Lumber Destroyers.

We take the following from the address of the President of the Ontario Entomological Society at the Annual Meeting on 25th ult.

INJURIOUS INSECTS.

The city of Ottawa being one of the great centres of our lumbering interests, it seems fitting that I should on this occasion call your particular attention to some of those insects most injurious to our pine forests. The losses occasioned by the destructive work of borers in pine trees, both before and after they are cut, are unfortunately too well known to those interested in the lumber trade, although the sufferers may not be familiar with the life histories of their enemies, so as to be able to recognize them in the various stages of their existence. The lumberman suffers from the work of a number of destructive species, nearly all of which inflict their greatest injuries during the larval stage of their existence. There are three families of beetles in which are included the greater number of our enemies in this department. I allude to the longicorns, or long-horned beetles—Cerambycidæ; the serricorn, or saw-horn beetles—Busprestidæ; and the cylindrical bark beetle—Scolytidæ. To go over this long series in detail would weary you. A brief sketch of the life-history of a single example in each family will serve as a representative of the whole.

One of the most destructive of the species included in the Cerambycidæ is a large grey beetle with very long horns, known to entomologists under the same of Monohammus confusor, and popularly in this district as the "Ottawa cow." When trees have become diseased from any cause, or where a fire has ravaged a pine forest and scorched and partially destroyed the timber, or where logs after being cut have been allowed to remain a season in the woods or the millyard, there these insects gather and soon multiply to a prodigious extent. The mature insect is an inch in length. The antennæ of the male reaches the extraordinary length of from two to three inches, while those of the female are shorter. The female lays her eggs in the crevices of the bark, whence the larvæ when hatched eat their way into the wood, burrowing extensive galleries through the solid timber. When mature they are large, white, almost cylindrical footless grubs. They pass their chrysalis stage within these burrows, and the perfect insect on its escape eats its way out through the bark. There are about a dozen species in this family known to be destructive to pine.

Most of the insects belonging to the family Buprestidæ may be recognized by their brilliant metallic colours. They have very short antennæ, which are notched on one side like the teeth of a saw, and are often hidden from view by being bent under the thorax.

Chalcophora liberta is one of the most destructive to pine trees, and its history is very similar to that of the longhorned beetle just described, but the larva is of a different form, and has the anterior segments or rings of the body very large, reminding one of the appearance of the tadpole. The perfect insect is about three-quarters of an inch long, of a brassy or coppery hue, with the thorax and wing covers deeply furrowed by irregular longitudinal depressions. Dr. Fitch enumerates twelve species belonging to this family which are known to be injurious to pine. Additional information in reference to these beetles may be found in an article contained in the last annual report of our Society by Mr. J. Fletcher, of Ottawa.

The cylindrical bark beetles (Scolytidæ) are also a numerous family, eight species of which are known to attack pine. The boring Hylurgus torbrans is probably one of the commonest. This beetle is about a quarter of an inch long, of a chestnut red colour, thinly clothed with yellowish hairs and is found during the month of May. The larva, which is a small, yellowish white, footless grub, bores winding passages in every direction in the inner layers of the bark of the tree, and also through the outer surface of the wood.

In some parts of our Province pines are greatly injured and sometimes killed by the attacks of a woolly bark louse which covers parts of the trunk and branches with a white cottony section, under the protection of which myriads of tiny lice live, puncturing the bark with their sharp beaks and exhausting the trees by feeding on the sap.

While we are mainly interested in the preservation of our native forests, the future of our country demands that we shall not overlook the young growth, on which the lumber supply fifty or a hundred years hence must largely depend, and which it should be the policy of our rulers to protect as far as possible. Most of the Governments of Europe are now fully alive to the importance of this matter, and are annually spending large sums of money in establishing young forests. Two years ago I called your attention to an insect then recently discovered by Prof. A. R. Grote, of Buffalo, which was greatly injuring the terminal shoots of both the white and red pines in western New York. It was the larva of a small moth, Nephopteryx Zimmermani, which fed under the bark, causing a free exudation of resinous matter from the wounds it made, followed usually by the death of the twigs infested. Since then it has been found over a much wider area than was at first anticipated, and I have no doubt but that it is to-day materially retarding the growth of young pine trees in many portions of our Province.

At the recent meeting of the Entomological Club of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, where our Society was represented by your President and Vice-President, Mr. S. H. Scudder, of Boston, submitted some observations on another lepidopterous insect which is injuring the young pines growing on the Island of Nantucket. It is a species of Retinia, closely allied to the Retinia Dupmana of Europe. The moth lays her eggs near the tips of the twigs, down which the young larvæ burrow, killing them outright, and thus stunting and almost destroying the trees. Prof. Comstock, of Washington, also referred to two other species of Retinia which he had observed injuring the pine trees in that city.

In addition to all these are a score or two of species of insects which are known to devour the leaves of the pines, damaging them in some instances very much.

From the facts enumerated, it is evident that we are suffering serious loss in all our lumbering districts from the silent workings of these insidious foes, and since, in some measure, to be forewarned is to be forearmed, I desire to call the special attention of those immediately concerned in the prosperity, present and future, of the lumbering interests of our country to this important subject. Unfortunately, it does not as yet seem to be within the power of man to do much directly towards restricting the operations of these enemies to our forests; yet this should not deter us from studying their habits and history, since an intimate acquaintance with these may result much more to our advantage than we now anticipate. A few trees, such as a belt or a group planted for shelter or ornament, may be protected from the leaf and twig destroyers by syringing with a mixture of Paris Green and water in the proportion of a teaspoonful to the pail of water, and the bark lice may be killed by the use of alkaline washes applied with a brush or broom, and a timely application of the same will prevent the operations of the borers, but it is scarcely possible that such remedies can ever be applied over extended areas of forest.

It is, however, gratifying to know that in addition to the numbers devoured by our insectivorous birds, almost every injurious species is in turn attacked to a greater or less extent by insect parasites of the most active habits, who seek out and destroy these pests with ceaseless diligence. Were it not for these friendly insects, the destructive species would be far more numerous individually than they now are. The question as to how best to

CHECK THE INCREASE OF DESTRUCTIVE INSECTS

is of the greatest practical importance, and probably no insecticide has of late played so important a part in this connection as Paris Green, which is a compound of arsenic and copper, comparatively insoluble, and a substance which seems admirably qualified for the destruction of insect life. Besides its special use as a potato beetle killer, it can be successfully used to destroy any and every insect which eats the leaves of plants, shrubs, or trees. So poisonous an agent should be handled with caution if accidents are to be prevented, and it is a matter of great regret that in consequence of carelessness in its use the lives of many valuable animals have been sacrificed, and occasionally even human lives have been imperilled or lost. From the ease with which it can be procured it has also been resorted to in several instances by persons determined on suicide. These unfortunate occurrences are greatly to be deplored, and every possible precaution should be taken to avoid accidents. It is quite a common occurrence for painters, hardware dealers, and general merchants to sell Paris Green, and to send it out without label of any sort, and sometimes the parcel is very insecurely put up and packed with groceries and other articles for home use in the most indifferent manner. Such recklessness should not be permitted, and no one should be allowed to sell any substance so dangerous unless it is properly labelled with the name of the article, and the word "poison" prominently attached. With such precautions generally adopted, many accidents which now occur would be prevented. It has been urged by some that so many evils have attended the use of Paris Green that it does more harm than good, and that its use should be discontinued; but in this I am not prepared to concur, as I am satisfied that without it, unless some substitute were found, the potato crop in many localities could not be preserved from destruction. If reasonable care is exercised, and the powder be used mixed with water, there is no danger attending it, and its use in this manner, in the proportion already mentioned—of a teaspoonful to a pail of water—and applied with a whisk, is not only safe but most economical.

For some years past experiments have been made with various other substances with the view of finding a substitute for Paris Green which would be less dangerous in the hands of the careless, and among them I believe none have been used with greater success than common blue vitriol, or sulphate of copper, in solution, in the proportion of about an ounce to a pail of water, and applied in the same manner as the Paris Green mixture. This article is worthy of and will doubtless receive a more extended trial, as its use under any circumstances would be attended with but little danger.

Sagacity of Dogs.

Some years ago a fine arts exhibition was held at Derby. A portrait of a Derby artist, Bright, was thus signalized; "The artist's pet dog distinguished this, from a lot of pictures upon the floor of the studio, by licking the face of the portrait. D. C.

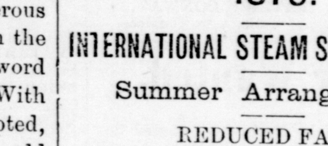
Many years ago my husband had his portrait taken by T. Phillips, Sen., R. A., and, subsequently, went to India, leaving the portrait in London to be finished and framed. When it was sent home, about two years after it was taken, it was placed on the floor against the sofa, preparatory to being hung on the wall. We had then a very handsome large black and tan setter, which was a great pet in the house. As soon as the dog came into the room he recognized his master, though he had not seen him for two years, and went up to the picture and licked the face. When this anecdote was told to Phillips, he said it was the highest compliment that had ever been paid to him. X.

When in Bute some years ago, I heard from a gentleman, perfectly trustworthy, that a large Newfoundland dog belonging to a friend of his, was found one night by its owner lying concealed under his bed—a strange circumstance, because the dog was forbidden to enter the house at night. The owner being struck by this singular occurrence, resolved not to disturb the creature, and, getting into bed, kept himself awake to watch events. It was not long before a sound was heard in the passage a faint light was seen through the key hole, the door opened and instantly the dog flew from under the bed, and springing forward, brought a man to the ground, the gentleman's own servant, who, accompanied by another fellow, was there for the purpose of robbery. C. P. U.

During my residence in Cornwall I had a most intelligent and faithful dog for fifteen years. I had him when a month old. His mother was a beautiful liver coloured spaniel, rather large; his father a black Newfoundland; my dog took after him in colour and shape. In 1843, a young and self-taught artist asked me to allow him to paint my likeness in oil colours and I consented. His studio was in the next town, three miles distant, and as often as required I went over; I, however, did not take my dog with me. The picture was done in kit-cat size; and the artist succeeded so well in the likeness and artistic work, that when exhibited at the annual meeting of the Polytechnic Society at Falmouth, a medal was awarded to it, and as well, it was "highly commended." Not only this, it brought him into notice and gained him lots of employment. The artist was so grateful for my attention that he presented me with the painting and I still have it. When it was brought to my house, my old dog was present with the family at the "unveiling;" nothing was said to him nor invitation given him to notice it. We saw that his gaze was steadily fixed on it, and he soon became excited, and whined, and tried to lick and scratch it, and was so much taken up with it that all—although so well knowing his intelligence—were quite surprised; in fact, could scarcely believe that he should know it was my likeness. We, however, had sufficient proof after it was hung up in our parlour; the room was rather low, and under the picture stood a chair; the door was left open without any thought about the dog; he, however, soon found it out, when a low whining and scratching was heard by the family, and on search being made, he was on the chair trying to get at the picture. After this I put it up higher, so as to prevent it being injured by him. This did not prevent him from paying attention to it, for whenever I was away from home, whether for a short or long time—sometimes for several days—he spent most of his time gazing on it, and as it appeared to give him comfort, the door was always left open for him. When I was long away, he made a low whining, as if to draw attention to it. This lasted for years, in fact as long as he lived, and was able to see it. I have never kept a dog since he died, I dare not—his loss so much affected me. I might tell of many of his wonderful actions; he could do most of such things as are related of other dogs. C.W.P.

A young girl was telling a friend that she had a beau. "Oh," said the friend, "I guess that's all a yarn!" "Well, perhaps it is seeing that I can wind him round my finger," allowed the first speaker.

Travelers' Column.



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A genuine fluid extract of Red or Jamaica Sarsaparilla, combined with Iodide of Potassuim, for the cure of all diseases arising from impurity the blood.

Nearly all the diseases that trouble the human race are influenced by the state of the blood. It is indispensable that this fountain of life be in a pure and healthy condition.

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WHEELBARROWS and CART WHEELS on hand.

All kinds of job work in the above lines promptly executed.

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I am now prepared to supply the Public with Superior Quality of

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HOUSE FINISHING,

For Inside or Outside. First Quality Pine or Ceda Shingles, and to

Plane and Match Lumber, and Plane and Butt Clapboards.

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CRANK SHAFTS for WATER MILLS, GANG SHAFTS, GATE and LOG GATES, with power Down-holders, Saw Spindles of all kinds, of Cast Steel or Iron.

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GEARS AND PULLEYS of all sizes.

IRON TURNING AND BLACKSMITH'S WORK, and general repairing of Machinery of all kinds.

ACCIDENTAL BREAK-DOWNS of Machinery correctly and punctually attended to.

BRASS CASTINGS

of the best quality at lowest prices.

I beg to call the attention of Millmen and Lumbermen to my new Machines, viz., my

COMPOUND EDGER AND SINGLE EDGER, AND MY RE-SAWING MACHINES

are got up expressly for the lumber business.

My Edgers have now been running in St John, and Miramichi for twelve months and have given every satisfaction desired and I feel pleased to be able to refer to any of the Mill owners who have them, including:—Messrs. Randolph and Baker, Long & Barnhill, Clark Bros.—Firms of such standings as are well able to advise intending purchasers as to what is best for their interests and in regard to the practical superiority of my machine over all others. My

COMPOUND OR DOUBLE MACHINE

will edge 10,000 feet per hour, if required. My SINGLE EDGER, which I am getting up expressly for Steam Mills of limited power, with a view to do the most work with the fewest hands, will be about half the weight of the Compound, and about half the price, will have only two saws and will run 40,000 feet per day of 10 hours. My RE-SAWING MACHINE is got up expressly for recutting deals and scantling from four inches down to ½ in. thick or deals into boards any thickness.

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N. B. An experience of 40 years in all the branches in the above lines enables me to guarantee all work that may be entrusted to my care.

JAMES NEILSON.
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We have been Manufacturing

IRON FRAME MOWERS

For the last four years, and are now offering to the farming community this, the

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combining greater excellence of mechanical simplicity together with greater durability and entire reliability for all the requirements of the field, than any other Mower extant.—In construction they are similar to the celebrated Walter A. Wood's Iron Frame Mower, and the Richardson Buckeye, both American Machines. Of the former there are over 200,000 in use, and the extraordinary number of 20,000 were manufactured and sold last season, by the Wood Company of United States. We have over 500 of our manufacture now in use, every one of which (no exceptions) stands as a monument of the grand and unprecedented success of home manufacture and our enterprise. A list of our Agents in this section of the Province will be found appended, and farmers are requested to ask information of them relative to our Mowers in use in their respective localities, which will establish beyond doubt their unquestionable superiority over any other mower to be had in our market.

The facility of procuring all parts or pieces within a nominal length of time must show beyond the shadow of a doubt the claims such an enterprise has upon the farmers of the Maritime Provinces.

For the coming harvest of 1877 we will manufacture LARGLY in excess of our numbers of last season, and trust that our growing enterprise may find such inducements held out to it as will be commensurate with its merits.

Let it be remembered we have no hesitation at all times, in entering into a friendly competition in the field with any other machine in our market. WE GUARANTEE OUR MOWERS TO BE INFERIOR TO NONE. Farmers would do well to enquire prices and terms before purchasing elsewhere.

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has now on hand the largest Stock of

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Call and see my stock before purchasing elsewhere.

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1, 1½ AND 2 INCH.

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Received Two Gold Medals at the Paris Exposition 1878.

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THE Subscriber is prepared to furnish his PATENT LOG CARRIAGE SHIPPING MACHINE, to any parties requiring the same, or supply drawings, etc., to enable parties to manufacture it for themselves.

The above is in use in several Mills on this River and perfect satisfaction is guaranteed.

Full information given by application to the Subscriber.

ROBERT McGUIRE.
Chatham, 29th May, '78.

CARD!

THE UNDERSIGNED would beg leave to inform his Patrons and the Public generally that he is now prepared to furnish

PLANS, DESIGNS
—AND—
SPECIFICATIONS

For any description of Building required.

PRICES REASONABLE!

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Estimates Furnished for Engines and Boilers, Mill and other Machinery.

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MRS. JAMES CORMACK,

begs to inform the ladies of Miramichi, that she is prepared to attend to any orders in the above line with which she may be favored.

She has associated with her her sister, Miss Mayberry, who has had an experience of several year at the business in Boston, and is confident of being able to satisfy patrons in both styles and and prices.

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THE Subscriber offers for sale, the residence at present occupied by him, on Wellington street, adjoining the Bank of Montreal) together with the stables, warehouse, and other out buildings and premises connected therewith.

The warehouse is admirably suited for manufacturing purposes, being large and having connected with it a water supply unequalled in the town for quantity and quality.

Terms easy. Apply to W. M. KELLY.

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I AM offering the balance of my Stock of DRESS GOODS, PRINTS, COTTONS, FLANNELS, TWEEDS, HOSIERY, SCARFS, CLOUDS, UNDERCLOTHING, TRIMMINGS, &c.

AT VERY LOW PRICES.

A well assorted stock of Groceries, Hardware and Cuttlery always on hand.

WHOLESALE & RETAIL,

Flour, Corn Meal, Tea in chests, half chests and quarter boxes, Tobacco, Sugar, Soap, Butter, Lard, Hams and Bacon, cheap for cash.

RICHARD HOCKEN.
March 20, 1879.

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