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THE CANADA LUMBERMAN is published in the interests of the lumber trade and of allied industries throughout the Dominion, being the only representative in Canada of this foremost branch of the commerce of this country. It aims at giving full and timely information on all subjects touching these interests, discussing these topics editorially and inviting free discussion by others.

Special pains are taken to secure the latest and most trustworthy market quotations from various points throughout the world, so as to afford to the trade in Canada information on which it can rely in its operations.

Special correspondents in localities of importance present an accurate report not only of prices and the condition of the market, but also of other matters specially interesting to our readers. But correspondence is not only welcome, but is invited from all who have any information to communicate or subjects to discuss relating to the trade or in any way affecting it. Even when we may not be able to agree with the writers we will give them a fair opportunity for free discussion as the best means of eliciting the truth. Any items of interest are particularly requested, for even if not of great importance individually they contribute to a fund of information from which general results are obtained.

Advertisers will receive careful attention and liberal treatment. We need not point out that for many the CANADA LUMBERMAN, with its special class of readers, is not only an exceptionally good medium for securing publicity, but is indispensable for those who would bring themselves before the notice of that class. Special attention is directed to "WANTED" and "FOR SALE" advertisements, which will be inserted in a conspicuous position at the uniform price of 15 cents per line for each insertion. Announcements of this character will be subject to a discount of 25 per cent. if ordered for four successive issues or longer.

Subscribers will find the small amount they pay for the CANADA LUMBERMAN quite insignificant as compared with its value to them. There is not an individual in the trade, or specially interested in it, who should not be on our list, thus obtaining the present benefit and aiding and encouraging us to render it even more complete.

VALUE OF CANADIAN SPRUCE FORESTS.

Dr. Bell in his very interesting lecture before the Canadian Institute recently on "The Forest and Forest Trees of Canada," a synopsis of which we are enabled to print in this number, refers to the fact that there are in Canada no less than 121 species of native trees. Until recently the general supposition was that the bulk of our forest area was covered by white pine, and to this source we must look for our forest revenues. Dr. Bell in his lecture makes clear the fact that white pine inhabits only the southern part of our northern territory, and bears but a small proportion to the illimitable forests of spruce which extend from Hudson's Bay to Labrador. Mr. Archibald Blue in a lecture still more recently delivered at the Canadian Institute, expresses the no doubt well founded opinion that there exists an extensive area of spruce lands in the unexplored northern parts of the Province of Quebec. In fact it would appear that much the greater part of the forest area existing in Canada to-day is covered with spruce timber. This timber is of the finest quality, and has been found to be particularly adapted for use in the manufacture of paper.

The present would seem to be the proper time to place a true estimate on the value of our spruce forests, in order that we may not permit their wanton destruction, as in the case of the magnificent hardwood and pine forests of which we were the possessors a generation ago. The white pine we still possess has depreciated in value to some extent on account of the growing difficulty of disposing of the low grades of lumber in competition with southern pine. On the other

hand the indications point to a rapidly increasing demand and value for spruce. The principal demand at present is from the pulp manufacturers who supply the paper mills. The extent of this demand can in some measure be gauged by the statement that an average of 100 cords of spruce per day is required in the manufacture of the paper used by the New York Daily World, and for the Christmas edition of that paper alone 230 tons of ground pulp, representing 310 cords, or 200,000 feet of spruce logs, were required. As an indication of the growth of demand in Canada the value of exports of pulp wood from Port Arthur, Ont., increased from \$80,000 in 1890 to half a million dollars in 1895.

It is not alone in the manufacture of paper however that the future demand for spruce is likely to come. In Norway the manufacture of roofing tile from pulp has been commenced. The new product is said to be meeting with favor, inasmuch as it combines lightness with extreme durability, is not subject to contraction and expansion, and is cheaper than slate or clay goods. Its use is also advocated as a substitute for stone for building purposes. Combined with coloring matter it has been successfully applied as a paint for steel ships and metallic surfaces, being found impervious to heat and dampness. At Haverhill, Mass., it is being used in the manufacture of shoe heels. It is thus evident that wood pulp is adapted for a great variety of purposes; it is therefore equally evident that a few years hence spruce wood will in all probability be largely in demand at profitable prices. Canada is therefore fortunate in being one of the few countries in which are to be found extensive forests of spruce, and our people should as far as possible preserve these forests in view of their coming value.

CUT-OFFS.

THE subject of the utilization of our forest products, now wasted, is of as great moment to us as the forests themselves. We waste altogether too much in our saw mills. It is true a great deal of defective timber is made into shingle bolts and shingles, and that in some of the large mills they cut the largest and best of their edgings into lath, but no one who has visited the mills of the country can fail to be struck with the immense waste that ought to be utilized in some manner. As it is now, it actually costs a large sum every year to destroy this material, which we think has some value. Even if it only produced the cost of the labor, necessary to collect and pile it and put it on cars, or saw it into sizes, etc., it would be much better than seeing it burnt as now is done. For instance, a builder wants to trim a house that he is building. He wants the casing for say 25 to 100 doors. The usual sizes of doors are 2'6" x 6'6", 2'8" x 6'8", 2'10" x 6'10" and 3' x 7', so he will require enough casing of the above length and widths to trim two sides of that number of doors. As it is now, he goes to the factory man, who buys from the dealers lumber, all 12, 14 and 16 feet long, and 4 ft. and up wide, which he has to cut to the width and length required by the builder for his doors. If he could buy stuff in the rough, cut 1 x 5 x 3 ft. and 4 x 7 ft., 1 x 6 ft. of same length, he would do so, and be glad to get it, as it would save him extra work in ripping to widths and waste in cutting off odd lengths; and besides, the mill man

could afford to sell such stuff cheaper than the regular sizes as it would otherwise be wasted.

There are also uses for much smaller stuff, such as corner blocks 4½, 5, 5½ and 6" square; door stiles, 1¼", 1½", and 2" thick, by 4½ to 6" wide and 7' long; door rails 1¼ to 2" thick, by 4½ to 6" wide, 22" to 26" long also 10" wide of same length, and 8" wide of same lengths; blind and sash stiles, 1¼" thick by 2½" wide, by any lengths; door panels, any thickness (for resawing) x 8, 10, and 12 inches wide by 20 and 40 inches long. These panels can be sawn plump ⅝ inch thick, and what will not pass for panels would make good box shooks.

All this stuff can be taken from the waste now going into the burner of the ordinary mill. We have seen slabs come into Toronto that would have made a large percentage of first-class door stock, had it been properly handled.

This refers to the hardwood business as well as the pine in fact, more so, as there is a market for all grades of pine from dead culls up, as long as it is 4 inches and up wide, and 10 feet long, but in hardwood the lower grades and the heart lumber is practically unsaleable. There is a great deal of the low grades that could be cut into small and short stuff and made clear, that now goes into culls or into the burner. There are so many purposes for which small hardwood is used that there should be much more of it made to the sizes required by the factory man and furniture manufacturer. There is in Massachusetts a section about thirty-five miles square that has nearly 100 chair factories, who use an immense quantity of small oak, ash, birch, and maple, in sizes of from one inch square to 2 inches square and from ten to forty inches long, for spindles, legs, etc., and for seats 1" x 4" wide, x 12½", 16½" x 18½" long. They usually require the squares to be cut to sizes and lengths called for piled up so as to dry out bright and straight, and when dry to be tied up into bundles, and the seat stuff to be cut in sets and be shipped in that way.

This stuff is furnished largely by the mills in Virginia and Tennessee, and the Southern mill men are making a specialty of furnishing this small piece stock to manufacturers of furniture, sewing machines, etc. Why should not our mill men do the same? One reason is that they are not careful to cut their stuff exactly to sizes required, and this would be fatal to their success. If a piece is required 1" x 3" and is furnished 2½" x 2½" at one end, by 3¼" x 2¼" at the other, as is often the case here, it had better be put into the burner or cull pile. But with properly made stuff there should be a great deal saved that is now wasted, and we believe fair prices could be realized for such stuff. It only remains for some mill owner to make a start in this direction. There are doubtless numbers of factory men and furniture manufacturers here who would be glad to get stuff with a minimum of waste. It would save their money in stock, in yard room and labor, and also in the price of the material itself, and the mill man would be realizing something for material which he is now at an expense to destroy. How shall they be brought together? We would be glad to hear from any parties who will cut this stuff, and also from those wanting such, and would do our best to bring producer and consumer together for their mutual benefit and to prevent such waste as we now witness.