

A Valuable Wood.

BIG PROFITS IN CANADIAN MAPLE— WHY BURN IT UP?

John Bryne MacLean, writing in one of his company's papers, the Canadian Bookseller and Stationer, says:

In Canada we have the best hard maple in the world. The farmer in many districts spends part of his winter cutting it and selling it for firewood. He is quite happy if he realizes \$1 to \$3, or perhaps \$4, a cord. This is a sad waste of one of our greatest natural treasures. Much of it can be more profitably used in other ways. In the manufacture of wall paper, an industry constantly growing here and abroad, hundreds of thousands of rollers are used for printing the various patterns. For every color in a pattern there is a separate roller. In a single pattern there will be from four to ten or twelve rollers. The average is about seven. These rollers are generally used but one season, and as there are thousands of different patterns, it is easily seen what a large number are used each year in the States and Europe as well as in Canada. These rollers are made of the very best hard maple, the very kind that Canada produces better than any other country in the world. In the rough they are 1 1/2 or 2 1/2 inches long. The end is 5 or 6 inches square according to the size of roller required. Only the most perfect wood can be used. It is cut into these sizes. The ends are painted to prevent the wood drying faster with the grain than across it. It is then allowed to stand for three or four years. By this time it is thoroughly seasoned. This is all the labor put upon it.

Now glance at the prices. Good maple in this form, after being properly seasoned, brings 50 to 75 cents per rough block. In a cord it is figured there would be 440 blocks, counting them 20 inches long. At 50c. this is over \$220 per cord, considerably better than \$1 or \$4 a cord, which they get for firewood. Of course, there is considerable expense. But is there not ample return for the outlay? The blocks must be sawn the proper size. They must be stored for four years, during which time there is no return for the money invested. Many of the blocks will crack in the seasoning process. Suppose only one cord in five is perfect. Over estimate all the expenses and there is still an enormous profit. Why should the Canadian farmer and woodsman not have the benefit of that profit? Nor should we stop here. The blocks turned ready for the wall-paper manufacturers bring still higher prices. A hole is bored lengthwise through the block. At each end a small metal ring is fitted. The block is then turned to a circumference of 12, 15 or 21 inches. In this state they will bring on an average \$1 per roller on the New York market. These prices are not conjecture, but are prices actually paid within the last year and a half. The United States is alive to the value of this trade. A little over a year ago, I saw at New York harbor over 5,000 of these blocks for the British market. The demand is there, and it is Canada's place to supply it. We have the best wood for the purpose that can be found anywhere. Already I know of two men in Canada who have done something in this line. One of them has received three large orders from England at 30c. per block, green. Of course, they keep it quiet. We know of one town in Ontario which has been shipping for some years, but we doubt if anyone but the shipper knows for what purpose the blocks are used or the profit there is in them.

All that is wanted then is some person properly situated to take the matter up—to get in touch with the foreign manufacturers. Considerable push is necessary at first. When once the trade is started, the superior quality of our maple will do the rest. If this matter receives the attention which it merits, it would represent in our exports to the United Kingdom and the United States a very respectable figure, and prove a valuable income to many of our farmers, who are now literally putting money in the fire. A considerable quantity of maple blocks are similarly treated each year for use in mangles. These must be of first class wood, but are not necessarily as perfect as the wall paper rollers. Everyone who reads this must not begin the manufacture of printing rollers. The market would soon be over-supplied. In localities where an excellent quality of maple is plentiful, it is reasonable to expect a very much greater profit by handling the wood in this way than by selling it as firewood.

There are some almost priceless furs in existence, most of them belonging to members of the Russian nobility. Mrs. John Mackay has a sable cloak, valued at \$15,000, which consists of 10,000 small skins. The most costly wrap of this kind is a fur cloak sent to the Empress Dagmar on her coronation. It cost \$60,000, and weighs only sixteen ounces. This was a present from the city of Irkutsk, in Siberia.

Sounds in the Stilly Night.

THE MYSTERIOUS NOISES WHICH INTEREST TIMID PEOPLE.

What would not be revealed were a census to be taken of the men in Chicago, who have been awakened by the sound of a thief in the night cutting the screen away from the kitchen door, and then sawing a hole in the woodwork so as to enable him to thrust his hand through, shoot the bolt and then break in to revel in a midnight debauch of crime? How many men of this lake-side city have held joint debates with themselves on the wisdom of getting up and uttering a long, protracted and resonant whoop, as compared with the more discreet plan of lying still and fearfully permitting the robber to rob? And the cats out in the back entry, battling at the iron garbage cans for what feasting lies in fishheads and day-before-yesterday beef—do they wot a single wot as to the horror that they are generating in the parlor bedroom just forty-five feet away? A cat at a garbage can does not in itself resemble red murder running riot, but it sounds exactly that way. Every noise which one such makes is the precise racket which goes with the commission of a fearful and hideous crime.

The dictionary definition of a window shade says nothing of concealed weapons, jimmies, dynamite or gag. And yet the l. a. m. window blind is a creature which goes about its business armed cap-a-pie for treason, stratagem and spoils, to say nothing of offences more common, and consequently more dreaded. Given a window blind which does not just fit the opening, and which in a sobbing way rubs against the vertical sides of the casement; given also the hour of Marco Bozzaris, and, in addition to these gifts, given a plain, common, earnest civilian, embraced in the arms of slumber up to the time when the rubbing begins, and there is a combination which would drive Mme. Tussaud distracted, fill Chief Badenoch's reception room with choice and distinguished slaughters, and make hair of the circassian and tangential sort the proper and correct thing. A common yellow window blind which sells ordinarily for forty-three cents, or for twenty cents on "bargain" days, can bully the Spanish inquisition out of its boots when it comes to terrifying mankind.

The doorlock, which takes a notion to rattle back into its proper place after having been turned too far earlier in the evening, knows its business also, and its business is to people the mind of the man who is just aroused from a sweet dream of peace with horrible pictures of sudden and extemporaneous death. In the case of the lock, which, having been turned too far back, later releases itself with a sharp click, allowing the bolt to take its natural position, there can be no manner of doubt. The half-awake flat dweller has good and ample reason to believe that the noise comes from the lock—because, in fact, it does come therefrom. Then rises into rapid prominence the query: "What sort of a man is it who is out there with a skeleton key letting himself into this holy and virtuous flat?" Of course, he is a large, bulky man, with chloroform in his possession, and bearing a great burden of deadly weapons. He has come to get everything in the flat, from the folding bed to the napkin rings, and he is going to perform with many strange firearms if necessary to attain his object. Perhaps, after all, the ill-fitting window blind, which sways in the draught, is the greatest criminal of the age. More midnight alarms have been caused by it than by almost any other inanimate malefactor, although the pantry door, standing ajar, that is pushed open or closed by the pug dog out on a meandering expedition, is a decent second.—Chicago Record.

Good Friends Now.

"No, sub," said Colonel Carter to the man with small, angry looking spots on his forehead, "I shall not permit you to abuse the mosquito in my presence. I used to dislike them, but now I am one of the staunchest friends that a mosquito has."

"Still, they annoy one," replied the man with spots.

"Of course. But they must live. Why complain because the mosquito stays up all night and has his songs and his afaah dinnah speeches?"

"You seem to feel very kindly toward the brute."

"I have reason to. Let me tell you, sub, that a mosquito once saved the life of a friend of mine. We were speaking of large mosquitoes, and he said that he once found himself in a prohibition town, where the mosquitoes were larger than any he had ever seen. The party he was with had a bottle, but no cork-screw, and they would have perished with thirst if they had not taken one of these mosquitoes, extracted his bill, and used it to get the cork out. That mosquito was a mart r, sub, and ever since that time, sub, I have respected him and all his relations."—Detroit Free Press.

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