

the manufacturers of Williamsport might be depended on for co-operation with, and financial support of, the combination.—*Boston Lumber Trade.*

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#### LUMBERING IN MAINE.

*From Editorial Correspondence of the Montreal (Canada) Gazette.*

Bangor is a place of considerable importance, which it owes chiefly to the lumbering interest which centres there. There are several large saw mills in its vicinity, and others are studded at intervals along the banks of the Penobscott river, between Bangor and the Province line. What, however, strikes all, as at different intervals we catch glimpses from the train of the mill ponds, is the character of the logs which are being cut up into lumber. As a general rule, they are spruce logs, from five to fifteen inches at the butt, but not averaging on the whole more than about six or seven inches. Here and there a pine log or a small pond of them carefully boomed in, afford the evidences of the departed relics of the forest. Even these are small logs compared with what is the average class about a mill on the Ottawa or the Trent. The truth is that the lumber of Maine is well nigh exhausted, the victim to that most reckless system of waste which has everywhere on this continent characterised this industry. The Bangor paper which we got on the train had a letter from California describing lumbering operations near the Sierra Nevada, and there the inevitable madness crops out. Describing the magnificence of the forest trees, four logs from a single tree scaling six thousand feet of lumber, the average of a lot of logs at one of the mills being fifteen hundred feet, the writer proceeds to refer to the yellow pines in those forests, resembling the Norway pine in Maine, the timber being hard and excellent for flooring. And then comes the old, old story: "These trees are gen-

erally passed by, but they will soon be wanted. Now only the best is taken—the cream of the forest." Happy will it be for the lumber interests if when they are wanted they are still to be had, for it would be no unusual experience, judging from the record in Maine and Canada, to find that the fire had run through the partially cleared forest, and swept away the now despised timbers. It would not be easy to estimate in dollars the loss which this culling system has produced in Canada; and the scurvy apologies for saw logs which now fill the mill-ponds in the rivers of Maine are the warning voice to Canadian lumberers of a day fast approaching, and not, I fear, very far off, when a similar experience will be theirs. The present depression in the lumber interest affords a fair opportunity for a pause in the career of our production, and for stock-taking in relation to the real interests of the trade. I believe there is to be a meeting of lumberers next week in Ottawa to consider the position of the trade, and it is most sincerely to be hoped that wise counsels will govern its deliberations.

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J. W. Bashford, timber agent for the state of Wisconsin, is meeting with commendable success in settlement for trespass on the St. Croix and Lake Superior landgrant. There are now about fourteen million feet of logs in the boom here, which have been cut on these lands. Lumbermen who have committed trespass on these lands now have an opportunity to make arrangements to retain possession of their logs until such time as they can be put in proper shape for sale or shipment. Wisconsin will doubtless realize more by this arrangement than any other which could be adopted.—*St. Paul Press.*