

## THE FORTHCOMING SUPPLIES.

The *Timber Trades Journal* says—The great question of the hour, so far as the timber trade is concerned, just now is, what proportions are the autumn supplies likely to assume? To the provinces this is even more important than to the large towns; the ability of the latter to regulate their markets when unduly oppressed by public sales, at which a numerous attendance can mostly be relied on, makes prices less affected by the state of the supplies than at smaller places where the bounds of consumption are not capable of the same expansion, and there are some ports where a dozen shiploads on the market would be almost calamitous.

The general opinion is that the stocks will be considerable for full shipment, both as respects flooring and deals, from the north of Europe. The first impression was that, through want of snow to fill the rivers, the floatage of logs from the interior of Sweden, &c., would have been difficult, and the stuff available for conversion consequently been extremely limited. This has not been borne out in the result, as logs are plentiful at the mills, while all are said to be in full work manufacturing for export to the various markets, both continental and colonial, but two-thirds at least of which will most likely find its way to the United Kingdom.

The German market is almost entirely closed to the Swedes, owing to the prohibitive duties on sawn and planed wood which the governing powers of the former have thought proper to institute, with the view of stimulating their own manufacture. It is not improbable that hereafter, when the Germans have established planing mills and produced more than is needed for their own wants, we shall find them looking abroad for a market, and entering into competition with the Swedes and Norwegians. At present, however, in respect of sawn wood, deals, and battens, to which their manufacture is just now confined, we shall not receive from Prussia any heavy supply this autumn. Neither to the east country ports generally need we look for heavy shipments, though in whitewood from Riga and Petersburg an average supply may be counted upon. The redwood logs at hand at the east Baltic ports fit for conversion are stated to be very limited, and shippers, though more anxious now than they were earlier in the year to make sales, are not inclined to make reductions in the l.o.b. quotations to any serious extent, notwithstanding the admitted dullness of the present state of trade on this side, which is generally acknowledged to be telling very seriously on the cargo values of nearly all descriptions.

We however, are not so immediately concerned now with the tendency of prices as with the subject of the coming supplies, and, as will be gathered from our remarks, the views generally expressed imply that they are likely to be somewhat heavy from both Norway and Sweden. With deals, &c., from the Gulf of Bothnia, we are not overburdened as yet. The stocks of the latter country, however, run more in battens and flooring. Already battens are plentiful at the various markets here, and where flooring is imported in large quantities, viz., the south and west coast ports, the stocks are full ones for the time of year.

Across the Atlantic it is early yet, with the spring fleet from Quebec only just coming forward, to attempt to discount the fall supply; but, while we are on the subject, it might be as well to bear in mind that the manufacture up to the present time has been short of that of last year on both pine and spruce—in fact, from the lower ports to the United Kingdom the spruce shipments have shown a marked decrease as compared with last summer. The lack of supply as forthcoming from New York, of this last mentioned description (2,000 standards), alluded to some time since, we have heard nothing further about, and whether the quantity has been shipped, or only a portion, we are not able to say. There can be no doubt that with the facilities offering in the way of cheap freights from the Empire City, it became possible to send goods through in that way, and very likely, when we are writing, deals from New York may be now discharging, in some European port. If it would pay to send spruce through to New York, why not pine? The United States demand for the latter, however,

is too active to admit of shipping the stuff to a less favorable market, and the question of low freight would, in respect to yellow pine, probably not influence a single cargo in the direction of New York for transshipment.

On the question of prices, the present tendency of values of nearly every description is downward; most of the importers have their hands already full, and till trade recovers from its present apathy, they are unlikely to lodge themselves now to later engagements, but will probably wait the tide of events; in fact, the waiting policy at this juncture would be the wisest for many and various considerations, the probabilities of a rise in values being too remote to lead speculators to invest in large stocks, though, if values reach a lower point, it is more than likely, at the present cheap price of money and the quantity available, that large purchases of timber will be made on the chance of improvement. It would at this juncture have been highly interesting to have had the opinions of the Society of Swedish Saw Mill Owners, but that body probably do not think it judicious at this critical and somewhat uncertain moment to make any public expression of the state of the stocks at the various mills.

With reference to London there seems to be no indication as yet that the forthcoming supply will be heavier than last year; in fact, up to very recently the advices received were just the other way, and the Dock Company last week had on their list to arrive only 74 vessels, as against 91 last July, but with the great shipping facilities afforded by steamers the market may be overburdened on a very short notice as long as the stuff at the mills is plentiful and shippers choose to send it here.

## CHIPPewa CHIEFS.

The *Northwestern Lumberman*, of July 29th, says:—Last Wednesday a delegation of Chippewa chiefs and their attendants arrived in the city, on their way to Washington to complete negotiations which are now pending for the disposal of their lands, in whole or part, to the government. The Red Lake, Minn., reservation and their outside territory includes 3,200,000 acres of pine land, the timber on which is admitted to be of excellent quality, and stands thickly in most places. It is pretty well understood that the untutored redskin is a poor lumberman, and more interested in the hunt than in logging. While he is proverbially noted for a distaste for manual effort, he is generally found without facilities for performing practical labor, and without the sagacity and skill in a mechanical way, which he would display on the trail or in the chase. True, the Red Lake Indian is supposed to be nothing more than a semi-savage, without grit enough to get up a raid, or sufficient gumption to dig in, and plow a 10 acre field, but he has the inherent qualities of the American aborigine, and hard work is not on his bill of fare, though he will stand more grief than anybody for the sake of avoiding that worthy essential to decent existence. As a result the pine on the lands of the Chippewas is very little cut by its owners, while a large amount of it is surreptitiously snaked off and utilized by invaders. So the pine lands have become very much of an elephant on the hands of the Chippewas—they can't hunt anything of consequence in the forests but muskrats, they won't lumber to any extent, and the lands are worth most to their friends who call and go away again with a few million feet of pine in their pockets, as a souvenir. Ready cash is the only thing the Indian can handle to advantage, and hence the Chippewa nation has been looking around for some time for a purchaser, and they are beginning to get anxious about the matter for fear they will not fix things before somebody has stolen all the timber. St. Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth parties have talked about buying some of the land, but nothing but talk has been evolved, hence the present treaty between the Indians and the government.

The delegation mentioned has been working its way from the reservation up north toward Washington, picking up stray nickels on the route by giving exhibitions in native costume, doing war dances, singing chants, and giving other characteristic performances. Reaching this city they associated themselves with Mr. Englehardt, who has an exhibition of natural

wonders in the armory of Battery D, on the lake front. There are nine in the party, four of whom are chiefs. Their names are as follows, the chiefs coming first: Show-an-ok-om-ick-kish-hong, or The Man Who Walks Where the Land Meets; As-in-way, or Little Rock; An-mik-oonce, or Little Thunder; Nip-wag-glow, or the Man That Stands Where the Land Meets; Ash-awa-kin-owc, or Crossing Eagle; Nakon-way-witong, or Leading Thunder. Pas in ase, or Wind-driven Cloud; Neak-ono-kot, or Leading Cloud; Tap-pas-akon, or Low Feather; Mish-akke-kohok, or Low Cloud; Lady Betsy Dolomo and Frank Russel, interpreter.

A representative of the *Lumberman* interviewed the delegation, and found that the whole tribe was pretty much disgusted with the way their pine had been purloined, and bent on adjusting their affairs of real estate so as to get legal tender for it or secure immunity from wholesale thievery. Skirmishers from the British Dominion, Canada, Chippewas, Scandianavians, etc., are not the only operatives who plunder the lands, for there are those on the American Shore who have respectable connections who instigate or execute such timber thefts, and who ought to know better. If we should make any personal allusions it would result in stirring up the journalistic animals over at Minneapolis, and an imaginary lumber paper would do an immense amount of indignant and energetic kicking. But the Redskins know who are doing the looting over there, and are not afraid to say so. The delegation will fill an engagement at the lake front, and intends going to Washington presently to conclude the treaty and get satisfaction somehow. They desire to sell half of the land, at any rate. In the meantime they are doing the grotesque war-dance every day at the armory, and Little Thunder, who was somehow mixed up with the Custer affair, tells what he knows about running soldiers into a trap and butchering the whole lot.

## SHELTER BELTS.

We have something to offer as a substitute for the forest, to those of our fellow citizens who do not feel prepared to plant timber trees extensively and as a crop, more or less extensively, as it is done in thousands of instances by the landowners of Europe. We offer this plan to those who feel they cannot spare a single field from the plans and schedules they have laid down for a regular rotation of corn, oats, wheat and clover, or meadow lands—and also to those who may have on their farms no rocky ledges, no ravines, no steep hillsides, no odd waste corners, nor overflowed lands, upon which they might advantageously plant trees. They are not asked to give up a single field and turn it into woodland; but even they who are so happily situated as to the cultivable character of their lands may yet find it greatly to their advantage to plant trees in the manner which is now to be explained. It will be all the more desirable that they should do so, if their farms be surrounded on all sides by other lands equally well adapted to arable crops, and equally free from the waste places so often found on many farms, and which are almost utterly profitless, though always counted in as so many acres by the assessors in making up the tax duplicate.

In such a territory of fertile champaign country, where every farmer in a wide neighborhood is similarly inclined to crop his whole farm, and where all desire to reap the golden harvest from every acre of which he may be possessed—just there is the great danger of our finding out some of these days that we have too much cleared land in contiguous tracts; just there we are liable practically to turn our woodland into a prairie—as in many parts of the country we are rapidly reaching such a condition.

Just there, too, is the place to institute means that shall obviate the danger which threatens. This is not to be done by relegating a single one of those farms back to forest growths. No one shall lose anything by cruel edict, but each for himself, and all collectively, are promised the full fruition of the benefits that will accrue to those who accept the advice and adopt the plan, which consists in a system of tree belts across the whole township, and across or between the several farms.

These shelter belts and wind-breaks, though

occupying a portion of the land, will add materially to the productiveness of the soil that is retained in cultivation, and they will in no small degree modify the local climate, which an extreme amount of clearing has already affected by the exposure of such broad contiguous surfaces to the influence of the scorching sunshine, and to the drying and blasting winds.

On the broad and open expanse of surface of the treeless plains of Iowa, where in the north western half of the state there is but one acre of woodland to a mile square of 640 acres, these shelter belts have been fairly tried by those who were bold enough to settle in such exposure. Among them, Mr. C. E. Whiting has been one of the first and the most extensive planter of trees upon this plan, and for the purpose of modifying the local climate, and in this he has been successful. Mr. Whiting declares that he can well afford to plant the trees and to give up the land they occupy, independently of the fuel they already yield him, and the wood for many economical purposes upon his farm, the remaining four fifths of the land still occupied by his crops will yield him better returns than the whole area would have done if it were all cultivated to the extreme outer boundaries, but exposed to the elements, and not thus protected by these artificial shelter-belts.

This kind of tree-planting serves the double purpose of replacing the forests which have been destroyed and of modifying the climate. First—It produces wood for fuel and lumber. Second—It also modifies the climate.

These shelter belts are particularly adapted to level tracts of fertile lands devoted to agriculture, and the broader the area of such lands the greater becomes the necessity for their protection in this way, just as they are needed in the prairie regions.

The planting of these shelters does not supersede the necessity of tree-planting also on the waste places, ravines and corners, where they exist; by all means, let that good work also be done, to supplement the belts in our efforts to replace a proportion of the forests we have destroyed.

Here, as elsewhere, in all our artificial forestation, planting directed by human brains is better, and the results will be more satisfactory, than trusting to natural reproduction, for it enables us to do the work more thoroughly, more evenly and more judiciously, since we can make a selection of the species best adapted to our soils, and best fitted to our necessities, whether for their sheltering effects or for their ultimate wood products.

If, as of necessity on the prairies, you desire to produce an immediate effect in the shelter, you can be gratified by planting the trees of most rapid growth, even though they be of inferior quality. The outer rows of the wind-break may be set with these kinds, and next to them may be placed those of slower growth, whether deciduous or evergreen. Or you may have the effect you desire at first, and better trees afterward, by planting intermediately such as will be coming on more slowly to take the place of the fast growers when they are removed. This will be true of oaks and hickories or walnuts, planted among poplars and other rapidly growing kinds.

The evergreens should not be mixed with deciduous trees either in the belts or in the groves, but they should always be massed by themselves and planted in separate rows, if we desire them to succeed. In some cases it may be desired to use the evergreens exclusively; and for mere shelter, particularly in winter, they are exceedingly effective, and a double or quadruple belt will yield more shelter if set with Norway spruce, or some of the pines, than ten rows of almost any of the deciduous class.

The preparation of the land for the shelter belt should be as thorough as for a crop of grain, and done, of course, with a plow and harrow. Furrows or marks are made at intervals of four feet to receive the plants, which may be set closely as in other plantations, especially as we desire to break the force of the winds as soon as possible.

A single row of trees, especially if they be of evergreen species, will yield a comfortable shelter, but to be effective, and in exposed situations, several rows should be planted occupying a strip of some four to eight rods in width.