

point in that trade from Ottawa to Florida, and from St. John to San Francisco, will suggest this fact. We were more than ever impressed with it, as we endeavored, for the purpose of illustrating our statement on this point, to collate the present in some sort of table or other form, the various terms, applied at different points to the same quality of lumber, and found that we could not satisfy ourselves as to what terms corresponded throughout to each other in the various tables. We might do so with a tolerable assurance of accuracy on some points, but as to others we were wholly "at sea."

We have said that this work of reducing to system and uniformity would be difficult and not of immediate accomplishment. Should it be performed with entire thoroughness and to the satisfaction of the trade it will only after a long period, be universally accepted and used. It can only be effected by the hearty co-operation of the trade throughout the country. The committee will, we are assured be pleased to receive copies of any printed documents such as the laws of any state, the regulations of any district or association, having a bearing in this subject. Suggestions also from gentlemen, connected with the trade in any part of the country, may very essentially aid them in their important and difficult work. Communications on this subject may be addressed to the chairman of the committee, P. B. Merrill, Esq., of Messrs. N. Shaw & Co., Williamsport, Pa.—*Boston Lumber Trade.*

TIMBER TRADE OF MARSEILLES.—During the year 1872, the Adriatic supplied Marseilles with 6,000,000 staves; the United States with 125,000; and the Black Sea with about 100,000, principally Odessa and Poti. In the same year, 9,000 loads of timber and 6,000 planks were received from the Adriatic. The Baltic supplied

50,000 dozen of planks and deals; Canada sent 6,000 deals and 500 loads of oak timber; 250 loads of pitch pine from Florida were also imported.

BURL WALNUT.

Burl, or French walnut is noted and prized for its variety of fine figures and its hard, fine grain, or, perhaps, more properly speaking, its absence of grain. In these qualities it is superior to rosewood or mahogany, and the wood itself is susceptible to a high degree of polish, requiring a comparatively short space of time only for manipulation. This wood, too, is remarkable for its beauty, and it would be difficult to find two veneers alike in figure or color unless cut from the same block, and even then there would be perceptible marks of difference. This very beauty should tend to make the wood choice, but in America the demand for it is so great that it is used sparingly on every article of furniture from the cheapest bedstead to the costliest cabinet. It would be useless to urge economy in its application in that country where a piece valued at twenty-five cents placed on an eight or ten dollar bedstead will yield an extra two dollars, but it does seem a pity that this fine wood should be wasted on cheap work.

Four or five years ago burl walnut was a rarity used only on fine work, and then in moderate quantity only; hence it was duly appreciated. Now fine work is covered with it, and cheap work has patches of it here and there without regard to design or meaning. If it must be used indiscriminately, let it by all means be put on tasty panels that have a significance. The manner in which panels are finished on some cheap work is truly horrible. The grains are imperfectly filled without any rubbing down, and then covered with a coat of cheap shellac. Frames for

parlor work, bookcases, desks, tables, and other articles of furniture in endless variety in New York are crowded with this wood to such an extent that it is to be feared people will tire of seeing it, and thus will be lost to the American trade the use of one of the prettiest woods on the cabinet-maker's list.—*Exchange.*

THE TIMBER SUPPLY.

From the Montreal Gazette.

Under this heading, we are, in another column, presented with a communication from Mr. James Little, having reference to one of the most important questions now calling for the attention of this country. To many, doubtless, his statements will appear startling, and be rejected as unworthy of credence. But the extensive research and experience of the writer, seem to be so thoroughly confirmed by many of our most prominent lumber operators, that we are prepared to more readily accept his views upon the question, than of any one of the numerous contributors to American publications who have vainly endeavored to refute his previously expressed opinions. We who live in the active commercial centres of Canada, and are accustomed to seeing millions of feet of timber annually passing our doors, brought from our inland forests and shipped on to the New England, South American, and European markets, apparently forget to think that there can ever be a limit to the supply whence all this is now obtained. We point away to the Ottawa and the St. Maurice, or proudly boast of the untold wealth of merchantable forest-property yet to be made subject to the woodman's axe in the vast unsettled new territory of the Northwest. But we seem blinded to or ignorant of the fact, that *all* the forest growth of Canada is not suitable for commercial purposes; and it

is only when some such unexpected but forcible truths as are set forth by our correspondent come upon us, that we are suddenly led to realize that amidst the vast area of country now covered with trees, the proportion of pine and spruce (the really valuable and available mercantile woods) is actually of such limited extent, as to threaten us with the prospect of entire denudation in a remarkably short space of time. Surely this is enough to arrest the hands of those who have hitherto cut into our timber lands with incomprehensible recklessness. If it be true that the Americans have been reducing their forests so prodigally, that their is every indication they will be bereft of every foot of timber east of the Rocky Mountains within ten or twelve years, how much more should not we who would then be called on to entirely supply them,—as we do partially now—be careful to conserve our pine and spruce supply, when we are informed that our production could not provide to the Americans for their annual consumption a full supply for three years. By all means the suggestion is a good one: that Canadian lumbermen should curtail their supplies by one-half. Be content with less immediate gain, in the sure prospect of vastly greater profit in the future, no longer try to run a race with our southern neighbors in reducing forests, but rather regard the timber growth as a patrimony worthy of strict conservation, resting assured of ultimate personal and national pecuniary benefit. We cordially commend the utterances of our correspondent to all who have any connection with the timber trade of Canada. It is also to be hoped that the proposed meeting, mentioned in the last paragraph of the communication, will be held, and that some practical suggestions may be elicited and acted upon.

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