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THE WASTE LUMBER OF CANADA.

THE great importance of the subject to which we so forcibly alluded in our leading article in the last number of this Magazine, relating to Canadian Inventions, and, also, how the perfecting of the Machinery of our workshops is the only way to enable us to compete with other countries (particularly in the manufacturing of such staple articles of trade, of which we possess in abundance the raw material), induces us now to bring to the notice of manufacturers and importers of lumber another important matter of not

less advantage to a numerous class of the community, and which might be called the *minor lumber trade* of the Dominion. A commercial business of this description, if once inaugurated, would undoubtedly grow into large dimensions: we mean the utilizing of the immense quantity of short-cuttings from logs, planks and boards which is, annually, wasted, or burnt up as firewood. If this waste lumber consisted of inferior wood, the question of using it for trade purposes would not be worth a thought; but on the contrary, some of it consists of the very best description of pine, of little value to our own manufacturers in a country where wood is plentiful, but of great value to manufacturers in Great Britain and foreign countries, who would pay a fair price for this sort of timber, if sawn up into the sizes required, as it would be to them just as good and as valuable as first-class lumber.

The Dominion of Canada exports the largest quantity of pine lumber of any country in the world; not only supplying England, Ireland and Scotland, but, to a great extent, the United States, West India Islands, South America, Australia, and now, also, some portions of Europe.

It is well known that to make this trade profitable, only lumber of first, second and third quality can be shipped. Upon its arrival in Great Britain, it is stored in the yards of the importer, who sells it to dealers in the interior of the country, and they again retail it to builders and manufacturers. Consequently, as there is always

more or less waste in the cutting of it up, the freight alone on the waste pieces is no small item of extra cost.

First quality pine deals which are worth at the present moment about \$40 per 1000 feet board measure, at the port of Quebec, will probably be worth double that amount when they reach the final purchaser who may require them for building or manufacturing purposes. Now any person who has travelled through this country and visited its Lumber regions, and the large mills on the Ottawa and its tributaries, Saguenay and other places where extensive lumber operations are carried on, cannot but have been struck with the amount of small sized lumber allowed to go absolutely to waste.

In the forests we have frequently seen the butt of a large pine tree (which although it may be partially hollow, is generally of the very best quality of wood) hewn off and cast away. The quantity of short lengths of square logs that we have seen in the Coves of Quebec cut off to make merchantable timber for shipping, is enormous; these pieces are split up and sold for firewood.

There is not a mill in the country but makes a similar waste. The mills of Ottawa supply that city with a large portion of its firewood, being a collection of the ends cut off planks and boards, which, if not collected by the employes, who sell them at a trifling sum per cart-load, would be cast into the river. Many of the large mills on the outskirts of the forest have had to construct tramways in order to carry off their waste lumber to a sufficient distance to burn it with safety; and at one time, to such an extent was this waste carried, that many fine houses were built with the ends of planks laid in grout, and then clapboarded. The demand, of late years, in the American market for Canada lumber, caused from the exhaustion of pine in the forests of the New England States and the enormous increase of their manufactories in wood-work and for building, has caused a very sensible diminution of this wholesale waste of lumber, but the quantity that is still cast away is very great, to say nothing of the small sized lumber destroyed or burnt in the forests. There is no reason, therefore, why this wood should not be utilized, and cut up into sizes suitable for a foreign market; there is not only every probability of its proving, as a mercantile speculation, a success, but of its adding materially to the welfare of a numerous class of people, who would obtain employment therefrom.