



PUBLISHED
SEMI-MONTHLY.

The only Newspaper devoted to the Lumber and Timber industries published in Canada

SUBSCRIPTION
\$2.00 PER ANNUM

VOL. 6.

PETERBOROUGH, ONT., JUNE 1, 1886.

NO. 11.

NEW BRUNSWICK FORESTS.

The New Brunswick Government has published an interesting work, written by Mr. Charles H. Lugin, A. B., Secretary of the New Brunswick Board of Agriculture, on the resources, progress and advantages of that Province. The following is the chapter on the forest, continued from last week:—

ELM.

There are two species of elm in New Brunswick, the white and the red. Both are beautiful shade trees. The white elm often grows to the height of 100 feet, its branches are long and pendulous, its foliage rich and pleasing in shape. It grows wild on the low, deep-soiled intervals, and the quantity available for commercial uses is limited. The wood is strong, tenacious and elastic, does not split easily, and bears the driving of bolts and nails better than any other wood. It is durable if kept either constantly wet or constantly dry, but decays rapidly when these conditions alternate. It is used in making ships blocks, and for other purposes in which wood of its peculiar properties is required.

The elm does not grow to as great a size as the white elm. Its wood possesses the same properties as that of the white elm, but is somewhat coarser and more durable. Its home is on dry elevated situations.

BUTTERNUT

is a species of walnut found along river banks. It grows to a considerable size and yields in profusion nuts which are agreeable to the taste and very oily. The name of the tree is derived from the fact that the Indians formerly used to pound the nuts and having boiled them so as to separate the oil, used it with their food as a sort of butter. Butternut wood is light and of a reddish tinge, taking a high polish. It is used in making furniture, for wainscoting and other purposes. It is easily propagated and grows rapidly. There being a constant demand for the wood its cultivation would probably be found profitable.

ASH

is found in New Brunswick in several varieties, the white, black and yellow chiefly, the wood of each differing according to the soil and situation where it is grown. The white ash is a common tree growing to the height of sixty feet with a diameter of eighteen inches or more. Its growth is rapid and its foliage beautiful, the trunk is perfectly straight, the wood strong, tough and elastic. Black ash is a smaller tree than white ash and is somewhat coarser. It is a fashionable wood for bedroom furniture, its texture being very pleasing and is used for a variety of purposes in first-class buildings. Being already a valuable article of commerce, its supply will probably not long keep pace with the demand; its cultivation will likely be profitable. It is used by the Indians in the manufacture of baskets, for

which it is admirably adapted. The yellow ash is similar to the black ash but is lighter in color. The red ash is somewhat similar to the white ash.

OAK

is found in New Brunswick in three varieties, the white, the red and the grey. The wood of the latter is very durable. The supply is limited.

CHERRY

is found in abundance. The fruit is small and slightly bitter. None of the varieties attain sufficient size to possess much commercial value.

POPLAR

occurs in two varieties, the Aspen and the balsam poplar, or "balm of G. ad." Poplar wood is very white and of light weight. It becomes hard and tough when dry and takes a high polish. Its principal commercial use at present is in the manufacture of what is known as Excelsior, an article used for mattress making, upholstering and packing purposes, the wood for these purposes being cut into long shreds. The demand is large and increasing. The lightness, whiteness and durability of poplar are causing it to become very much esteemed for many purposes. It makes an excellent paper pulp.

BASSWOOD

is found in considerable quantities. Its properties are somewhat similar to those of poplar. The natural color of the wood is pale yellow.

HORNBAM AND IRONBAM

are tough heavy woods capable of sustaining great weight. These trees do not attain a great height.

Alders, willows and other inferior trees abound, but those above named constitute the principal part of the New Brunswick forests. It will readily be admitted that such forests must be exceedingly beautiful, and the soil which supports them of great fertility. Such is particularly the case with the deciduous trees, "the hardwood ridges," as they are called, that is the rolling hills covered with maples, birches and beeches, with a few scattered spruce and pine trees, not only making a most attractive landscape, but being generally, when cleared, the finest of farming land. But if these ridges are beautiful to look upon in the summer, they are resplendent in the autumn when the ripened leaves, after the early frosts, begin to change their color. The brilliant scarlet and other hues of the maple, the golden-yellow of the elm, the almost countless shades and tints of red, blue and brown, relieved by the sombre overgreens, make up a picture which the eye never grows weary of and words cannot describe.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Although for nearly one hundred years the forests of New Brunswick have furnished the greater portion of the exports of the Province,

and the trees have been cut in a most lavish and wasteful manner, it is doubtful if their commercial value has yet been realized. It will be seen from the facts above given that the Province contains extensive supplies of wood, valuable for countless purposes. The forests are intersected by streams in all directions, and these with the railways furnish the best possible means of conveying the wood to the seaports, whence it can be shipped to the market. Innumerable water powers afford facilities for cheap manufacture, in fact all the elements exist requisite to make the Province the seat of very extensive wood working establishments, except the single essential of capital. A prominent architect of Liverpool, England, in a letter to Mr. Cornwall, agent of New Brunswick in England, after speaking of the adaptability of New Brunswick woods to numerous purposes in connection with buildings, said:—

"There must be a great advantage in making wood-work in countries where the woods are available, as well as cheap steam producers, besides the saving of carrying so much waste timber such a long distance, for at least one-seventh of timber imported is cut to waste in sawing, sawing and refuse. The extra cost of carrying manufactured articles would, I judge, not nearly amount to the difference."

Large orders have been offered by English houses to manufacturing establishments in New Brunswick, but, for lack of capital, they have not been accepted. The *Montreal Times*, a commercial paper published in Toronto said:

"Great Britain and other European countries use enormous quantities of wooden goods, and they are largely made in the United States and shipped from Boston and New York. Why should not Canada, whose supplies of timber are nearer the seaboard, compete successfully? It can be done, but it is not to be done in a day. Not is it to be done without observation and pains."

But it is not only the European market that New Brunswick may look for the disposal of the products of its forests. In the United States the question of wood supply is becoming annually more serious, and the people of that country will shortly find themselves compelled to admit Canadian wood goods duty free. Already the tendency in this direction is unmistakable. It is evident, therefore, that the manufacture of all descriptions of wooden goods may be regarded as likely, at no distant day, to form an important industry in New Brunswick. Among the articles which may be advantageously made are building material for both inside and outside finish; shipbuilding, from the hull to the spars; agricultural and horticultural implements; waggons, carriages, sleighs; packing, salt, fish, and other boxes; tubs, pails, churns, step-ladders, furniture of all kinds, broom, hoe, pick, edge tool and other

handles; clothes wringers, washboards, clothes and towel horses, bench screws, Venetian blinds and slats, cloth boards and rollers; bobbin spools, ships' block, coopers work of all kinds; boot and shoe lasts, trees and crimps, musical instruments, railway ties, carving and turned work, wood pulp.

Several establishments are already engaged in the manufacture of various descriptions of wood goods, among them being the Quaco Wood Manufacturing Company, the Petitcodiac Spool and Bubbin Works, and the Woodstock Woodworking Company, and the establishment of the Flewelling, at Hampton, and others, all of which are doing an excellent business. The attention of investors is directed especially to this industry.

To the settler in New Brunswick the existence of an abundance of the best of fuel and building and fencing material is an advantage which can scarcely be over-estimated. It is truly one of the greatest recommendations which any country can have. In addition to the value of the fuel for domestic use, the cutting of it for sale, particularly on land adjacent to the railways, is a profitable occupation, as will be seen by statistics given elsewhere. Wood for fuel is a not unimportant article of export to the United States, and the demand will no doubt largely increase. The New Brunswick farmer has for the labor of cutting it, the material for his buildings and fences, and an inexhaustible supply of fuel, and these considerations far outweigh any supposed advantage which the prairie farmer may have in preparing for his first crop. The experience of farmers in New Brunswick has clearly proved that the existence of the forest is one of the greatest advantages which the settler can possess. In the matter of fuel nothing but experience can tell the difference in comfort between the great fire of blazing logs which a New Brunswick farmer heaps up on a winter night, as much for the pleasure of looking at it as for warmth, and a smouldering fire of coal or of wood, so scarce that the pieces must be counted, which his brother in the Far West has to be content with. When the logs blaze and crackle on the hearth, their streaming light illumining every corner of the room, what matter if the storm blows fierce or the mercury drops below the freezing point? So long as the forest lasts, and there is no reason why the preserved wood lots should ever be exhausted, the New Brunswick farmer need never fear the cold. The problem of fuel is one with which the settler in this Province need not concern himself.

The proposition made last season for a telegraph cable to connect the Manitou islands, in Lake Michigan with the mainland, so that news from distressed vessels, and other marine news can be sent to interested parties at ports of departure, and elsewhere, is about to be realized.