

should be molested, and that they might be tried and punished according to our laws; upon which Tim. Inglar and three others surrendered themselves prisoners, and were placed on board of a boat to be taken to Prairie du Chien for trial. Eight Chippewa braves in two canoes volunteered to escort them down the river.

But as the party approached that point on the Chippewa, "half a day's march from the Falls," alarm and terror seized the brave escorts, and nothing could induce them to go another rod, in such constant dread were they of the Sioux, who twenty months before had promised eternal friendship.

The prisoners, however, continued their journey to Prairie du Chien, and surrendered themselves to the sheriff of Crawford county, to await an examination, but as there was no one to appear against them, they were discharged. They took good care, however, not to be seen on the Chippewa again.

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#### THE MILWAUKEE MONTHLY.

Gilmore's *Milwaukee Monthly* is deservedly popular to the extent of a subscription patronage of *nineteen thousand*. No western literary publication has attained the standing and success of the *Milwaukee Monthly*. The merits of the magazine are appreciated and it has become the leading monthly of its class in the west. Subscription price \$1.00 per year. Address T. J. Gilmore, Milwaukee, Wis.

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The La Crosse *Republican* and *Leader* estimates the amount of logs turned through that boom the ensuing year, at 175,000,000. The amount that will be manufactured at that point, this year, will be about 50,000,000.

#### TRIBUNALS OF COMMERCE.

*From the Timber Trades Journal, London, England.*

Since the repeal of the obnoxious duties which formerly weighed on the imports of foreign wood, it is seldom that the proceedings of Parliament present any subject that calls for comment that would be likely to interest those who are engaged in the timber trade. It is true that the Rating Valuation Bill introduced last year contained some proposals that threatened to affect injuriously the home-grower of wood, but the act fell through, and in the shape in which it has been re-introduced this year it is not likely to provoke serious discussion among the owners of wood and plantations. Among the many acts of the last Session of Parliament which shelved there was one which almost every one interested in the commerce of this country felt anxious to see carried into effect, viz., the Tribunals of Commerce act. It would be idle to dwell upon the vast importance in a country such as ours that trade disputes should be speedily and satisfactorily settled without recourse to the cumbersome and expensive mode of procedure afforded by the existing legal tribunals.

Our lawyers and law-makers were not, however, prepared to confer such powers on the commercial classes as would enable them to settle among themselves the differences that may arise between them in the transaction of business. The Judicature Commissioners, while reporting against the expediency of establishing Tribunals of Commerce in which the judges would be commercial men, had, however, to admit that great inconveniences frequently arise from the want of technical knowledge on the part of the judges and juries that are called upon to decide intricate trade disputes; and to remedy the evil they suggested the constitution of a court where a legal judge should be assisted by two skilled assessors, who could advise him on any techni-

cal matters that might arise in the course of such cases. Those who have had any experience in our law courts must have frequently witnessed trials in which the professional evidence on either side being diametrically opposed had the effect of creating the utmost confusion in the minds of the judge and jury. Such instances are far from rare, and throw discredit upon the administrators of justice.

Fortunately, the necessity of introducing some improvements in the administration of the laws affecting commercial interests has at last been recognized by Parliament. In the new Judicature Act, which comes into operation in November next, it is enacted that "the high court or the court of appeal may also, in any such cause or matter as aforesaid in which it may think it expedient so to do, call in the aid of one or more assessors." As a complement to the House of Lords, "to amend the acts relating to county courts." By the third section of this bill it is provided that "in any action it shall be lawful for the Judge, if he think fit, to summon to his assistance, in such manner as may be prescribed, one or more persons of skill and experience in the matter to which the action relates, who may be willing to sit with the judge and act as assessors; and their remuneration for so acting shall be at such rate as may be prescribed, and shall be costs in the cause, unless otherwise ordered by the Judge." This being a government measure there is every prospect that it will be adopted by the House of Commons. We do not consider these enactments sufficiently comprehensive to meet the requirements of the commercial community, and the optional powers conferred upon the Judges may restrict the limits of their usefulness at least for some time to come. It is much, however, to have obtained the acceptance of the principle by the Legislature, and as these acts come gradually into operation, it may safely be assumed that the advantages to

be derived from them will be so apparent as to prove the policy of extending their application. Since legislation on social questions is the order of the day, let us hope that commercial interests will receive a fair share of the attention of those in power; to few will be more welcome than to those engaged in the numerous industries connected with the home and foreign trade in timber.

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#### THE LUMBER MARKET.

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Why is the lumber market dull? This is a question difficult to answer, but which it seems to us must be answered on general principles. A prosperous lumber trade is chiefly dependent on a prosperous condition of the country generally. If manufacturing in any respect is to suffer it must suffer in the lumber department. Lumber is not absolved essential in the carrying on of all business. It is quite largely in the nature of a luxury or something which can be dispensed with. Public and private improvements, which can only be carried forward in prosperous times, are allowed to come to a standstill in dull times, and in such improvements lumber enters largely. But we do not admit that there is a condition of suffering among dealers or manufacturers who have calculated on a good fair season. Purchases were made during the early part of the season to an extent comparing favorably with other years.

And on the whole we expect from past experience and present indications that the trade in the fall will be fairly active and satisfactory.—*Lumberman's Gazette.*

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