

McLAREN vs. CANADA CENTRAL R. R.

In the case of McLaren vs. The Canada Central Railway, for damages for lumber burnt by sparks from a locomotive, after a long trial the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, assessing the damages at \$100,000. Mr. Justice Oiler then directed judgment for the plaintiff for \$100,000, but the entry was not to be made until the fifth day after the next Hilary sitting. The following were the questions submitted to the jury by the judge, and the answers made:—

Q. How did the fire occur—from sparks or cinders cast out from the locomotive, or from some other cause?

A. We think the fire occurred from sparks cast by the locomotive.

Q. If you find that the fire was caused by fire cast out by the locomotive, did it come from the smoke-stack or the ash-pan?

A. From the smoke-stack.

Q. If you find that it came from the smoke-stack, was it from any imperfection in the construction of the stack, or from the way in which it was managed by those in charge of the train?

A. Imperfection in the stack.

Q. If you find that it was from any imperfection in the construction, state what the imperfection was. Was there anything too large, or was the opening or unfastened bonnet improper, or was the cone too close to the netting?

A. Cone too close to the netting.

Q. Would there be more substantial danger of fire from a bonnet provided with a mesh of the size used by the defendants than from that used by the Northern Railway, which appears to be the smallest in use?

A. Yes.

Q. Were the defendants, in your opinion, guilty of negligence in using such a mesh?

A. No.

Q. Was the plaintiff guilty of contributory negligence in piling his lumber so near the track, or by allowing sawdust to remain on it, or by not having sufficient appliances to extinguish fire? If the plaintiff was guilty of negligence, could the defendants, by the use of ordinary care and diligence, have prevented the injury?

A. Not as to piling the lumber, or as to the sawdust, but somewhat as to appliances. We think the defendants could have prevented the fire.

Q. What was the actual value of the lumber destroyed?

A. \$100,000, including ties and rails.

Q. Do you allow anything for interest?

A. No.

Another question was then raised by Mr. McCarthy, and at the request of His Lordship the jury once more retired, this time to consider whether the bonnet-rim of the smoke stack fitted to the bod. They occupied fifteen or twenty minutes in discussing this question, and at a quarter to eleven o'clock returned for the third and last time to say that the bonnet-rim did not fit so completely as it should have done.

FOREST CULTIVATION.

The necessity for forest culture is forcing itself on the attention of the people. Many of the leading journals have had articles on the subject. Over in the States the same anxiety on the subject prevails, and a convention will be held in Cincinnati to carefully consider the matter. The general Government, the States, scientific and agricultural societies, and other associations interested in saving the timber from wanton destruction, will send delegates to Cincinnati to discuss the whole subject of forestry. This is a subject that we in Canada should also be seriously considering, as it is one of great and vital importance. Our forests are now thinned out at a rapid rate, and in the most prodigal way. Many thousands acres of woodland are annually burned over, mostly by accidental fires, but often intentionally, to make clearings. Railroad ties consume every year a vast amount of growing timber. An enormous quantity, too, and some of it of the most valuable species, is needlessly used up for firewood. In all parts of the country the waste goes on. This waste must be stopped, or the world will witness a timber famine before the middle of the next century. It is true that many millions of trees are being planted on the

American prairies, but not nearly enough to replace the destructive consumption of timber which is now taking place. In this country the Government should take steps to preserve existing forests, and to plant trees wherever available. The rural municipalities might be compelled by law to plant their roads with trees, and thus three per cent of the whole land of the country could be made to bear timber. We repeat,—this subject must be carefully considered by the Government.—*Bobaygon Independent.*

LAKE OF THE WOODS TIMBER DISTRICT.

Until quite lately the vast timber resources of this portion of Canada were but little known. Parties passing through islands on the Lake of the Woods could form a very limited idea of pine actually within reach. The timber limits surveyed in 1873 for Fuller & Co. were, we may say, unexplored, and in fact the Government know very little about what they were leasing. This limit included all the islands north of the steamboat channel (islands, the number of which is not even yet definitely known), besides the several limits on the mainland. Since the Keewatin Lumbering and Manufacturing Co. have been running their mills at Keewatin, these islands have been more carefully prospected and explored, and the result is the discovery of a much larger district of timber than was thought to exist in the country. The limits belonging to Mr. W. J. Macaulay, recently transferred to Dick & Banning, are scattered over a large tract of country, and embrace a very considerable area of land. One pinery especially is worthy of notice. On the Rainy River, near the Sault rapids, the timber is all white pine, and will compare favorably with the product of Lower Canada. Proceeding to Fort Francis, we find Sutherland & Bros.' saw mill. This firm has almost inexhaustible limits on Rainy Lake, the Manitow River, and elsewhere, and employ this winter a large force in the woods. The development made in this industry during the past summer lead us to believe that no inconsiderable portion of our future wealth will be derived from the pine districts of the Lake of the Woods and Rainy River.—*Rat Portage Progress.*

THE AUSTRALIAN TRADE.

Messrs. Gernell, Tuckett & Co.'s timber report, dated Melbourne, Nov. 22nd, states there has been a brisk demand for all kinds of timber for building purposes, and prices realized for some lines show an advance on late rates.

American lumber continues in short supply, and prices are firm at present rates. Sales ex *Oneida* and *Claud Hamilton*—Michigan clear, 2 and 3 in., brought £18; 4 and 5 in., £18 10s.; w. p. shelving, 12 in. and wider, £14 2s. 6d. to £14 5s.; w. p. t. and g. ceiling, £10 17s. 6d. to £10 12s. 6d. per M. super.

Messrs. C. S. Ross report that during the past month there has been an active demand for building materials, and prices have slightly advanced. Sales by auction have been well attended, and the bidding has been more spirited than usual for nearly all descriptions of timber. There is evidence of a substantial character that the present activity in the building trade will continue as the exports from the colony this season of wool will be far heavier than usual. The arrivals for the month have been the *Ethiopian*, *Northern Monarch*, *Cambrian Prince*, *Loch Sloy*, *Hoghton Tower*, *Chrysomene*, *Ganges*, and *Antiope*, from Great Britain, with flooring, red deals, &c.; *Cheriot*, *Konowarra*, and *Dorabool*, from Sydney, with cedar; *Nemesa*, from Sydney, with redwood and white pine; *Amoor* from Drammen, and *Mary*, from Fredrikstadt, with flooring and deals; *Drumlanrig*, from Glesfo, with red deals; *Fleetsong*, from Burrard Inlet, with Oregon laths and pickets; *Grace Deering*, from Boston, with spruce deals, clear pine, shelving and laths.

PREJUDICE KILLS.—"Eleven years our daughter suffered on a bed of misery under the care of several of the best (and some of the worst) physicians, who gave her disease various names but no relief, and now she is restored to us in good health by as simple a remedy as Hop Bitters, that we had poached at for two years, before using it. We earnestly hope and pray that no one else will let their sick suffer as we did, on account of prejudice against so good a medicine as Hop Bitters."—*The Patients.*—*Tetragyn.*

MICHIGAN TIMBER SUPPLY.

A Brighton, Mich., despatch says some interesting figures relating to the timber interests of Michigan are furnished by the *Forestry Bulletin* just issued from the National Census office at Washington. The timber supply of this State, that is the estimated amount of merchantable timber standing on May 31, 1881, was as follows:—Lower Peninsula—Of white pine the basins of streams flowing into the Saginaw Bay have 7,000,000,000 feet, board measure; the basins of streams flowing into Lake Huron have 8,000,000,000 feet; the basins of streams flowing into Lake Michigan have 14,000,000,000, making a total of 29,000,000,000 feet. The pine on the Lower Peninsula is distributed over about 6,500,000 acres. Of hardwood there is an estimated amount of 575,500,000 cords distributed over some 20,000,000 acres. Of this about 20 per cent. is suitable for lumber and cooperage stock. Some 7,000,000,000 feet of hemlock lumber and 7,000,000 cords of bark still remain, together with about 5,000,000 cords of white and yellow cedar. Upper Peninsula—Of white pine, Marquette and Menominee counties have some 1,600,000,000 feet; Ontonagon, Houghton, Keweenaw and Bargo counties have about 2,400,000,000; Schoolcraft, Chippewa, Mackinaw and Delta counties have 2,000,000,000 feet, making a total of 6,000,000,000 feet. Of hardwood there is an estimated amount of 124,500,000 cords distributed over 10,000,000 acres; also about 62,500,000 cords of tamarac and white and yellow cedar.

After Pine, Paper.

In a paper on the white pine of Michigan, Mr. W. H. Ballou shows that the quantity of pine in that state has decreased from 135,000,000,000 feet on 20,000,000 acres of land to 33,000,000,000 feet on 10,571,000 acres. Some 5,000,000,000 feet are now annually taken away, so that in seven years the supply will be exhausted. It almost seems a despairing task to hope over to raise forests for another such enormous production, and science will have to devise other materials as a substitute for wood. Lumber is already made in boards an inch thick from wheat straw, and can be colored so as to resemble any real lumber. The inventor manufactures two thousand square feet of a more durable and cheaper material than lumber from a ton of straw.—*Popular Science Monthly.*

Albany, N.Y., Stocks.

The following comparative statement of lumber on hand at Albany, N.Y., on the 1st of January in each year for the past ten years, is taken from a statement just issued by Sumner & Hasey, lumber dealers, at that city:—

	Pine.	Hardwood.	Spruce & Hemlock.
1873.....	79,242,000	4,972,000	26,395,000
1874.....	90,990,000	5,594,000	16,092,000
1875.....	67,704,000	5,355,000	16,875,000
1876.....	67,800,000	6,652,000	8,338,000
1877.....	75,589,000	5,495,000	12,321,000
1878.....	69,547,000	3,645,000	22,432,000
1879.....	68,766,000	2,231,000	30,614,000
1880.....	76,463,000	2,097,000	5,415,000
1881.....	114,077,000	2,659,000	2,317,000
1882.....	101,587,000	3,265,000	6,258,000

LIVERPOOL STOCKS.

We take from the *Timber Trades Journal* the following Comparative Table showing Stock of Timber and Deals in Liverpool on Dec. 31st, 1880 and 1881, and also the Consumption for the month of December, 1880 and 1881:—

	Stock, Dec. 31st, 1881.	Stock, Dec. 31st, 1880.	Consumption for the month of Dec. 1881.	Consumption for the month of Dec. 1880.
Quebec Square Pine.....	345,000 ft.	560,000 ft.	190,000 ft.	223,000 ft.
Waney Board.....	333,000 "	303,000 "	"	"
St. John Pine.....	21,000 "	21,000 "	12,000 "	2,000 "
Other Ports Pine.....	37,000 "	43,000 "	8,000 "	8,000 "
Pitch Pine, heavy.....	510,000 "	394,000 "	120,000 "	141,000 "
" sawn.....	412,000 "	200,000 "	72,000 "	43,000 "
" planks.....	59,000 "	37,000 "	27,000 "	8,000 "
Red Pine.....	20,000 "	63,000 "	10,000 "	14,000 "
Dantz, &c., Fir.....	50,000 "	210,000 "	6,000 "	32,000 "
Sweden and Norway Fir.....	16,000 "	4,000 "	3,000 "	"
Oak, Canadian.....	347,000 "	624,000 "	119,000 "	78,000 "
" Planks.....	92,000 "	"	57,000 "	"
" Baltic.....	64,000 "	37,000 "	4,000 "	3,000 "
Elm.....	50,000 "	43,000 "	12,000 "	34,000 "
Ash.....	18,000 "	13,000 "	1,000 "	7,000 "
Birch.....	127,000 "	275,000 "	27,000 "	62,000 "
Greenheart.....	30,000 "	38,000 "	"	25,000 "
East India Teak.....	14,000 "	77,000 "	6,000 "	22,000 "
Quebec Pine Deals.....	7,832 stds.	11,095 stds.	2,773 stds.	1,755 stds.
" Spruce.....	"	"	"	"
N. B. & S. Spruce Deals.....	15,935 "	30,641 "	"	"
" Pine.....	718 "	1,856 "	0,370 "	7,730 "
Baltic Deals.....	3,113 "	6,943 "	473 "	615 "
" Board.....	193 "	790 "	48 "	37 "
" Flooring Boards.....	1,693 "	2,330 "	489 "	482 "