A SUIT THAT INTERESTS LUMBERMEN.

The Title of Seven Thousand Acres of Timber Lands in Bay County, Michigan, Determined—Supreme Court Decision In the Case of Johnson vs. Ballou.

In the case of Abner C. Johnson vs. Dexter A. Ballou, which was decided in both the Bay and Saginaw county circuit courts in favor of Ballou, the supreme court has rendered a decision reversing judgment. This decision, while of little importance on account of the case in question, practically decides another relative to the title to 7,000 acres of land in Bay county.

Some years since congress passed an act granting to such parties as should build the Amboy & Lansing and other railroads, certain lands to be deeded to any company building roads as rapidly as it should complete them. The Amboy, Lansing & Traverse Bay R. R. Company constructed a road from Lansing to Owosso, filed certificates of construction with the governor, and obtained certain lands. Subsequently the company became insolvent and a portion of their lands were disposed of at mortgage sale. The company also sold to Messrs. Geo. Campbell, Geo. H. Van Etten, and A. C. Maxwell, of this city, 7,000 acres of land in Bay county, on the line of what is now the northern extension of the J. L. & S. R. R. On the ground that the A. L. & T. B. R. R. had disposed of these lands before earning them, the J. L. & S. R. R. Co. upon building its road filed a bill in chancery praying that the title to the lands be set aside. This suit has not yet been decided, but the case of Johnson vs. Ballou has such bearings upon it that it is regarded as practically settled, and it is considered doubtful if it ever comes to trial.

The case in question is this: Daniel Burns cut some logs on Section 17, and afterward sold them to Abner C. Johnson of Flint. Johnson attempted to sell them to Wm. H. Monroe, whereupon an investigation as to Johnson's title was had, and the fact revealed that he had no title. Accordingly Monroe obtained a bill of sale of the logs from the J. L. & S. R. R. Co., and afterward disposed of them to D. A. Ballou. Ballou and Johnson each claimed the logs—hence the suit, a decision of which was rendered to-day by the supreme court.

It being claimed that Ballou secured his title through the Amboy, Lansing & Traverse Bay Railroad, the opinion is that the title to the land is practically decided in favor of Messrs. Maxwell, Campbell and Van Etten.

THE APPROACHING TIMBER FAMINE.

From the Stove and Tin Trade Journal.

We have repeatedly spoken of the swiftly approaching scarcity of timber, growing out of its increasing legitimate uses and its reckless waste, in the hope that congress or our state legislatures might be induced to give the subject the attention which its magnitude deserves. However hackneyed the topic may become, no one can dispute the fact that in the not very distant future it will become the great economical question of the day. For many purposes iron will no doubt take its place, but still it is very hard to imagine how people are to get along without it. Many of our bland optimists, however, believe that the good Lord will gratify us with some sort of equivalent when it is gone, as He did when petroleum was discovered. They point to the fact that we were literally on our last legs for light; but just at the opportune moment the vast storehouses of carbon oil were opened up, and a chance given to the whales to increase and multiply again. In the future, according to these predictions, whale oil will again be cheap and plenty, if it is needed; and so nature ever provides for the necessities of her creatures.

This reasoning would prove more to our mind, were it not for the fact that in some foreign countries—Palestine and Persia, for instance—the timber has not only disappeared, but civilization has gone with it. The population have gone back into barbarism, and the land has become a prey to desolating famine. In ancient times these regions were noted for their fertility; but with the disappearance of their forests the whole face of the country has been changed, as well as the character of the population, to a very great extent.

Our attention is called to this subject just now from reading some remarks by Mr. James Little, of Montreal. He says that the people of the United States will, within the next ten years, use up all their pine, spruce, and hemlock timber east of the Rocky Mountains. These supplies are chiefly found in Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Minnesota, and
Wisconsin. The supply in Maine is nearly gone, and the people are now using spruce as small as six inches in diameter. Pennsylvania uses up 500,000,000 feet of her diminishing stores every year, and her remaining stock will be gone in five years. Northern New York, which has furnished 300,000,000 feet annually, is likely to be appropriated by the state for a public park, when the supply from that source will be at once cut off. The draft upon Michigan last year, owing chiefly to our great fire, rose to the enormous figure of 2,910,000,000 feet. This year it reaches 2,000,000,000. Mr. Little avers that during the next twelve years, judging from the past, this country will require 70,000,000,000 feet of lumber, and that we have not more than one-half that amount remaining in the woods. Canada already is supplying us with large quantities, but all she has east of the Rocky Mountains would not last us three years.

Certainly these figures are alarming, and it would seem that if we are to be provided with a substitute for boards and timber, it ought to be making itself visible pretty soon. Here is a great practical question, which should engage the attention of our savans at some of their frequent meetings. It should be referred by congress to regular standing committees, composed of the ablest men; for, whatever resource the future may have in store for us, it has come to be pretty well understood that providence helps those who try to help themselves.

### PAPER FROM PINE SHAVINGS.

The manufacture of paper from pine shavings has been commenced by the Burlington Paper Company, of Burlington, Vt. Heretofore the pitch and resin of pine have proved an insurmountable obstacle to its manufacture into paper, although other kinds of wood have been used for this purpose for some years. Lately, however, a process has been patented by Professor A. K. Eaton, of Packer Institute, New York, by which this obstacle has been overcome, and a company for the prosecution of the enterprise was organized in August last. The shavings are passed through immense revolving boilers, holding about two tons each, where for six or eight days they are subjected to the action of steam and sulphate of sodium in definite proportions. At the end of that time the resin is found to be extracted, and the shavings are ready for grinding. The grinding is done by grooved plates of hardened iron cylinders. After grinding, the pulp is washed and mixed with thirty to forty per cent of pulp from old brown paper. This is for the purpose of strengthening it, but it is not absolutely necessary, as some of the strongest paper made by the company was made entirely from wood pulp. The pulp is ground once more and then passed into tanks, ready for the final operation of making it into paper. The company are now making a good article of wrapping paper, but claim that by bleaching the pulp, first-class printing paper can be made. As the shavings cost only about one-tenth as much as straw, the manufacture must be profitable.

### THE LUMBER INTERESTS OF SACRAMENTO.

The Sacramento Record, the largest and finest newspaper that comes to us from the Pacific coast, in a very thorough review of the business of Sacramento, makes the following statements concerning its lumber and kindred interests:

#### THE LUMBER TRADE.

The lumber business is extensively carried on in Sacramento, some of the firms doing the largest business of the interior. The chief firms are N. L. Drew & Co., Second street, between Land M; Friend & Terry, Second street, between M and N; John A. Todd, corner Fifth and L streets; Rufus Walton, corner Twelfth and J streets; John W. Avery, corner Second and M streets.

#### HUNT AND ANDERSON'S SAW-MILL.

Hunt & Anderson proprietors. This large steam saw-mill is located on M street, between Front & Second, occupying a large and well-arranged two-story building 40x80. The firm was organized in 1866, and has been doing a large and prosperous business ever since. They turn out all kinds of scroll work and box work, and ivory turning and fancy carving. The machinery which is very complete and expensive, is of sufficient capacity to render the constant employment of twenty-five men necessary. About 100,000 feet of lumber are used per month, and the business for 1873 will reach $30,000. The firm lost three months during the year, their mill being burned down, but they have already resumed work, and are rebuilding.