

THE LUMBER TRADE.

Opinions of Two Leading Bank Managers.

IN HIS annual address, to which editorial reference is made elsewhere in these columns, Mr. Geo. Hague, general manager of the Merchants Bank of Canada, said:

The great timber manufacture of the Ottawa Valley that finally centres in Quebec met with a serious reverse last year. Overproduction flooded the English market, and such a serious drop in prices ensued as to cause heavy losses to exporters. We had in this department of trade some striking illustrations of the evil referred to, namely, of parties with only moderate capital engaging in enterprises far beyond their means and being completely ruined in consequence. Our own share of loss in this quarter has, however, been very moderate. This trade is gradually recovering itself through a heavy decrease in production.

The sawn lumber trade with the United States has proceeded with much more regularity and there is every prospect of a good demand for another season. The markets of the States are not overloaded, and there is no reason why a good season's trade may not be expected. The great question of the conservation of our forests has not come to the front very prominently as yet, but it must receive attention before long. The question of how to make the best use of the trees of every description, large or small, that are growing in the woods, is being solved in a practical manner by a firm in Ontario. It could hardly be supposed that articles so diverse as lumber, paper, terra cotta and alcohol could be produced from our trees, but such is the fact. The development of our various paper-making factories, the raw material for which is largely obtained from our forests is proceeding steadily year by year. These are only examples of the various new and undreamed of uses to which our forests can be turned; and doubtless as experiments are tried, new developments will await us.

Mr. B. E. Walker, general manager of the Bank of Commerce, the largest banking institution in the Province and second in the Dominion, said:

The trade in square timber, in which, as I said a year ago, we have little or no interest, is not yet in a healthy condition. There is still in sight more timber than the total product of any year since 1881, although the amount made in the past year is only about one-fifth of that for 1889-90. It is therefore to be hoped that next winter the quantity manufactured will be as nearly nothing as may be possible. The work in the woods has been done under favorable circumstances and the output is correspondingly cheaper than in recent years; part of the reduction in cost, however, is unfortunately the result of lower wages. Since the maximum cut of logs cut in the Ottawa district, in 1887-8, the stock in hand has been steadily falling, we are glad to notice, and is now lower than on any but two of the last ten years. The demand in the United States is satisfactory, at prices higher than a year ago, but the South American market is still wanting. As we have said in past years, a diminished production is all that is necessary to give the lumber business a quite satisfactory tone, and at the moment the Ottawa manufacturers have fair profits in prospect. The output in the North Shore district is also smaller, but the general conditions of the business are not as favorable as could be desired. The home market, on which they largely depend, is very limited, owing to the collapse in real estate speculation and the general shrinkage in business.

AN AMERICAN contemporary referring to the extensive mills of Mr. J. R. Booth on the Chaudiere, says: "We believe at no milling point on the American continent outside of Canada has any mill man stamped the boards which came from his saws. When a mill man does that it is very evident that in his opinion the lumber is manufactured in A1 style." And this, of course, is the reason why our American friends are constantly in quest of Canadian lumber.

CHIPS AND BARK.

It is a wise old saw, that knows its own broken teeth.

A tree leaves every spring, but does not take its trunk along.

Brokers are kind-hearted people. When they find a man who isn't in it they take him in.

So far as lumber manufacture is concerned, the band saw may be said to be in it.

"Patti's voice must be of wonderful timbre, don't you think so?" Van Pelt? "Yes. Judging by the price of tickets it must be sandal-wood."

Popularly speaking, when a man is "up a tree" he is supposed to have an advantage of some sort, but when he is "up a stump" it is quite a different thing.

California has 2,675 of the giant trees still left, and the largest of these is thirty-three feet in diameter. They ought all to be preserved and kept in a public park.

Never judge a man by his appearances. A shabby coat may contain an editor, while the man wearing a high-toned plug hat and supporting a dude cane may be one of his delinquent subscribers.

Scotland imports timber to the value of \$15,000,000 annually and at the same time has 7,500,000 acres of waste land well suited for tree cultivation. That so thrifty a people as the Scotch should permit such a state of things is rather peculiar.

"The greatest piece of luck I ever had," said Peter Cooper, "was investing the first surplus money I earned in a lottery ticket. I lost, but I gained this experience: that the wheel of fortune is only turned by common sense applied to common events."

A negro who stopped work on a Georgia railroad gave the following reason: "Well, you see de Macon Destruction Comp'ny busted and de road is bin put in de hands of a deceiver, so I jus quit." That darkey was wiser than he knew.

One of the most important questions the logger asks himself at this season of the year when water may be a valuable article, is, "Are my dams all right?" If not all right he is liable to make twin dams right on the spot.

It is said that Samson was a liberal advertiser. He took two solid columns to demonstrate his strength, and several thousand people "tumbled" to the scheme at once. In fact he brought down the house.

The simple machine, with rope and block and tackle equipment, used for hoisting by stone-masons and other builders, and known as the "derrick" got its name from a renowned hangman in England, in the seventeenth Century, named Derrick, who invented it for erecting gibbets for executions by hanging.

Price cutting is a thing that is continually deprecated and pronounced against, yet it crops out everywhere and in every line of trade. There seems to be some kind of microbe in the business that breeds low prices in spite of all the preventives that can be employed. The claim that a dealer is being undersold generally acts upon his feelings like a red flag flaunted in the face of a belligerent bull.

Read this, ye ordinary snake-story hars, then hide your diminished heads in shame. While a large pine log was being sawed into lumber at Brown & Hall's saw mill near Acton, Ont., after the outside slab and one board had been cut off, and while the workmen were turning over the log preparatory to "squaring" it, they were surprised to see a large toad poke his head out of a hole, where he was embedded, and where he had barely escaped being cut up by the saw. As the log was the fourth or fifth up from the butt of the tree, his position must have been at least 50 or 60 feet from the ground. There is but one way of accounting for the fact that he was found in the position named. He had grown up with the tree from infancy, and was probably hundreds of years old when the saw awoke him from his long nap.

The wood-pile is a farm factor of great importance, and whoever neglects it quarrels with his dinner, and may be compelled to contend with hunger. Near cities farmers may burn coal but generally the fuel is wood, in spite of the cry of the alarmists who declare that the forests are receding and soon will disappear. The wood pile may serve as a sign, and make known the methods of the farmer. If the pile be big in the spring, then it is known that the owner does not intend to be disturbed in the busy season, about ten o'clock in the morning, by the cry from the house, "If you want any dinner, you must cut some wood." If there be only a chopping-block and a few uncut sticks lying around, then it is evident that the house keeper, in addition to other cares, must worry about the fuel supply.

A new use has been discovered for the circular saw. Every lumberman is familiar with the music which that useful saw mill accessory produces when it is in successful operation on a log, and to many its energetic and permeating sound has much of melody. But it remained for a charivari party in the town of Sullivan, Mich., to develop the full extent of musical capabilities that the circular saw possesses. These they brought out on the occasion named so successfully that the charivari groom brought suit against them for damages. In his complaint the groom, Mr. Warren Atkins, sets forth that both himself and wife are perfectly willing to condone the use of tin pans and boilers as musical instruments, and that they are even content to excuse the filling of the domestic stove-pipe with the fell purpose of smoking them out; but they draw the line at circular saws. Therefore they ask the court to assess damages against the leaders of the charivari party to the amount of \$5,000.

LUXURY AT SEA.

A skip o'er the ocean wave,
A plunge through the bounding deep,
While the sweat my temples lave
And my bowls their revels keep
My mouth is full of brine,
My hair is turning gray,
The chills creep up my spine—
O-o-o-h, alas! and alack a day!
Lord, kindly still this sea,
And its everlasting roar!
If I ever get back to the old saw mill
I'll ne'er go sailing more.

Look on your wrapper, it tells when your subscription expires.

THE LUMBERMAN is one of the best trade papers published in Canada.—*British Columbia Commercial Journal*.

DURING the month of May of this year the exports of forest products from the Dominion of Canada fell off \$2,000,000 in value compared with the similar month of last year.

A Washington lumber company recently received an order from Australia that calls for 20,000,000 feet of lumber. Twenty-five large ships will be required for its transportation.

THE revenue derived from the woods, forests and lands belonging to the British crown amounts to over \$2,500,000 annually. When Queen Victoria came to the throne she exchanged these revenues for a yearly sum of \$1,925,000.

"Counie May," is the name given to a new steamer constructed this season for Angus Fraser, of Comox, B.C. she is 62 feet long, by 15 feet beam, and it is said can make 13 knots an hour.

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