

# THE CANADA LUMBERMAN.

VOLUME XII }  
NUMBER 4 }

TORONTO, ONT., APRIL, 1891.

TERMS, \$1.00 PER YEAR.  
SINGLE COPIES, 10 CENTS.

## CONTINENTAL WOODS.

THE shantyman as he felled beautiful specimens of forest pine growth this season, lopped off the limbs and cut the trees into logs; the teamster as he hauled them to the skids or the dump; the raftsmen as he accompanies the season's cut down stream; or the mill hands who manipulate the deals, all or nearly all, if questioned in their leisure moments about the article that supplies them indirectly with their daily bread and butter, would be able to give meagre information concerning it. Now and then a warehouseman or shipper comes across a box or a cask made of wood differing in appearance from the ordinary packages he is accustomed to handle, and occasionally he is unable to account for its peculiar behavior, when it resists his attempts to fill it full of nails, owing to its tendency to split the wood. He, like his fellow countryman, the shantyman or the raftsmen, might be able to state "it's pine" or "spruce" or a "kind of pine," but he would, as a rule, know little, if anything, about its growth, the elements in the soil necessary for its life, its perpetuation, its weight or specific gravity, its value as a commercial wood or its natural home, that is, the localities where it naturally grows. It is not within the province of this article to discuss the reasons why pine is found in North America from Hudson's Bay to the Gulf of Mexico, and from Newfoundland to California; neither is it intended to explain why the pine family exhibits such marked differences and at the same time such close resemblances. The object is to briefly tell where each variety can be found; to show some of the differences; and to give other scanty items of information. Our Canadian pine under tests of strain bearing, stands fourth. Like the testing of slabs of concrete, marble, sandstone or granite, specimens of a certain length and uniform thickness are placed upon supports and pressure applied midway between them. So that the weight of each would not interfere in measuring the deflection the specimens are placed horizontally and the pressure exerted latitudinally. Canadian, or eastern pine, under such operation is outclassed by the Douglas fir, the long-leafed pine and the short-leafed pine in strength in pounds, but it is first in deflection or bending qualities. Of the pine family proper it is the lightest, and only two woods of its class fall below it—the white spruce and red cedar of the Pacific slopes. Any one at all versed in geography of America can follow the districts, localities, provinces or states where the varieties of pine flourish or flourished; but if the same individual attempted to explain why certain woods had to change their names and identity before becoming of any value commercially, as for instance bundles of white cedar shingles from Michigan selling in Tennessee under the name of cypress, he would have to be an expert in forestry.

### WHITE PINE.

Canadian pine, white pine, or eastern pine, a light, soft, close straight grained, easily worked, but not a strong wood, is found in Newfoundland, the St. Lawrence river basin and great lake region; stretches westward along the southern end of Lake Michigan and trends north-westerly to the valley of Winnipeg. On the eastern coast it follows the Alleghany mountains to Georgia. It must not be confounded with the white pine or cedar pine, or spruce pine, as it is sometimes called, found from South Carolina to Florida and westward on the Gulf of Mexico States to Louisiana. The latter is coarse grained, not durable and brittle, contains more ash and weighs more per cubic foot.

### YELLOW PINE.

Yellow pine has a short leaf, is very heavy, hard, strong, coarse grained, compact, and full of resin, so

much so that it clogs in sawing. It is found on Staten Island and southward to Florida, and through the western part of that state; westward through the Gulf of Mexico states, Tennessee, Eastern Texas, Arkansas, Indian Territory, parts of Kansas and southern Missouri. It is a disputed point as to the value of this wood commercially. It is claimed by long-leafed pine handlers that it is inferior to their stock and on the other hand the producers of it claim it as good if not better.

### LONG-LEAFED PINE.

The long-leafed pine, pitch pine, yellow pine, or as it is better known, Georgia pine, produces the commercial turpentine, pitch and resin. It is found in abundance from S. E. Virginia to central eastern Florida, and through the Gulf of Mexico states to the Red River of the south in Louisiana. It is the heaviest of all pine woods, weighing  $43\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. per cubic foot, where Canadian pine weighs 24 lbs. It is very hard and strong, tough, coarse grained, durable and highly resinous.

Besides the above specimens there are two distinct varieties found in the United States, unknown in Canada—the bull pine of California and the yellow pine of Arizona. Both differ materially from each other, and though in some respects they resemble white pine yet the deviations from it are very marked when the two are compared.

The king of the forest in commercial woods is the Douglas fir, wrongly named for it belongs to the spruce family. Known as Puget Sound, Oregon or British Columbia pine, it is found on the Pacific coast ranges in such abundance that almost every other wood is excluded. It is tenacious, strong, hard, compact, durable and varies in color from light red to yellow. Lumbermen divided it into two varieties, red fir and yellow fir, the former being considered inferior to the yellow fir, on account of its coarse grained nature. The wood contains less ash than in any other pine, spruce or cedar, and in all tests of pressure, compression, transverse strain or other requirements of strength, the Douglas fir heads the list. As might be expected, other varieties of the same genera are found in the locality, the only one in great abundance being white spruce. The trees climb skyward 100 to 140 feet, and measure at the base  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 feet in diameter. It is not unlike its sister, white spruce found in Newfoundland, Eastern Canada, Michigan and Minnesota, Maine and Vermont. The latter in commerce is classed with black spruce found in the same latitude and follows the southern course of the Alleghany as far as Florida. All three are light weights, close, straight grained and compact. The white spruce of the Pacific weighs  $21\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. per cubic foot; the white of the Atlantic  $25\frac{1}{4}$  lbs. and the black spruce  $28\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.

## ANECDOTES OF SHANTY LIFE.

BY BARNEY.

IT frequently happens that the taking out of timber becomes necessary in the summer in some localities when the soil and other conditions do not require snow and ice. On one occasion when finishing a tie contract in the early heated term, when black flies and mosquitoes reign in the woods, a gang of shanty men, tired of horse play, were seated around a smudge fire smoking on Sunday afternoon. Some one hinted that a bottle of whiskey would not go badly, and suggested that lots be drawn and the unlucky one foot some nine miles for a supply. The usual squabble occurred as to the manner of drawing, when finally a big, dark com-

plexioned Frenchman bet a gallon and the carrying of it, that he could lie on his face, stark naked, for half an hour and never twitch a muscle from bites of flies or mosquitoes. He was taken up, then undressed himself, and on "time," got into shape. He stood the punishment without a flinch, although covered with the insects. When the challenger, after 27 minutes had expired, saw he was elected, he quietly with a chip picked up a coal and deposited it on the victim's back. It sizzled for a second; then with a spring like a salmon and an oath Mr. Frenchman jumped to his feet, dug his fingers into his back, yelled and danced. When told out of pure mischief that he had lost the bet, he roared: "Sacre! nugh! you bet! you dink ha mans ha geese? shes not bargain for ha wassup."

I was rafting square timber down the St. Lawrence one summer, and arrived at Lachine too late in the day to run the rapids. I ordered the raft to be moored or snubbed on the river side until daylight, and strolled along the main street of the village. Crossing the original canal at the first lock gate I sat down on a log near the swing bridge to watch the river and lake craft lock through. To my right sat a Frenchman, a perfect stranger, who evidently was anxious to form my acquaintance. He kept pointing out the various objects that attracted his attention to me and offered me his tobacco. Finally he said, "You know Yoseph Lator." I replied in the negative. "Not know Yoseph de raffsman; dat's he's raffs over der by de wood skow. He's wife shes keep a la Bon Se Cour in Moreal. Shes sell patak an' you call eet gardeng?" I still answered no. "Vell," he says, "Not know Yoseph, by jee he's de bess raffs man on de Ottawah, 'e coma down de Soo pass Carrillon, 'e roun' de St. Anne jump a Lachine a canal, a crack a two steamboat; by jee, Not know Yoseph, eh?"

THE Crooks act has done much towards doing away with shebeens which flourished on the roads between civilization and the bush, but in many sections, although frowned upon by boss lumbermen and all foremen with the interests of their firm at heart, they continued to vend whiskey *Blanc* and swamp whiskey a standing menace to peace and good will amongst crews who on their road to the shanties stopped for a meal or rested over night. On one occasion a crew under a strict foreman had reached the last stage but one of their overland journey. They put up for the night in a log building, constructed, furnished and stocked to meet the requirements of a shanty man, but unlicensed. In spite of the vigilance of the foreman some evidently were drinking, and as evening wore on some became drunk. The foreman remonstrated with the landlady and tried to frighten the landlord but without avail. He finally heard a rum-pus in a back room off the kitchen. The landlord was Highland Scotch and was serving a countryman. Two Frenchmen were endeavoring to force their way into the small room but were stopped. When the landlord emerged from the taproom, leaving his companion locked in, he was interrogated as follows: "Monsieur, we Frenchmans, eh? we be Scotchmans, eh, we get the liquor?" The landlord tried to explain that the foreman was raising a fuss, that he would get into trouble, and as a clincher he said in his best vernacular—"She'll no give to nobody an' last o' a' to a Frenchy". He had hardly finished speaking when, bang! one of the duett struck him in the eye and disappeared like a shot. Quick as a flash he let the remaining Frenchman have it in the jaw. The recipient on asking what he was thumped for was told: "Sho was hit richt on the e'e by yeer nepoor, she didna deservt—ye didna deservt, ga on' hit him".