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MEXICO'S SUPPLY OF LONGLEAF PINE AND CONDITION OF NAVAL STORES INDUSTRY.

An aggregate area of 6,000,000 to 7,000,000 acres of longleaf pine, in every way suited to turpentine, briefly indicates the extent of the only partially developed naval stores resources of Mexico.

A peculiar and interesting feature of the Mexican turpentine belt is that the turpentine producing trees are found only in the mountains at high altitudes, a condition directly reverse to that existing in the United States, where trees at an altitude of 2,000 feet are unproductive so far as turpentine is concerned.

Carey B. Townsend, of New Orleans, who has spent some time investigating naval stores conditions in Mexico has given an interesting account of his observations. Speaking of the characteristics of the Mexican tree, he says:

"The Mexican turpentine pines present a different appearance from our trees in the United States. The bark is thicker, nature providing this as a protection against the cool nights of the high altitudes. The needles, too, are shorter and coarser than those of our southern pines. In Michoacan, where I spent most of my time, the altitude of the trees are found, the trees at 8,000 to 9,000 feet presenting a sharp contrast to those at 5,000 to 6,000 feet. A close investigation with proper tests convinced me that there is no difference in the yield or quality of the gum. In Michigan, where I spent most of my time, the altitude of the camp is 6,000 feet. The days are warm, but the nights are invariably cool. I kept a thermometer record, and the lowest the mercury went was 50 degrees and the highest 88 degrees.

"Turpentine runs freely in Mexico when the temperature is 60 degrees or above. While there is little or no flow at night, the first rays of the morning sun striking the trees start the gum running freely and this only lets up when darkness comes. I have never seen better running pines in my entire observation, which has extended from Cape Fear to the Sabine river. Owing to the cool nights it is proper to estimate the yield of the Mexican pines at 25 per cent less than the best output of our southern pines.

"The atmosphere evidently affects the quality of the crude gum as I noticed that the rosin produced from the old and high faces was of an unusually good quality, grading from 'I' to 'M' instead of from 'D' to 'G,' as in the United States. As to the relative yield of turpentine from a given quantity of crude, it is about the same in Mexico as in the United States."

In Mexico pack mules instead of wagons are used for transporting both the

crude and the finished product.

Mexico exacts a high tariff on naval stores imported into that country. On turpentine, the duty is 15 cents per gallon in gold and on rosin \$3.17 per barrel of 280 pounds. This tariff represents the difference in high price between naval stores in Mexico and in the United States. There were in 1908 only eight stills in Mexico and the average capacity of each was small. The industry is little developed and as a consequence the local production is not sufficient to supply the demand. This makes importation of both turpentine and rosin necessary.

SOUTHERN LUMBER TRADE CONDI- TIONS FOR THE WEEK.

Other than increased activity in cutting, no material changes have been noticed this week. At the saw mills, however, there is more activity than has been noted for more than a year. Following the report of January mill operations, which show an increase of lumber actually cut of just about 100 per cent over the record of 1908, and lumber shipped of about the same increase, manufacturing consumers became more active. Buyers for large manufacturers have been plentiful throughout the South this month and while the volume of lumber actually moved has not increased very much over February, inquiries are numerous enough to show the way the wind is blowing.

In the hardwood sections all mills that can secure logs are operating on full time, and shipping out about as fast as they cut. Prices have tended upward regularly since fall, and there is no inclination on the part of mills to press their sales. Poplar, quartered oak, ash, hickory, chestnut and the favorite grades for the furniture, vehicle and interior work lines, have been much in demand with very high prices paid in some instances. Most of the streams in the South have been up all this month, bringing an excellent crop of logs to the mills. Rafts that have been tied up for several months along the headquarters of the various rivers have been able to travel and these have given the river mills an excellent supply of logs.

In the pine sections, where problems by the score have confronted mill men for more than two years, something real in the form of orders is now coming in. Just when business began to revive, however, the report came from Washington that the tariff on lumber was to be greatly reduced, if not entirely taken off, and another cloud spread over the pine horizon. This with the threatened advance in freight rates caused a ripple in pine circles this week, but otherwise business is moving on splendidly. Spring trade is now on and creates a certain volume of business which cannot wait until Congress is through with tariff legislation, so the

spring trade will not be materially affected by these influences.

Reports made to the headquarters of the pine association indicate that with the elimination of tariff agitation pine men would have nothing of which to complain. The lumber cut in February, although a shorter month, was about 10 per cent over that of January, and the shipments practically the same, giving some proof that every buyer is not waiting on free lumber.

Railroads are again entering the market for ties, bridge timbers, etc., and car manufacturers are pretty liberal buyers of car stock. This influence is felt more in pine sections than in hardwood, but it has had a good effect in all lumber producing sections.

Railway lumbermen throughout the South report good trade this month with still better prospects for the remainder of the spring, and are not so much annoyed by threatened tariff legislation as are the mill men and jobbers. Exporters are also taking on more life, bearing out the general theory that with Congress adjourned the lumber fraternity would take life easy.—The Tradesman.

LUMBER TRADE CONDITIONS.

There is still but little to say about the lumber trade situation. While there is a quiet atmosphere in the region of the mills, they are working regularly and some stuff is moving in small lots. An interesting feature of the day is the presence of several big railroads in the market, and when the railroads begin buying heavily it is usually the case that the mills must put on more steam. An item from Beaumont, Texas, illustrating this point, says:

"The Rock Island has placed orders for millions of dollars' worth of lumber and timber and the great bulk of it is going into the mills of Southeast Texas, but it practically all goes to one company and therefore the other companies are not enjoying much of the money that is being spent by that road. The Frisco is preparing to buy heavily of lumber and heavy timbers, but how much it is impossible to say. The latter system has already invested a large amount of money in the purchase of such material, but has more to spend.

"Probably the biggest purchases of the year will be those made by the Missouri Pacific in the immediate future. The management of this system is preparing to enter the lumber market for millions of dollars' worth of timber and lumber and the entire amount is to be used in the betterment of property now in operation, none of it going into new work with the possible exception of a couple of new shop buildings, which will be erected at certain points. The Missouri

Pacific is now where it has to rehabilitate its property and a large part of the money to be spent will be in ties and bridge timbers. The Iron Mountain and the International and Great Northern systems of the Gould lines will also soon enter the market, while the Cotton Belt is now making some extensive purchases, but is doing it from mills along its lines in Texas and Arkansas.

"The Santa Fe is also a heavy buyer of timber and lumber and has spent a large amount of money of late."—The Tradesman.

CHINESE COLLEGE INTRODUCES EDUCATION IN FORESTRY.

China, often called the most backward of nations in the care of natural resources, is to be the scene of a vigorous campaign in the interests of the forests, according to plans for a series of meetings which will be held under the auspices of Boone College, Wuchang, China, at Hankow, Wuchang, and Hanyang. Later there will be meetings in all the large cities and important ports both on the coast and in the interior. Mr. Howard Richards, Jr., the representative in this country of the Chinese college, has been collecting material for these courses, and has just started to China. Several of the photographs showing the effect of deforestation in China, which accompanied the President's last annual message to Congress, form a part of a set of stereopticon views which will be used in illustrating these lectures.

China has probably taken less care of her forests than any other nation of the earth, and this movement to awaken in its people a realization of the importance of the forest comes at an opportune time. Many parts of China are practically desert wastes as a direct result of the destruction of its trees. On account of the erosion which has followed the removal of trees from the slopes, farmers are compelled to terrace their hillsides, in order to hold enough soil in place for farming, and to build little walls across the valleys to catch the silt which the annual floods deposit. Two centuries ago, many regions of China which are now barren, were paying revenue to their owners. Now the wood supply is so scarce that little poles are used for building houses, and roots and saplings are burned as fuel.

Over three hundred Chinese students from eleven provinces are being educated in Boone College for the uplift of their country, and it is expected by those in charge of the proposed course of lectures, that a movement started there will in time spread throughout the Empire.

NOT ON THEIR HEADS.

Sissy—Boys, don't have switches on their heads, do they, Bertie?

Bertie—Nope, not on their heads.—Life.