



PUBLISHED
SEMI-MONTHLY.

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

SUBSCRIPTION
\$2.00 PER ANNUM

VOL. 4.

PETEBOROUGH, ONT., MARCH 1, 1884.

NO. 5.

THE ENGLISH MAHOGANY TRADE.

The *Builders' Weekly Reporter*, of London, dated January 18, has the following concerning the English fine wood market:—Edward Chaloner & Co., of Liverpool, in their mahogany, etc., circular, state that there have not been any auction sales in the past fortnight, and the market is without change. The imports of St. Domingo veneer wood and logs of large to medium diameters have been on a limited scale for several months past. The stock is now very light, and suitable supplies would come to a good market. There is a good demand for well grown curls three feet and five feet long, but all other descriptions have been dull of sale of late at low figures. Of Cuba the stock is light, and early supplies of good wood, of desirable dimensions, will meet with ready sale. The stock of Honduras now on hand, say 500 logs and curls, will be offered by auction and will be, no doubt, promptly disposed of, as there have not been any public sales of Honduras wood since December 7, when there was a very good demand at full prices for straight sound, well-made logs. As the stock of Mexican is only about 400 tons, chiefly of small sizes, there is a good opening for supplies of larger dimensions, which are wanted, and will command very good prices. Cedar imports from Honduras and Mexico have been light in the past few weeks, therefore some improvement in value may be shortly expected. Pencil cedar has been in moderate request. The demand for rosewood has been very dull for both Bahia and Qio. Of Honduras the stock is exhausted. Belize wood has been inquired for. Zebra-wood is dull of sale.

SOUTHERN PINE FORESTS.

The census reports of the amount of standing pine in the United States, and of the immense amounts annually cut in the Northwest, that were perceptibly thinning out the forests in that section, succeeded, at least, in arousing the attention of the country to the necessity of forest preservation, and, also, in developing to an unnecessary degree the fear of forest denudation, so far as the pine forests of the South are concerned. We say to an unnecessary degree, because these forests possess favorable characteristics, which are not applicable to those of the Northwest. There, the undergrowth is so heavy it is of itself dangerous to the preservation of the timber fit for manufacturing, and there are strenuous advocates of the claim that while it would be preferable to thin the forests out gradually, and leave the smaller trees standing for a few years; yet, it is recognized to a great extent a necessity to cut every merchantable tree, in order to preserve them from the devastating effects of forest fires that often sweep over immense districts before they are either controlled or die out from lack of fuel

to feed on. This is their natural condition. To attempt to carry out the idea of forest preservation by cutting only the larger timber, is by many, considered sheer folly, as every tree felled, but increases that much the amount of combustible material, and to that extent increases the danger of destruction by fire.

With the pine forests of the Southern States this danger to standing trees does not exist, except to a limited extent. With the greater portion, it is known that among the pines little or no undergrowth exists; not enough at any rate to endanger the life of the trees from forest fires. This is well shown in the almost harmless custom prevalent throughout the Southern States, of, each spring, burning off the dead leaves and grass, among the pines, to allow the young grass to spring up so that it will furnish an early pasture for the sheep and cattle.

It may be said then, that these forests possess features which will permit, to the highest degree, the application of the European idea of forest preservation, that permits the felling of a certain number of trees only, to a given acre, and those only that have attained certain dimensions. Excepting in certain localities; in the more thickly settled sections of the country, and immediately along the older worked streams, no evidence of the scarcity of pine for manufacturing needs is perceptible to anything like a dangerous degree. Yet, it would be well enough if some plan of forest preservation could be inaugurated and successfully applied; as the wealth and prosperity of large sections are immediately dependent on the conversion of timber into lumber; and they will be so dependent for a series of years; at least until their population has increased to the extent making the land valuable for cultivation.

It has been demonstrated, by experience, that in twenty-five years the yellow pine will attain a growth sufficiently large to permit its being cut for lumber. It has also been demonstrated that the culling of the best trees from the forest does not endanger those left standing. On the contrary, it has been shown that the standing trees are benefited; that the thinning out of forests, forces the growth of smaller trees, and causes them to attain dimensions superior to the largest trees first felled. Sections in this state and in Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, thinned out eight and ten years ago in this manner, have been again brought into requisition, and first-class logs obtained from trees that had previously been left standing as unfit for manufacturing.

With these facts in view, it can be seen at a glance, that in their pine forests, the Southern States possess sources of wealth which will remain with them time out of mind if properly preserved from possible exhaustion; a fear which is of little present consequence; and one which it will not be necessary to entertain for

many years to come; as at present the combined annual cut of the nine Southern States, with their immense forests of pine, does not much exceed one half the yearly cut of the State of Michigan alone.—*American Lumberman*.

LUMBER WASTES.

Taking into consideration the rapidity with which our lumber lands are seemingly being denuded of heavy timber growths, it is plainly a matter of no insignificant importance that some means be adopted to make a tree go as far as possible. That a large proportion is left to cumber the premises, is proven by the perpetual fires going on in some localities to get rid of the sawdust, slabs, etc., that accumulate so rapidly around all mills. Chemists tell us that all this offal can be utilized and made into a paying commodity if treated properly and attended to in time. Let us examine and see.

With valuable timber, such as rosewood, walnut, mahogany, etc., this offal could be gathered and submitted to a process by which it could be softened without destroying the fibre, and afterward submitted to hydraulic pressure and material of any required size produced; this, in turn, again sawed and dressed, is found to take a high polish, and, excepting its tensile strength, is equal in every respect to the lumber from the body of the tree, and in some respects would be preferable; as, for instance, it would stand the most intense heat without warping, shrinking or affecting its finish. Furniture, and all articles not subjected to overstrain, would present a most homogeneous structure, while for coffins, burial caskets, inside finish for dwellings, and the like, it would last nearly forever, inasmuch as the elements of decomposition would all be removed and nothing but the mineral elements of the wood remain. But in this article we wish to discuss the wastes of the cheaper woods, leaving the subject of artificial wood for subsequent discussion, as by request of Mr. Morgan. Wood of any kind indigenous to the United States can, we are sure, be rendered plastic as in making paper, then restored to its original hardness and shape, if used, without detracting any of its properties save that of elasticity, which, of course, would be destroyed.

We will assume that out of an ordinary tree the lumberman gets 75 per cent. of lumber which he sells; now the remaining 25 per cent. a very low estimate, virtually amounts to a nuisance, and the question how to remove it is paramount; in many instances fire is resorted to, but this is both dangerous and unnecessary, as we will show.

All wood contains 65 percent. of volatile matters, the remainder being carbon. We have taken pains to make a chemical test of a sample of oak, and found this sixty-five per cent. of light or volatile matter to be divided into creosote,

tar, rosin, pitch, paraffine, alcohol and acetic acid; whereupon we made no little inquiry as to the prices obtainable for those products, and found ready buyers in Chicago for the acetate, in Buffalo, N. Y., for the alcohol, in New York city for the pitch, tar, etc., in St. Louis for the creosote, leaving the carbon, a matter of 35 per cent., worth, I am told, 63 cents per bushel, or 2 cents per pound in Peoria, for filtering purposes. With these prices, two tons of wood, is worth nearly as much as the rest of the tree before being sawed; in other words, the per cent. of alcohol, one, we obtained at 65 cents per gallon, the acetate of lime 650 pounds per cord at two and one-half cents per pound as offered, the creosote and other by-products, all put together, give a grand total of \$11 per cord for wood; then the charcoal, amounting to as much more, makes a cord of wood worth say \$22 per cord. At this price we will give figures approximating the cost of manufacture. Calling the wood nothing, as it is no more trouble to throw this refuse in one place than another, and the appliances of manufacture are of a character that they could be arranged to take all wastes and sawdust as coming from the mill, then labor at \$2 per day, two men, machinery, steam, etc., \$10 per day; packages, etc., for storing and shipping, \$10 per day; an ordinary mill will have say ten cords of waste per day, and no great mathematician is required to give the profits, and even allowing one-half loss for the visions of a chemist, we still have a profit that seems marvelous.

It looks to us like a wanton destruction of lumber material to see so much refuse rotting and burning away, when if utilized in the manner suggested much good could come of it. In the matter of preserving timber alone, this subject is well worth the attention of owners of timber tracts and saw mills. The crude product could be used for preserving bridge timbers, railroad crossties, fences, buildings, and the like, and would require no extra manipulation save to burn these wastes and condense the smoke, a simple process, and one which anyone can understand.

We have investigated the cost of entire works of this kind but little, and of course would depend altogether on the amount of waste desired to consume in the process, but for a capacity of reducing ten cords offal in 24 hours the cost would not exceed as many thousand dollars, and if a wood or meat preservative was all that was to be made the cost would be much less.—*Chicago Lumber Trade Journal*.

F. S. STERLING & Co., of Monroe, Michigan, handled 18,000 telegraph poles last year and expect to deliver 100,000 this season, having now on hand contracts for 80,000 poles. They are trying to make Monroe the largest distributing depot for telegraph poles in the United States.