

The Weekly Monitor

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1883

An article given below, taken from the Northwest Lumberman, would seem to indicate that the cause for alarm in reference to the destruction of spruce forests in Maine and New Brunswick is not so serious as recent reports have led us to believe. The Lumberman derives its information from Mr. Prentiss a prominent lumber operator. This gentleman speaks of the appearance of an insect, but says its field of operations appears to be confined to the old and decaying trees, and young and healthy ones escaping. We trust Mr. Prentiss may be right, not only from our indirect regard for the districts above mentioned, but from the deeper interest we have in spruce forests, which would not be likely to escape similar devastations for any great length of time. The following is Mr. Prentiss' statement:

I have seen nothing of the assumed rapid destruction of spruce by borers, but I have heard of the timber dying in large districts on the western coast of the St. John, the Annapolis, Fish River, and Allagash, and elsewhere. But from all I have heard, the borer does not attack young or healthy trees; so, when we see a tree in the timber in decrepit state, or the borer in the effect of the dying tree, I cannot say. Generally, wherever spruce is old and about all of an age, and about ready to die of old age, the borer is reported to be present. We have seen nothing of this as yet on the Penobscot, or any of the Maine rivers except the upper St. John. On all these rivers the aged spruce has generally been culled out, and the forest now consists almost entirely of comparatively young and healthy trees. I have heard of no such thing as the borer in any other crop. The Pilgrim fathers and their descendants cleared, plowed, and cultivated in New England that is now forest.

So we have to take good care of our forests and manage them as we would our own property. It is our policy to cut and market the old decaying, decrepit trees—pine, spruce, hemlock, red pine, yellow pine, and other species, not heavy woods, droughts and the natural death of old age. We do not cut smaller than 14 inches at the stump; nor do we generally cut in any one year more than an acre of land. These reports of the general dying of timber are no doubt much exaggerated. On townships that I am familiar with on the St. John, where much of the timber is reported to be dying, the soil was poor, the growth thin and the trees rather small and short bodied, and generally with a very light canopy. The trees were scattered and there in the forest of pine, cedar, birch, beech, maple, fir, juniper, etc., were past their prime, not growing at all now, and always had been of very slow growth. Much of the forest was reported to be dying, but it was like what we find on the foothills of our mountains, where there are very few young trees, but the old ones are still standing, and the borer comes from such lands as these.

Through the noble charity of Mr. W. W. Corcoran, of Washington, D. C., the remains of John Howard Payne, were brought from Tunis, Africa, where they had lain for the last thirty years, to Washington. They were deposited in the vault of Oak Hill cemetery, Georgetown, and on Saturday next—the poet's birthday—will be re-interred with appropriate ceremonies. Payne in his early life was an actor, and then gave promise of genius that after years did not fulfil. He, therefore, left the stage and devoted himself to writing plays, poems, etc., with varying success. Very little, however, would be known of him now, if it were not for one song—'Home Sweet Home'—the melody from which was adapted the words that are so familiar to us all, with the inspiration of the true poet. The words of the song are of so special merit—the sentiment they give voice to, is a common one enough, but there is in them, and the melody associated with them, that 'one touch of nature that makes the whole world kin.'

The Boston Herald of the 24th ult., contains the following information in reference to the affairs of the Halloway Steamship Company:

A meeting of the creditors of the Halloway Steamship Company, No. 22 Central street Boston, was held yesterday at No. 123 Oliver street, Mr. Kimball of the Day Machine and Tool Company acting as chairman. George E. Halloway, the treasurer of the steamship company, stated that the insurance on the City Point, a City Point, amounts to about \$200,000. He thought however, that the names of the underwriting companies should not be made known, because some of the creditors might be trustees. Some of the underwriting companies, however, are composite out of the state, and in case they should be trusted, some of the creditors would cure the payment of their claims in full, as in such case insolvency proceedings would be of no avail to compel them to share equally with the other creditors. After discussion, it was voted by the meeting that the insurance policy should be deposited with Mr. Cerr, chairman of the First National Bank as custodian in behalf of the creditors. It was also voted that the steamship company should go into voluntary liquidation and that the duty of settling the estate was charged with the duty of settling the estate.

The Halloway boats have ceased their trips for the present, and it is feared from this and the above facts that the blow sustained by the company in the loss of the City Point, from which they will hardly recover. We sincerely regret their misfortune, but the company has been enjoying the direct line between Annapolis and Digby and Boston, and it is an able and important trade was opened up by our former and mercenary, in giving them a cheap and convenient access to the Boston market, the partitioned materially lessened, and the comfort much enhanced. The steam line, United States, treated was also largely diverted in this province by the opening up of the route, and although the advantage that we have been enjoying will be continued, and even increased through the splendid line of steamers put on the route by the New Scotia Steamship Company, at the same time we cannot help but be heartily sorry for the troubles that now appear to

Local and Other Matter.

—Roger Kay, of Granville, has received the appointment of Justice of the Peace.

—Salmon have struck in to New Brunswick in large quantities, and it is expected that this season's catch will be fully up to the average.

—The stock in trade of C. W. Shaffer, Esq., an insolvent of South Parrott, has been sold upon the market, and will be sold at low prices for cash. See adv.

—A little boy, son of Mr. Jarvis, wife of Bridgetown, was kicked in the head by a horse on Thursday afternoon last. The boy was badly injured, but is recovering.

—Thanks are due Mr. F. M. Chute for several Whittier papers. Mr. Chute writes us a letter that will give our readers a better idea of the position of the labor market in Winnipeg.

—An annual communication of Grand Lodge, A. F. and A. M., of Nova Scotia, will be held in Freeman's Hall, Halifax, to-day.

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