

THE YELLOW PINE BUSINESS.

It is only within a few years that the yellow pine of the south has attracted the attention of lumbermen and builders to the extent that so valuable a timber merits. The production of yellow pine lumber is now one of the most important business pursuits of the south, but it should become a leading feature of the industry and capital which will again rank the southern states equal commercial influence and prosperity with the north. For flooring yellow pine has no equal. Even as a cabinet wood it is becoming popular, for when finished in oil its beauties are superior to almost any light colored wood. Yellow pine is rendered extremely tough and durable by its resinous nature, yet is devoid of the hard brittleness which characterises Norway pine or hemlock; being indeed, fully as elastic as white pine and much stronger. In the St. Louis market yellow pine is now becoming a leading commodity; while in New York, Philadelphia and the great eastern markets, every day increases the popularity and sales of yellow pine. There are rare opportunities for profitable investment in the pine lands of the south, and capital will soon make the discovery and improve the chances. We gain much information relative to southern pine from the following extract from the *Brunswick Ga., Seaport Appeal*:

No branch of business has developed more rapidly than has the manufacture and shipment of yellow pine lumber and timber during the last four years, through the ports of Brunswick and Darien. Below we

give the shipments for four years, ending May 31 of each year:

1871—	27,240,437 feet,	valued at.....	\$ 513,221.66
1872—	57,578,612 "	"	1,021,379.00
1873—	77,658,574 "	"	1,390,342.00
1874—	123,632,779 "	"	2,028,898.00

Which shows that there has been shipped during the four years, 286,127,102 feet of lumber and timber, valued at \$4,878,309.66. Allowing 4,000 feet of mill and ranging timber as the average production of each acre, and we find that say 71,526 acres have been denuded of that class of timber. After the lands have been thus stripped of the larger class of timber there still remains timber sufficient for the profitable establishment of turpentine farms. Allowing the value of the timber lands to be, say \$2 per acre, which is certainly a large allowance—and we find that \$4,806,783.66 has been realized from the manipulation and manufacture of the industry through the scope of country tributary to the ports of Brunswick and Darien.

If our estimates as to the production of lands are not in error, and they are based upon figures generally admitted to be correct, the intrinsic value of our pine lands convenient to present and probable lines of transportation, are far above present sales and valuations. After being stripped of ranging and mill timber these lands are intrinsically worth at least the prices now asked for the establishment of turpentine farms, and we are confident that within less time than a decade the correctness of our opinion will be fully verified. We know of no more inviting field for speculation than in the yellow pine lands in this section of the south. The wants of the world will require every foot of lumber and timber, and every ounce of rosin and turpentine. Then, to our friends in this region we would say, be of good cheer, you have fortunes in your pine lands which will yet be "panned out."

The *Hinesville Ga., Gazette* also furnishes some interesting statistical in-

formation from which we learn that over two hundred million feet of yellow pine lumber were exported from Georgia in 1873, and that the product this season will be increased to 300,000,000 feet. The business of manufacturing yellow pine lumber is rapidly increasing in importance and will, in the near future, constitute one of the chief features of the growth, prosperity and wealth of many of the southern states.

OPINIONS OF LARGE MANUFACTURERS.

Hon. G. W. King of Humbird, Wis., one of the heavy lumbermen of the state, called recently at the WISCONSIN LUMBERMAN office. Mr. King's long and practical experience in the lumber business renders his opinion, on the present situation of the trade, of decided value. Mr. King fully agrees with the expressions given, in the July number of this publication, by the author of "Hot facts for lumbermen" and unqualifiedly endorses the letter from Hersey, Bean & Brown in this issue of the WISCONSIN LUMBERMAN. Mr. King believes that there must be a large decrease in the amount of lumber manufactured before the trade can hope to be in a favorable condition; he not only believes so, but is one of that class of pine land owners who are taking initiatory steps to produce a reduction in the amount of lumber manufactured, by reducing his usual business fully two-thirds. Mr. King acknowledges that the cut on Black river last winter was very light in comparison to the winter of 1872-3, yet claims that there are now logs enough in the Black and its tributa-

ries to supply a proper demand from that stream during the next year; he also considers that the amount of lumber and logs already cut for the Mississippi markets is all sufficient to meet the demand of that market far into the next season, notwithstanding that the supply is far short of the amount upon the market in 1873. If the cut on the Black river and its tributaries should continue as large for the next three seasons as it has for the past two, Mr. King considers that the pinery of the Black river valley would be virtually exhausted. From all portions of the country we obtain frequent information that the larger manufacturers are resolved to curtail future operations as the only plan left to secure themselves from actual loss. Pine land owners know that they are not realizing one-half the value of their stumpage, and are beginning to be willing to allow their property to increase in worth instead of destroying it. We have heard many prominent manufacturers express their belief that the present season, seemingly so unfavorable, will result in permanent good; that manufacturers will henceforth be much more careful than they have been about receiving larger stocks of logs than they can advantageously handle. Once let the manufacturers feel and know the benefit they would derive from systematic cutting of timber, in relation to the amounts to be furnished by the different pineries, and there would be but little difficulty in maintaining associations in the several pineries that would regulate and control the lumber market to the advantage of all producers and pine land owners.