

SALE OF TIMBER LIMITS

The Ottawa Free Press, of Sept. 20th, says:—The announcement that there would be sales of timber limits by Messrs. Brower and Tackaberry at the Grand Union this afternoon attracted to that place a large crowd of buyers and others. By two o'clock the spacious main office of the hotel was crowded with lumbermen, lawyers and business men, who were either engaged in conversation or examining the maps of the various limits which adorned the walls of the room.

About half-past two o'clock loud voices were heard in one corner of the room, rising over the general hum of conversation which filled the air. In the midst of the crowd, talking at the top of their voices and gesticulating wildly, were seen the two auctioneers. The matter in dispute was as to the order in which the sales should be conducted. It seems that both the auctioneers had advertised their sales to take place at two o'clock, and as it was obvious that they could not both sell at once, the question arose as to who should sell first. Each of the rivals had his friends who warmly espoused his cause. What with the loud tones of the auctioneers, the applause of their friends, and the suggestions of disinterested bystanders, there was a perfect babel of voices. In the midst of the hubbub, auctioneer Macdonald announced that he had intended to offer a farm for sale, but owing to the death of President Garfield, he would postpone it until after the funeral. This announcement was greeted with cheers and laughter, and had the effect of restoring good humor among the excited partisans of the two auctioneers.

A few minutes later Mr. Brower mounted a chair and addressed the crowd. He said he was willing to do anything that was fair. He was willing to leave the matter in the hands of his employers, who should make an arrangement with Mr. Tackaberry's employers. They, and not the auctioneers, were the proper people to settle the question.

No sooner had Mr. Brower vacated the chair than it was mounted by Mr. Tackaberry, who claimed that his sales had been advertised a long time before Mr. Brower's, and hinted that the latter had unfairly fixed the date of his sale of poor limits on the same day in order to take advantage of the crowd who would come to purchase his (Tackaberry's) good limits.

Mr. Brower retorted that the last speaker had never had a limit to sell at the time he had first advertised them; but that before starting for Manitoba he had stuck his name to the advertisement in order to let people know that he was coming back.

Then ensued a most amusing scene. The rival auctioneers jumped up and down off the chair alternately, and addressed the crowd in a highly excited manner. Recriminations and epithets the reverse of complimentary issued from the mouths of the speakers in the most lively manner. Auctioneer Tackaberry said this was no place for squabbling, and darkly hinted that the matter might be finished elsewhere. Just as it began to look as though the war might develop into something more than a wordy one, auctioneer Macdonald once more restored temporary good humor by shouting out that if both auctioneers would give in, he would sell the whole of the limits himself.

Hostilities ceased for a time, and about ten minutes later Mr. Tackaberry offered for sale Campbell's limit of 39 square miles, situated on the Trent Lake branch of the Petewawa river. The limit was put up en bloc, the first bid being \$15,000. The bidding was not very lively, and slowly by bids of \$1,000 apiece \$26,000 was reached. The bidding then hung fire for quite a time, until a voice in the rear of the crowd offered \$300 better. Half a dozen more bids of \$300 increase at a time brought the amount up to \$22,500, when the bidding ceased and the limit was knocked down to Mr. Wm. Moore for that sum.

While Mr. Tackaberry had been engaged with this sale, his rival mounted a chair in another part of the room, took documents and maps out of his pocket, and made every preparation for announcing a sale as soon as Mr. Tackaberry finished his first one. No sooner had the first limit been knocked down than Mr. Brower announced, in loud tones, that he was instructed to offer for sale a limit of fifty square miles on

the River Cologne, known as the Bryson limit. Mr. Tackaberry appealed to his audience not to leave him, as he intended to go right on selling. In proof of this, he commenced to read the description and terms of sale of another limit. Both auctioneers then attempted to conduct their sales at one and the same time. The result was a scene which was probably never witnessed at an auction before in Ottawa. What with the handsome room, the large crowd of shrewd looking business men with pencil and note book in hand, and the confused babel of voices, over which arose clear and distinct the voices of the auctioneers, it could not but remind the spectator who had visited the New York Gold Exchange in its palmy days of that famous institution. Both auctioneers talked for all he was worth, but scarcely a word either said could be distinguished. After a few moments Mr. Tackaberry's voice ceased for a time and bidding on Mr. Brower's sale commenced. The first bid was for \$2,000, and it rapidly ran up from that to \$3,500. Mr. Tackaberry then recommenced, and the confusion was worse than ever. A few moments later Mr. Gornully, who represented some of the parties for whom Mr. Tackaberry was selling, came over to Mr. Brower and informed him that it had been agreed that the sales should be conducted alternately.

Harmony having thus been restored, Mr. Brower proceeded with his sale, and the bidding advanced to \$9,000, when it ceased. After consultation with his employers, Mr. Brower then announced that the bidding having not come up to the expectation the limit would be withdrawn.

Mr. Tackaberry then put up a limit of fifty square miles situated between the Desmoine and Coulouge rivers, at present owned by Sir Francis Hincks, who was present. The first bid was for \$100 per mile, and the second for \$110. Here the bidding ceased and the limit was withdrawn.

Forest Fires.

The plague of smoke has settled down over Ontario. On Monday evening the darkness was so complete in the vicinity of Kingston as to be comparable only to that described as having visited Egypt in the time of Moses, while further west the colors which the sky displayed seemed to be reflections of the bottomless pit. So powerfully did these appearances work upon the imagination of the people that the possible near approach of the day of judgment became a subject of concern with many, while the most painful rumors of calamities to neighboring cities were flying in all directions. By forest fires an enormous amount of good property is being destroyed. We presume the gases of the smoke, when they reach the ground, make the best of manure, but it is manure of a very expensive kind, as we shall find in a few years when timber becomes scarce. It is very hard for the Canadian to realize the state of things which is approaching. So long has it been our lot to contend with the forest that we look upon it rather as an enemy than as a friend. But it requires little knowledge to see that the splendid lumber regions of Michigan and Canada are diminishing at a tremendous and ever accelerating pace, and that the demands of the continent are increasing with like rapidity. For railway ties alone the demand on our forests must be enormous just now. It becomes, then, a matter of life and death to protect the forests. This seems to persons used to the liberty of this country a simple impossibility. It is, however, a thing which has been achieved elsewhere and can be achieved here. It would be very queer in the eyes of a woodsman to be told, for instance, that he must on no account smoke in the bush, mosquitoes or no mosquitoes, and must only make fires under certain regulations. Yet such are the laws in Sweden, with the result of maintaining the forests of that country from year to year in undiminished productiveness. We are not prepared for such absolute laws here, but it is high time steps were taken to make forest fires less common. One thing that might be done is to have fire inspectors whose duty would be to report on the cause of every forest fire, large and small, and to suggest means to prevent the recurrence of the cause when discovered. — *Montreal Witness*.

TRY BURDOCK'S BLOOD PURIFIERS, the great system renovator, blood and liver syrup, acts on the bowels, liver and kidneys, and is a superb tonic.

THE AMERICAN TRADE.

The *Northwestern Lumberman*, of September 17th, says that but few changes in prices have been reported during the past week. Since the advance following the one made by the Chicago dealers, August 27, prices have been steady and very firm. With a single exception, there has been no weakness in the leading markets throughout the country. The volume of orders has been large, in many cases exceeding the ability of the dealers to supply. From Toledo we learn that the stock of dry lumber is nearly exhausted, and that some kinds are bringing more than price list quotations. Philadelphia has low stocks in some grades, and is looking toward another advance. The mills at Williamsport have shut down on account of low water, which, if it continues, will be liable to somewhat affect prices in that locality. Burlington, Vt., reports an extraordinary heavy trade, with every indication that it will continue throughout the season.

A lack of transportation facilities is common, not only in the west, but in the east as well. The shipment of orders is much delayed for want of cars, and as a consequence lumber is accumulating on the docks and mill-yards. Water freights are firmer, and in some cases have materially advanced. It is expected that the scarcity of cars will be more marked as the crops of the season begin to move more freely.

An extensive correspondence shows that stocks in the country yards are nowhere heavy, and we often hear the expression that at present they will be allowed to remain in that condition. Building operations have been suspended to some extent, more particularly among the farmers. The high prices obtained for their farm products may cause a revival, but it is sure to come late, and probably not to any extent until the coming spring.

In the Duluth region, and throughout Wisconsin, many of the mills that were filling their orders slowly, and in some cases were doubtful about their ability to fill some of them at all, have now plenty of logs, the late rains causing clean drives. Often it is necessary to ship lumber as fast as it comes from the saw, but the ones who were behind are glad to be able to do even as well as that.

Saw Waste.

One reason why the cabinet woods of the country are scarcer and dearer yearly is given in the editorial correspondence of the *Chicago Industrial World*. The gentleman has been spying out the land, and in the course of much interesting information, says:—"The unaccountable waste of timber is startling, if not appalling. While economists and all thoughtful men in the older States are gravely discussing the problem of the coming timber famine, the good natured, easy going farmers of Henry county (and all Missouri) are splitting magnificent walnut, butternut, cherry and mulberry trees into common rails for the enclosure of \$8, \$12 and \$20 lands, cutting them into logs for cabins, hovels and pig troughs, and even into common cordwood to sell on the market in competition with cheap coals. Still worse, many a woodland farmer girdles scores of valuable trees (even the stumps of which will be gathered for the coming markets), burns them in the new clearings, side by side with the baser woods, and wonders the while that he must pay enormous prices for solid walnut furniture from factories a thousand miles away."

A Black List.

The happenings of the past week in business circles in Ontario include a grave list of losses by fire. Accounts of forests blazing and homesteads destroyed in a number of western counties are followed by those of mills and factories devoured by the flames. Two planing mills, a hotel and two wagon shops are burned in Lis towel; Coates' shingle mill at Barrie, John Boyd's planing mill and J. P. White's mills at Whitevale are also burned. Thos. Ouillette, an extensive shipper of woods from the county of Essex has, we regret to see, sustained a heavy loss by the burning of his mill and piles of lumber at Gordon; Thomas Green & Co.'s planing mill in London is burned, and H. C. Green sustains a loss on lumber; W. A. Fraser, lumberer, Wallaceburg, is burned out; so is Henry Wells, of Salford. — *Monetary Times*.

BUSH FIRES AGAIN.

GRAT DSTRUCTION.—VILLAGES, SAW MILLS, LUMBER, FARMS, ETC.

GRAVENHURST STATION, Sept. 16.—The Woodstock Lumber Company's mill stock, about three millions, has been entirely consumed. The stock belongs to McDonogh, McCool & Oliver, of Toronto. It is understood to be insured, but to what extent is unknown. The whole of West Gravenhurst is burning at this moment (4.15 p.m.) One church and six houses have already gone, and if the wind, which is now blowing a gale, continues, another mill will go containing about two and a half million. The fire is already running in the sawdust. We have lost one car, and there are six more in danger, which we cannot get at, the track being burned.

LINDSAY, Sept. 16.—The bush fires last night were very disastrous. A strong wind prevailed all day, which almost rose to a hurricane during the evening. Losses by fire are reported this morning from all quarters. A bridge on the Victoria railway, near Kilmount, was burned; also the saw-mill and a large quantity of lumber belonging to Mr. Ashman, of Eldon. The barns of J. Birmingham and D. Jameson, in the same township, were destroyed with their contents. The wind continues high to-day, and it is feared that the fires will again start afresh. At one time last night it was expected the station buildings at Fenelon Falls would be burned, but by the efforts of the villagers they were saved.

How to Render Wood Fire-Proof.

F. Folbary, of New York, has devised a method of making wood incombustible without, in any way, altering its outward appearance. Wood prepared in accordance with his process may possibly be charred just at the surface, but the heat to which it is exposed, though ever intense, can never penetrate right into the wood, and touch its fibres. Timber petrified in this way is particularly suitable to staircases that are to resist a conflagration. The composition devised by the inventor is as follows:—35 pounds of sulphate of zinc, 22 pounds of potash, 44 pounds of alum, 22 pounds of sesquioxide of manganese, 22 pounds of sulphuric acid at 60°, and 45 pounds of water. The whole of the solid substances are put in an iron vessel containing the water at a temperature of 113° F. When all this solid matter is dissolved, the sulphuric acid is poured in slowly until the whole is saturated with it. The solution is now ready, and in order to prepare timber with it the pieces must be put on an iron grate in a suitable recipient, in accordance with the size of the pieces and the object for which they are intended, care being taken to leave half an inch between any two pieces. The composition is pumped into the recipient, and after the whole of the spaces have been filled up, it is left there in a boiling state for at least three hours. The wood is then taken out and placed on a grate like wooden stand in the open air, to make it dry and firm. When thus prepared the impregnated wood may be used for ship-building, and building in general, for railway carriages, scaffoldings, posts, wooden pavements, and generally for all purposes, while it is desirable that the material should be able to resist fire.

On Piling Wood.

Many people who handle wood do not know that if they wish the bark to come off they should pile it bark down; if they wish to retain the bark, the opposite course should be taken. A correspondent writes to the *Detroit Post-Tribune* giving his experience, as follows:—"I have sold wood for over forty years in Michigan, and I find that when split wood is corded bark up it remains on until I sell and measure up the wood, and all that is piled bark down the bark falls off and measures nothing; besides, there is more heat in the bark than in the sap of the log. The most and best ashes are also in the bark. I have on my place now some maple wood that was chopped nine years ago and corded bark up, and the bark would hold on if I would draw the wood to Saginaw (18 miles) and cord up and measure; besides, the bark is lighter to draw. Where the bark is piled down the water runs in around the wood and makes it dozy, wet and heavy. Tell your neighbors to try it. Railroad companies would save thousands of dollars by piling their wood bark up."