

consider fire insurance an absolute necessity. Fire is the most destructive element the lumberman has to contend with, and all the automatic sprinkling arrangements, hose, or fire extinguishers, are no guarantee whatever against fire, and give no assurance that mill and lumber will not be a pile of ashes some morning when least expected. The same care should be exercised in investigating the standing of insurance companies as is shown in giving a line of credit to customers, and policies carefully watched and not allowed to lapse. Saw mills are a hazardous risk at best, and the rate of insurance is necessarily high, and companies making extremely low rates are to be avoided. Put the mill in shape to meet the requirements of the old line companies, and accept policies only from sound and solvent concerns.

THE receipt of a copy of the Prize List for this year's Toronto Industrial Exhibition, which is to be held from the 8th to the 20th of September next, reminds us that the fair season is again fast approaching. The Prize List shows the addition of many new classes and a large increase in the amount offered as premiums. Toronto offers many attractions to visitors during the season, but the greatest of all is its annual Exhibition which this year promises to be greater and better than ever. A copy of the Prize List can be obtained by any of our readers, why may desire one, by dropping a post card to Mr. H. J. Hill, the Secretary at Toronto.

THE following estimates of Forestry interests of the United States, have recently been compiled :

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|---|-----------------|
| Acres covered with wood growth, or 26 per cent. of total land area..... | 450,000,000     |
| Acres cut over annually.....  | 25,000,000      |
| Wood consumed annually:   |                 |
| Timber and lumber, cubic feet.....                                      | 4,500,000,000   |
| Railroads.....  | 500,000,000     |
| Mining timber.....  | 150,000,000     |
| Fences.....   | 500,000,000     |
| Export.....   | 150,000,000     |
| Fuel.....   | 15,000,000,000  |
| Total cubic feet.....   | 21,000,000,000  |
| Value of wood consumed annually.....                                    | \$1,000,000,000 |
| Timber lands belonging to U. S. Government acres.....                   | 76,000,000      |
| Value of timber reported stolen from public lands.....                  | \$36,719,035    |
| Amount recovered during same period.....                                | \$175,073       |
| Saw mill capacity of the U. S., ft. B. M.....                           | 60,000,000,000  |

A San Francisco lumberman, referring to the proposed rafting of lumber to that city, says: "The lumbermen of San Francisco have been considering the matter of rafting timber from the Columbia River and ports on Puget Sound to San Francisco. By floating the lumber from Puget Sound down the coast, the cost of freight will be lessened considerably. The rafts will contain about as much as half a dozen ships can carry, and can be handled at about one-sixth of the usual cost. The danger of loss is the only drawback, but huge rafts have successfully weathered the Atlantic waves, and we believe success will attend similar efforts on the Pacific. The Eastern plan of building ocean lumber rafts will be adopted. If this should prove successful many settlers along the Columbia River will be enabled to market their lumber without difficulty. They will ship it to a raft station and there dispose of it. This will revolutionize the entire lumber business of the Northwest. The best timber in the land is found in Washington, but little profit is now made from it owing to its distance from the center of population."

MR. JUSTICE MACMAHON, on July 24th, handed out his judgment in the case of Harris & Watson. The action was tried before him without a jury at Toronto on the 12th and 31st days of May last, and was brought to recover \$800, the amount of a promissory note made by the defendant in favor of the plaintiff, payable six months after date. The defence set up was failure of consideration and a counter claim was pleaded, claiming \$400 and damages against the plaintiff. On the 15th of June, 1889, the defendant entered into a contract to buy some 4,000 saw logs, represented by the plaintiff to be in Head river, in the township of Digby, County Victoria. The defendant was to pay \$1,200 for the said logs, and the defendant at the time of entering into the contract paid to the plaintiff \$400 in cash and gave his note for \$800 at six months. On the day on which the contract was entered into it is

alleged in the defence that not more than one-fourth of the said logs were then at the place represented, the greater portion of the logs having been carried down the stream by a drive which had passed down the river some days prior thereto, and that the plaintiff was not in a position to make delivery of the logs. It is also alleged that the plaintiff represented that the said Head river was situated near Uxbridge, and that on said river situated close to the proximity to said logs there was a saw mill at which the logs could be sawn up into lumber, and that this was untrue. Judgment is directed to be entered for the defendant after the first day of next sittings of the Divisional Court, dismissing the plaintiff's action with costs; also that judgment be entered for the defendant on his counter-claim against the plaintiff for the sum of \$209.11 with costs.

THE lumber trade at Ottawa as well as at other points along the valley is remarkably dull as compared with the season of last year. The English market at present is very quiet, and the United States market is only fair, as American dealers will not buy for future delivery until they know whether the McKinley Tariff bill is going to be one law or not. The South American trade is *nil*, as the collapse of several financial institutions has made the business of exporting lumber to that country very risky. Very little lumber will be sent to the Argentine Republic until the financial crisis is over. At this time last year the Chaudiere mills were in full blast day and night, while this summer only about half the mills are running night watch. The slackness in trade will probably affect the cut close on to 100,000,000 feet. In the meantime the piling grounds are very much congested, and becoming more so with every day's cut, and if the lumber merchants had a sufficiency of piling grounds they do not feel justified in going on piling up lumber until they have some definite idea of the future prospects of trade. The stoppage of night work deprives some seven or eight hundred men of employment, and quite a number of men have left to seek work elsewhere. It is evident that the square timber business has been overdone, as the demand is not commensurate with the supply. It is stated on good authority that there will be little or no square timber made during the coming winter owing to the large quantity turned out last winter and the slow demand for it this summer. The present indications are that not over one-fourth of the timber on hand will be disposed of this season and the balance will have to be wintered over.

THERE is no disguising the fact that the supply of timber in the Ottawa region is becoming rapidly smaller year by year. In two decades, or perhaps less, this region will be almost deserted by the hardy woodman, and although the timber resources of northern Ontario are by no means depleted, it is to the Pacific slope that our lumbermen will in the future have to look for an inexhaustible field for their work. The State of Washington and British Columbia are the coming lumber regions. Already many of our Canadian lumbermen are turning their wistful eyes towards the setting sun. Of British Columbia much has been said of its wonderful timber resources. Washington State lying immediately to the south of British Columbia, in the western part between the Cascade Mountains on the east, and the Pacific Ocean on the west, is the heaviest growth of timber in the United States. The causes which have led to its greatest density are to be found in the large amount of annual rainfall and the mildness of the climate. There are no heavy frosts or extremely cold weather to interfere with the growth of the necessary moisture. The timber belt of Washington includes the whole extent of land from the Cascade Mountains to the ocean, and from Columbia River on the south to the British line on the north, an area equal to that of the State of Iowa. It is estimated to contain one hundred and seventy-five billion feet. Most of this timber will cut from twenty-five thousand to as high as sixty thousand feet to the acre. It is composed chiefly of fir and cedar, the former

growing to a height of two hundred and fifty feet, with an average diameter of four feet. These magnificent timbers are shipped to all parts of the world, while sawed lumber from this region is sent to California, South America, Europe and Asia, and its famous cedar shingles are encroaching upon the markets of the east. The cut of Washington's mills now covers about two million feet per day, yet it will be over one hundred years before this vast timber country will perceptibly feel this immense consumption of its supplies. The Pacific Coast is the timber slayer's future paradise.

IN its report of the public sales of the week, the *London Timber Trades Journal*, under date of July 5th, says: "The quantity of Oregon pine, ex *George*, from Puget Sound, was so considerable that we would imagine the holders did not succeed very well in attempting to place the goods privately. They were the principal feature of the sale, though there seemed no particular anxiety to secure them. It is very seldom that such a large line of selected goods of this high character is brought under the hammer for absolute disposal, and the presumption is that if the holders could have got anything that covered the first cost, they would not have run the risk of the public sales. The average price realized, viz., is 6d per foot cube, was a tremendous sacrifice, as we believe the freight came to 90s. So that what with the landing and rent charges there would be very little left for the first cost of the timber. It is lamentable to see these high class goods going the price of common deals. The sizes are splendid, but the nature of the wood, together with the very high freight put it out of this market, although in shipbuilding localities we understand there is a demand for it, but unfortunately insufficient to lead up to remunerative prices. The woods from the Californian and Columbian districts at present labor under great disadvantages in rounding Cape Horn, the cost of which takes away the gilt when brought into competition with goods that have only half the distance to come. The price made in Wednesday's sale plainly shows that there is no market for the stuff in London, least of all when brought under the hammer. Comparing the prices of the Oregon pine ex *George* with those obtained at Messrs. Churchill and Sim's sale of the 26th September last year, there is a marked difference in the average values the drop being about 9d per cube foot on the goods realized this week."

NEGOTIATIONS are continuously going on among lumbermen for the sale or purchase of saw mills, timber limits, lumber, or machinery plant, and many more transactions of a similar character would be readily closed if the wants of the individual parties were made known to the trade in general. In our rounds among the mills we are often asked questions regarding the probable chance of buying or selling mill or other properties, and the only practical advice we can give in matters of this kind is to suggest that such wants be made known through THE LUMBERMAN, which has a circulation almost effectually covering the whole lumber and wood-working interests of the Dominion. The "Wanted and For Sale" columns of this journal should be patronized by the whole trade of the country, and we have no hesitation in saying that advertisements of this character, having special reference to the lumber trade, will bring better returns than the same advertisement inserted in all the daily papers of the country. This may seem a broad statement, but it is nevertheless a fact, as not two per cent. of the readers of any one daily paper have any interest in the particular wants of the lumber trade; while on the other hand every copy of THE LUMBERMAN published goes into the hands of men directly interested in all matters pertaining to their particular branch of trade. At one time or another, every lumberman, be he manufacturer or dealer, is interested either in the purchase or sale of some commodity, and rarely knows where to look for a customer. An investment of from fifty cents to two dollars will make his wants known to the whole trade from the Atlantic to the Pacific and also through the United States. We are anxious to see the "Wanted and For Sale" depart-