alone desirous, but a great necessity.

THE by-uses of wood are constantly increasing. It seems difficult to say for what purpose wood will not in some manner be used. In some countries saw-dust is actually being mixed with grain, from which bread is made, and whilst we must admit that tastes differ, it is claimed that this condiment is nutritious and palatable.

A change in the uses of wood has developed of late in supplanting the softer woods as broom handles by certain species of hardwoods. Until lately broom handles have been made of soft wood, and they have not always been the most elegant articles. Now handles are made of hardwood, shorter and neater, and far less liable to become scratched or uncomely. In certain parts of the country large quantities of hardwood are consumed for this particular purpose. Of course, as one has remarked, this change from softer woods to hardwoods for the purpose named, may only be a freak of fashion and some of these days something else will be proposed. In the meantime it is providing a reasonably profitable trade.

A PENCHANT of the Lumber World of Buffalo is to get a rap at Canada whenever an opportunity presents itself, or, rather more frequently, with little or no reason for the step. This Buffalo friend thinks that the credit Canadians take for their superior methods of preventing forest fires is not justified by the costly fires that have taken place in the Dominion this season. One compliment, and it ought to count for something with a lumber journal, that has been paid to Canadian forestry legislation is the adoption of legislation in the United States modelled on similar lines. And whenever the question of forest preservation is agitated reference is made to the progress attained in Canada in this direction. The facts speak for themselves. So does the other fact, that no serious bush fires have occurred in Canada for some time, not even this season, dry as it has been, compared with the fires among our neighbors to the south. What of the terrible fires in Minnesota last year, when there was less reason to make these chargeable to a dry season?

THE number of prominent lumbermen, those with experience and capital, who are changing their base of operations from some of the older fields to the newer fields, is one of the interesting features of the lumber trade. No inconsiderable investments have been made on the Pacific Coast, and in New Brunswick, by Ontario lumbermen. The Brunette Saw Mills, which were destroyed by fire recently, as well as other mills in British Columbia, are owned almost entirely by Ontario lumbermen, and no small amount of capital from this province has been invested in spruce lands in New Brunswick. We find the same kind of thing operating across the border. Many of the older firms there are changing their location from Michigan to Wisconsin and the Lake Superior district, while it is recorded that, in the near future, supplementary to what has already taken place, large sections of timber land in the Puget Sound and Washington territories will come into the hands of Eastern lumbermen. The lumbermen in Ontario, who are wealthy to-day, have in most cases made money by securing timber limits while values were low, and disposing of them as they commenced to advance. Low values in timber limits cannot be found in Ontario to-day, but these investments are possible in other parts of the Dominion. And so with the big lumbermen of the United States. There is not much money to be made in buying timber limits in Michigan, but in the Lake Superior districts and the Southern States and on the Pacific Coast, the men who get in on the ground floor will make a substantial turn-over of their investments in later years, just as in recent years they have done this with their holdings in the older lumber states.

CAPITALISTS across the border, interested in spruce manufacturing in any of its departments, are keeping a close eye on conditions in Canada. They recognize the fact that this country is unusually rich in spruce. At Odensburg, N.Y., to take just one instance, a member of the Gould family is at the head of the Continental Match Co., which has established a factory in that city. A local journal tells us that this concern was influenced to locate at Odensburg because near to the great Canadian spruce forests north of the Ottawa river. Just what ground these cover the Odensburg journal explains with some detail, as well as pointing out the methods by which this product can be lumbered. To quote: "The Ottawa river has a number of tributaries from the South, which are crossed by the Canadian Pacific Railway, at the mouths of which there is ample

water power. There is a project already on foot to build pulp mills where this cheap water can be obtained. The spruce timber used in making pulp could be cut and floated to the mills and ground into pulp at a very small cost. The supply of timber is practically inexhaustible, as, while a large amount of pine has been cut from the region described, the spruce has never been touched." If there is a country that has a cause to rejoice in its immense natural resources it is Canada. Considering the awakening that is manifest at the present time in the mining districts of British Columbia, the activity that is shown in the development of the iron ore of Ontario, the progress in spruce fields in Quebec and New Brunswick, and the rich coal mines of the Maritime provinces—without going further, is there not a wonderful foundation on which to build a great country?

THE value of little things is a lesson more quickly picked up in the present day than in former times. Observation and ingenuity have proven that much wealth can sometimes be brought out of the utilization of products, and indeed refuse, that hitherto had not been counted worth anything. In the lumber trade we do not despise the culls and refuse, nor even the saw-dust, to the same extent as in the early days of lumbering. We are not indeed so prodigal in the matter of using wood for fire-wood, for we have learned that it pays better to cut beech and maple into lumber than into three piece lengths, only to burn in the stove. Economy has grown in this direction, so that in the pitch pine regions of the United States a new industry is springing up that promises to increase vastly in the future. It is the simple utilization of the enormous fields of fat pine logs and stumps, from which all resinous matter has been extracted. These have in many cases in the past been allowed to decay where they happened to fall. This "lightwood," or fat pine, as it is called, is cut up as fire-wood in most of the eastern cities. A machine is invented for shaving up the logs and stumps into appropriate lengths. These are then tied up into small bundles and sent to the cities in ships. It is said that at the rate of one cent a bundle the old stumps will yield nearly as much profit as the trees sold as timber or for other uses. The truth is, as men use their wits, it will be learned that there is hardly need for the most despised articles to go to waste nowadays.

IN these columns, a month ago, was recorded the fact that preparations were being made to enter the woods for the coming season in the Georgian Bay districts, as also in the Ottawa territory. Activity in this respect becomes increased as we draw nearer to the fall months. It is yet too early to predict what will be the cut of the year, but it seems not unlikely, with the prospects of better times, that there will be no reduction at least on that of the past year. The cost of stumpage renders it almost imperative that those who have money invested at present prices should make a considerable cut every year, for they will catch it, if things do not go right, with heavy interest on the standing timber, if they do not on the lumber actually on the piling grounds. Then of the better grades of lumber there is no mistake that stocks all over are low, and so far as it is possible to supplement supplies in this direction, it is desirable, and a good price for this class of lumber is sure to be obtained. At the same time it is well that a measure of caution be observed, for it would be a damper on the prosperity of the lumber trade if, with business generally improving, there should be an over-cut, that would have the effect of keeping down prices. Speaking specially of the output of spruce for 1896, the Northeastern Lumberman, of Boston, thinks that perhaps the low prices for spruce that have prevailed lately may serve to discourage Canadian operators from cutting even as many logs as they did last year. But against this view, it must be remembered that the demand for spruce, especially for wood-pulp, is increasing with great rapidity. Besides, if prices have not been what the Northeastern Lumbermen's Association would like, the volume of trade done in the United States by New Brunswick and Nova Scotia spruce men has been of a size to encourage a further cultivation of this trade. There is, of course, the \$2.00 duty in favor of Canadians, which did not exist a year ago.