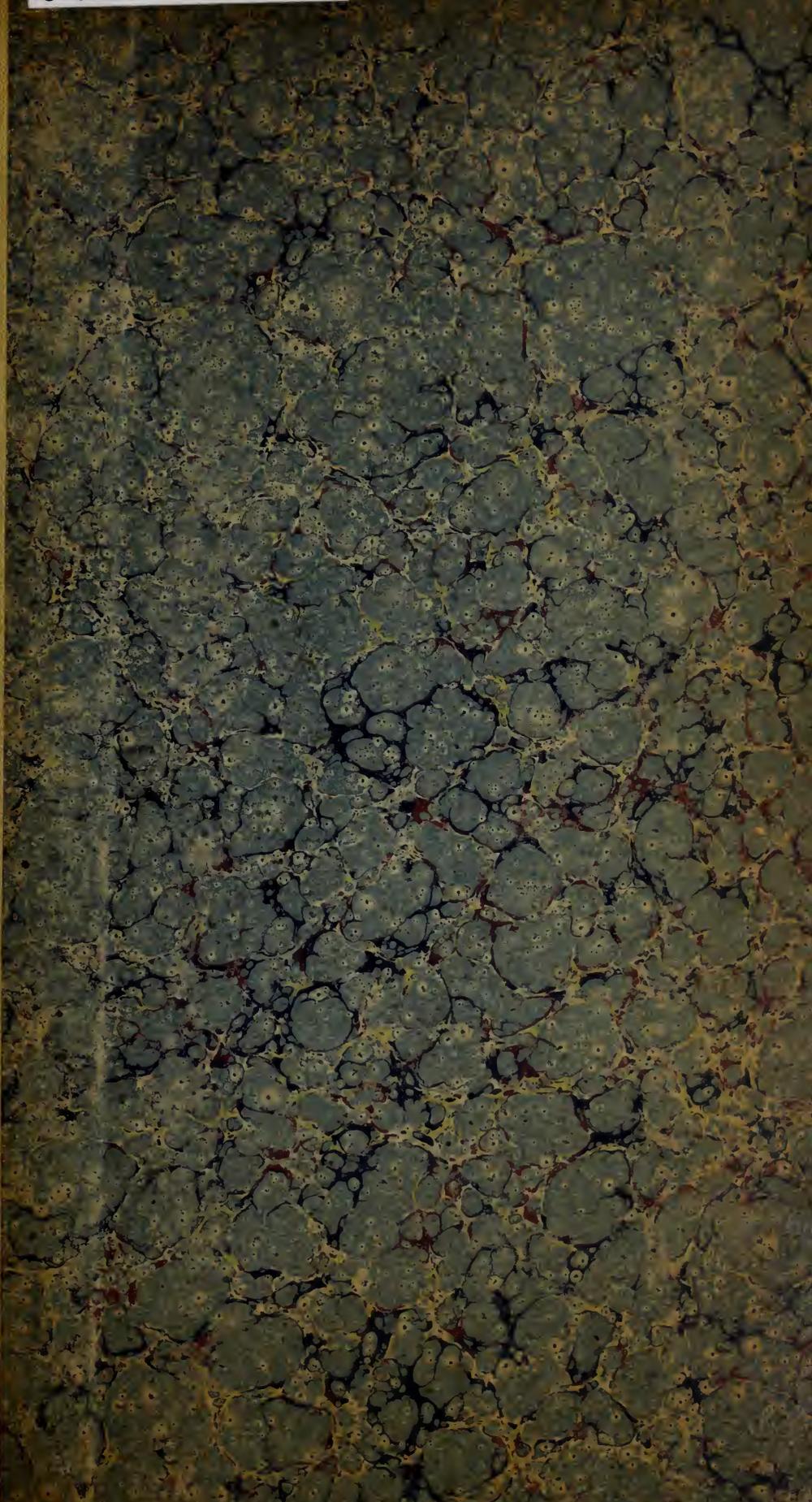


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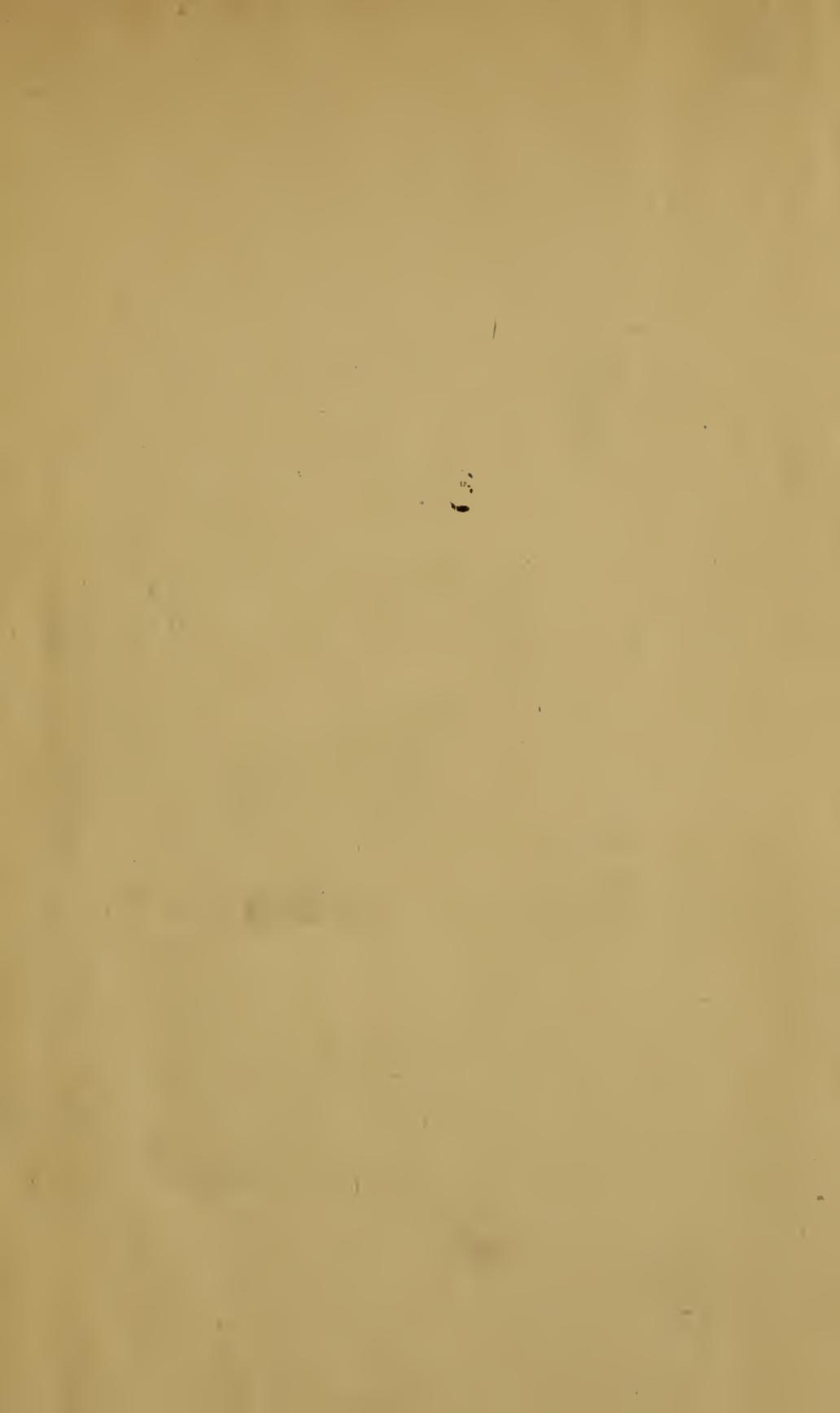


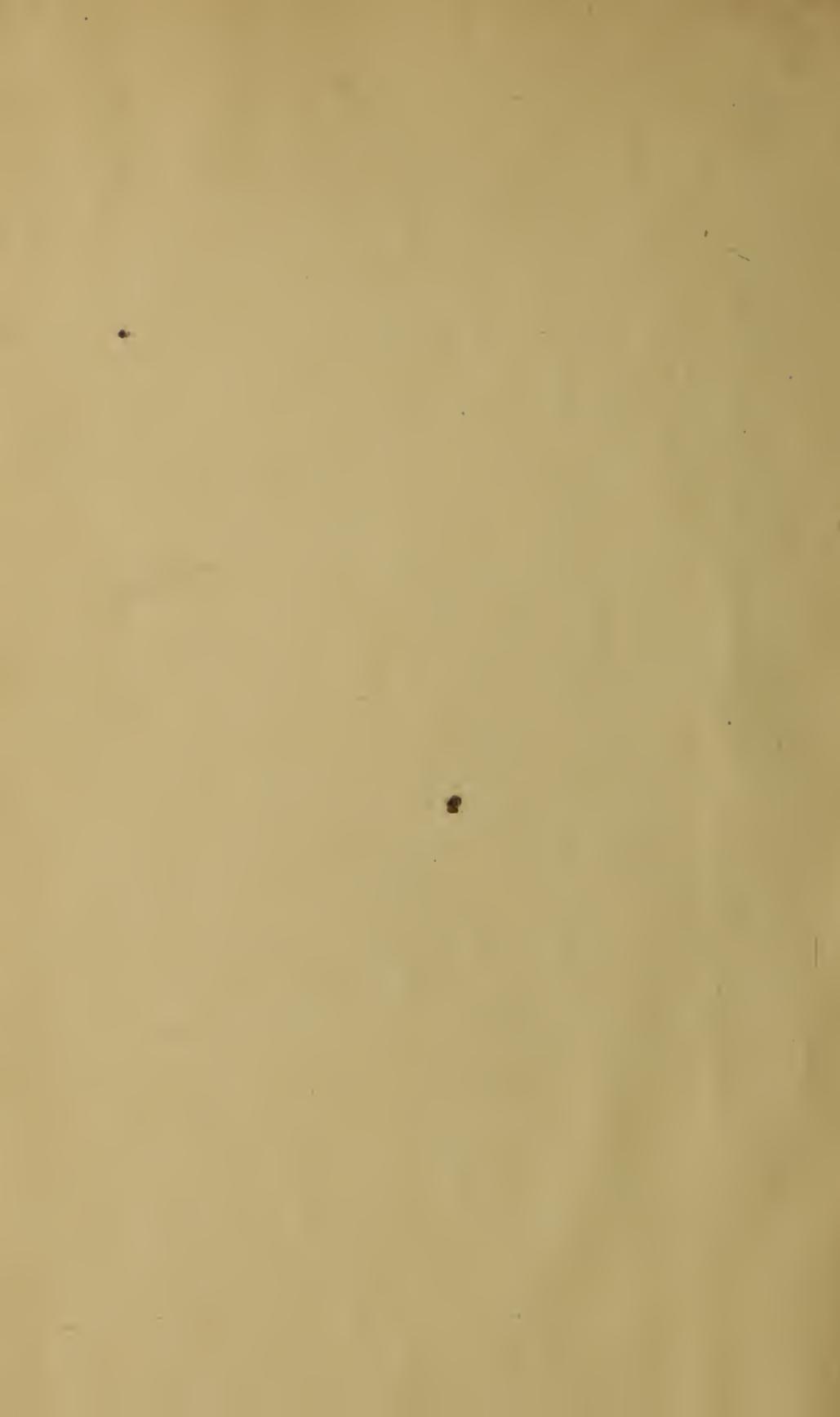
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THE PINE LANDS

AND

LUMBER TRADE

5996.94

OF MICHIGAN,

EXHIBITING THE

EXTENT, QUALITY AND ADVANTAGES,

COMPILED FROM OFFICIAL AND AUTHENTIC SOURCES.

BY AN OLD RESIDENT OF THE STATE.

DETROIT :

PRINTED BY H. BARNES, TRIBUNE OFFICE.

1856.

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From
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Patent Board of
Trade
April 13, 1868

THE PINE LANDS

AND

LUMBER TRADE

OF MICHIGAN.

But few who are not directly interested in the business, are aware of the extent and value of the Pine Lands of Michigan, and the growing importance and magnitude of the Lumber Trade of this State. My attention having recently been called to this subject, I have devoted some time to its examination, and give to the public the result of my investigations. The conclusions arrived at are, that Michigan has more Pine Timber and of a better quality than any other State in the Union; that the facilities for manufacturing and shipping it to market are superior to those of any Pine Lumber country in the world; that the annual value of manufactured lumber is now equal to that of the wheat crop of Michigan, and that at the present rate of increase, in less than five years it will equal the value of the entire agricultural product of the State, including wool.

The great bulk of Pine Lands in the State are situated in the northern part of the Lower Peninsula, on streams and their tributaries emptying into Saginaw Bay, Lakes Huron and Michigan, and embrace an area of 6,000 square miles, or 3,840,000 acres. About 840,000 acres of this amount has already been exhausted, leaving, at this time, some 3,000,000 acres of standing Pine forest. Perhaps one-half of this amount is situated from six

to twelve miles remote from navigable streams, and the balance is of easy access.

An average estimate of the product of lumber of all the Pine lands in the State is 6,000 feet to the acre. Some sections will greatly overrun this, and some fall short of the figure; but the average is considered about a fair mark. This gives 3,840,000 to the square mile, or say in round numbers 4,000,000 feet. The amount of sawed Pine Lumber for the year 1856, independent of shingles and lath, will not fall short of 600,000,000, requiring the timber of 150 square miles, or 96,000 acres. Should the production of and demand for lumber continue to increase in the same ratio that it has for the last five years, it will require but seven years to exhaust all the Pine Timber in the State, which is situated within five miles of any of the navigable streams.

To sustain this supposition, and show the regular and rapid increase of the Lumber Trade during the last nine years, I shall here introduce some figures derived from authentic sources, and compiled with great care:

EXPORTS OF PINE LUMBER AND SHINGLES FROM MICHIGAN
IN 1847.

	LUMBER.	SHINGLES.
Detroit, - - - - -	5,795,000	2,452,000
Trenton, - - - - -	312,000	None.
St. Joseph, - - - - -	1,355,000	470,000
Grand Haven, - - - - -	23,778,000	12,782,000
Kalamazoo and Black River, - - - - -	6,000,000	1,000,000
Saginaw, - - - - -	3,500,000	1,150,000
Port Huron and Lexington, - - - - -	13,500,000	7,000,000
St. Clair, - - - - -	6,500,000	770,000
Newport, - - - - -	1,145,000	None.
Algonac, - - - - -	4,157,000	None.
Mount Clemens, - - - - -	980,000	None.
TOTAL, - - - - -	67,022,000	25,624,000

Lumber commanded a low price that year, and the total value of exports, including shingles, amounted to only \$578,519.

I have not been able to procure accurate statistics for the years 1848, 1849 and 1850, but the Trade of 1851 shows an annual increase of more than 37 per cent. from 1847 to 1851:

LUMBER TRADE IN MICHIGAN IN 1851.

Mills in Detroit,	15,000,000	Whitney & Co., Sag. River,	2,500,000
Mills in St. Clair Co.,	42,000,000	Raymond & Watson,	" 1,200,000
Burch's, Burchville,	1,000,000	Frazer & Dunlap,	" 1,000,000
Conger's, Lake Huron,	2,000,000	J. Frazer,	" 2,000,000
Lexington, Lake Huron,	10,500,000	Frazer & Collin,	" 1,000,000
Hurd's Mill, Huron,	1,500,000	Russell, Miller & Co.,	" 3,000,000
Mill at Point Aux Barque,	2,500,000	D. & L. Johnson,	" 6,000,000
Pine River, Sag. Bay,	750,000	Chapin & Co.,	" 1,200,000
Rifle River, " "	750,000	Hoyt & Co.,	" 2,000,000
G. D. Williams, Sag River,	1,200,000	Emerson & Co.,	" 3,500,000
A. & W. M'Ewen, " "	1,000,000	Millard & Sweet,	" 2,000,000
		TOTAL, - - -	103,600,000

This, it will be perceived, does not include the amount made on Lake Huron above Saginaw Bay, nor that to be shipped from Ports on Lake Michigan, which was estimated to amount to 125,000,000 feet additional—making a grand total of 228,600,000, against 67,022,000 of 1847.

In 1852, the total amount of sawed lumber, exclusive of lath and shingles, was 301,457,000, and in 1853 it run up to 392,920,714—valued at \$4,715,048. The entire value of all the agricultural products of the State for that year, including wool and pork, was \$15,685,372, as follows :

Wheat, - - -	\$7,000,000	Wool, - - -	\$1,000,000
Corn and other Grain,	3,200,000	Pork, - - -	334,754
Potatoes, - - -	800,000	Butter and Cheese, -	1,040,618
Hay, - - -	2,000,000	Sugar, - - -	10,000
		TOTAL, - - -	\$15,685,372

There was no material increase in the amount of agricultural products for the year 1854 over 1853, but the extraordinary advance in the price of wheat nearly or quite doubled the aggregate value of that crop alone ; and the same may be said of the year 1855, so far as the actual amount raised is concerned, but it was of an inferior quality, and much of the crop remained over in the hands of the producers. The amount actually realized from it will fall considerably below that of 1853. While, therefore, the agricultural products of the State have remained nearly stationary, the manufacture of Pine Lumber has increased from 20 to 25 per cent. per annum. In 1854, it amounted to

460,476,000 feet, exclusive of lath and shingles, and in 1855, to 552,771,200, the value of which, at mill prices, was something over \$7,000,000—equal to the entire wheat crop of the State for that year.

The following table will show the yearly increase of our Lumber Trade with Chicago, from 1847 to 1856 :

LUMBER TRADE OF CHICAGO WITH MICHIGAN.

	LUMBER.	SHINGLES.	LATH.
1847	32,118,225	12,148,500	5,655,600
1848	60,900,250	20,000,000	10,025,100
1849	73,259,553	39,057,750	19,890,700
1850	100,344,779	55,323,750	19,281,733
1851	125,056,473	60,338,250	27,583,475
1852	147,816,232	77,080,500	19,575,670
1853	193,271,247	125,638,500	38,721,373
1854	225,361,019	147,263,200	49,633,184
1855	326,000,000	171,320,000	98,346,217
1856	211,000,000 (Receipts of three months.)		

The question naturally arises—Will the demand keep pace with this rapid increase of production? To answer this question satisfactorily, we must in the first place, ascertain who our competitors are ; and secondly, what market will look to us for their supplies.

Maine has hitherto been able to supply the markets of the New England States, and make large annual foreign shipments ; but her Pine Lands are nearly exhausted, and her lumber trade is rapidly declining. To prove this I deem it only necessary to present the following table, showing the Lumber Trade of that State from 1848 to 1851 :

LUMBER TRADE OF MAINE.

1848	212,932,499	1852	199,359,432
1849	160,418,808	1853	182,924,284
1850	203,754,201	1854	159,630,624
1851	202,005,830	1855	135,473,327

I find no classification in the Surveyor's Reports of the different kinds of lumber, except for the year 1851, which gives 58,319,460 feet of spruce, hemlock and hardwood, to be deducted

from the total of 202,005,830—making the amount of pine lumber only 143,686,200. If we make the same deduction from the product of 1855, it will reduce the amount of pine lumber manufactured to less than 100,000,000, against 552,771,200, the product of Michigan for the same year. Maine, then, can hardly be considered as coming into competition with us.

The great valley of the Ohio has mainly derived its supply from the Alleghany River and its tributaries, French and Oil Creek, the Tionesta, the Tunemagwontc, the Titteioutc, and other minor streams; but the dense and noble pine forests which skirted the borders of all these streams thirty years ago, have fallen, and scarcely a tree remains within ten miles of either of them. The supply, then, from this quarter is not more than half adequate to the present demand of that vast region of country, and in a few years it must look almost exclusively to other sources for its Pine Lumber.

The Pine Lands on the head waters of the Hudson and all that region of country in Northern New York bordering on Lake Champlain, Lake George, and the Schroon, which were accessible for lumber purposes, were exhausted years ago, and the comparatively small amount of Pine Lumber which now finds its way to Troy and Albany, through the Northern Canal, is obtained from lands so remote from any navigable streams that the business has ceased to be remunerative.

My remarks on the Pine Lands of the Alleghany river may be equally well applied to those on the Susquehannah, and its tributaries, and the Monongahela. Finding, then, that we have no formidable competition in the Eastern or Middle States, let us look at the condition of things nearer home. The northern part of Wisconsin contains one-third or perhaps one-half as much pine timber as Michigan, but the majority of it is situated so remote from navigable streams that it never will be brought into market until the Pine of Michigan has become exhausted. That portion of it, therefore, cannot enter into competition with us. That State contains a large amount of prairie lands, and the demand for home consumption will for years absorb one-half

or two-thirds of the whole amount manufactured within its borders. I have no accurate statistics showing the quantity of lumber manufactured in that State since 1853. In that year it amounted to 148,400,000, as will appear by the following table ;

LUMBER MANUFACTURED IN WISCONSIN IN 1853.

Above Winnebago, Portage county,	77 Saws.	43,400,000
Fox River, including Wolf,	56 "	30,000,000
Mississippi, above mouth of St. Croix,	11 "	15,000,000
St. Croix River,	17 "	26,000,000
Chippewa River,	15 "	20,000,000
Black River,	10 "	14,000,000
TOTAL.		148,400,000

It is deemed a fair estimate to place the present annual manufacture at about 200,000,000, which, after deducting the amount required for home consumption, would leave about 75,000,000 for export. This amount is so inconsiderable compared with that of Michigan, that its effect upon our lumber interest will hardly be perceived.

There are some extensive tracts of Pine on the Upper Mississippi, but the most valuable of them are owned by the Indians, and will not come into market for many years. Considerable lumber, however, finds its way down that river from Minnesota, but the difficulties attending its transit to market render the business hazardous and unprofitable.

The Reciprocity Treaty, which abolished the duty on Canadian lumber, has brought that Province into competition with us, and considerable lumber has found its way into our markets. It is all, however, of an inferior quality of "common," and can never affect the demand for or prices of our "clear" lumber.

Georgia and North Carolina are the only Southern States producing Pine lumber. I have been unable to procure any statistics of that trade in North Carolina, but the manufacture of Yellow Pine Lumber, forms a considerable item in the exports of that State. The following table will show the magnitude of the trade in Georgia, for the last fourteen years :

LUMBER TRADE OF GEORGIA.

EXPORTS OF PINE LUMBER FROM SAVANNAH.

Year ending September 1,	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854	1855	feet.
															8,390,400
															7,519,550
															4,983,251
															8,270,582
															18,585,644
															10,731,388
															16,449,558
															15,380,200
															17,719,100
															17,764,300
															25,508,500
															30,530,050
															31,460,000
															32,371,361

Having fairly shown the extent of the competition against us, let us consider for a moment what markets will naturally look to us for their supplies. Iowa, with an area of 51,000 square miles of prairie, has not a pine tree within her borders, and hardly timber enough for fire wood. She is filling up with a hardy, enterprising and industrious farming population, more rapidly than any other western State. There is no estimating the amount of lumber she will require for building purposes alone within the next ten years; but that some idea may be formed of the magnitude of her demands upon us, a calculation has been made upon the amount which will be required to fence her prairies into sections, half sections, quarter sections, and 80 acre lots:—For sections or lots of 640 acres, it will require 2,896,800,000 feet; half sections, or lots of 320 acres, 5,793,600,000; quarter sections or lots of 160 acres, 11,587,200,000; and into 80 acre lots, 23,174,400,000; which would absorb the timber grown on 6,000 square miles, or 3,840,000 acres of land, an amount equal to if not exceeding all the pine lands in Michigan.

The vast plains and prairies of Illinois will always create a demand which can be supplied by this State more advantageously to both parties than by any other lumber region, owing to our more favorable geographical position. Chicago is our natural and convenient market for all that vast region of country.

North-western Ohio depends upon Michigan almost exclusively for her Pine, and the valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers are already beginning to make large demands upon us. Albany and New York must look to us mainly for their "clear" lumber, for no other region in the whole country can produce so fine a quality, so great a quantity, or at rates so reasonable. The magnitude of the trade of Albany is shown in the following table :

LUMBER TRADE OF ALBANY.

	BOARDS AND SCANTLING.	SHINGLES.	TIMBER, CUBIC FT.
1850	216,786,890	34,226,000	28,832
1851	260,238,003	34,136,000	101,200
1852	317,135,620	29,334,000	291,714
1853	393,726,073	27,586,000	19,916
1854	311,571,151	24,003,000	28,909

More than one-third of this amount was sent from Michigan, being, "clear" Pine, and the balance was obtained from Lakes Ontario and Champlain, the rivers St. Lawrence and Ottawa, and the head waters of the Alleghany, the Susquehanna and the Delaware. It will be perceived that there was a great falling off in the receipts of 1854 from those of the preceding year. This was caused by the failure of supplies of "common" lumber from Lake Champlain, and from the head waters of the Alleghany and the Susquehanna. The quantity manufactured there was inadequate to the demand.

Not that it has any direct bearing upon our interests, but as mere matter of reference, I subjoin the

PINE LUMBER TRADE OF QUEBEC FOR SIX YEARS.

	WHITE PINE.	RED PINE.
1850 - - - - -	14,388,593	2,121,316
1851 - - - - -	15,417,815	3,189,387
1852 - - - - -	27,631,239	2,405,644
1853 - - - - -	17,847,016	2,060,659
1854 - - - - -	19,648,006	3,756,448
1855 - - - - -	18,564,328	3,927,324

The whole number of Saw Mills in this State in 1854 was 922. This of course includes all the small mills scattered through every part of the State, used for sawing other kinds of wood than pine, and many of them on the small streams run only

two or three months in the year. These do not properly enter into the list of Lumber Mills, and they have been left out of my estimates entirely. The following is believed to be a correct list of the Pine Lumber Mills in Michigan on the eastern side of the Ridge which separates the waters emptying into Lakes Huron and St. Clair from those running into Lake Michigan.

NUMBER OF SAW MILLS IN MICHIGAN, EAST OF THE RIDGE.

On Saginaw River.

	FEET.
Millard's Mills, - - - - -	3,000,000
Gardner D. Williams, 2 mills, steam, - - - - -	3,500,000
Emerson's, steam, - - - - -	4,000,000
Gallagher's, " - - - - -	1,500,000
Whitney & Higginson's, steam, - - - - -	3,000,000
Edmond's, steam, - - - - -	1,500,000
John A. Westervell's, steam, - - - - -	3,000,000
Johnson's Gang, steam, - - - - -	7,000,000
Johnson's, (Shepherd) steam, - - - - -	3,000,000
Johnson's Lath Mills (lath exclusively)	
Watson & Co., steam, - - - - -	3,000,000
Russell's, steam, (old) - - - - -	3,000,000
Russell's, " (new) - - - - -	1,500,000
Campbell & McCormick's, steam, - - - - -	1,500,000
Stanton's, steam, - - - - -	1,500,000
Frurer & Catlin's, steam, - - - - -	1,500,000
Frurer & Hopkin's, steam, - - - - -	3,000,000
Raymond's, steam, - - - - -	2,500,000
Drake's, steam, - - - - -	3,000,000
Bangor Mill, steam, - - - - -	5,000,000
McEwen's, steam, - - - - -	3,000,000
McCorlass' Mill, steam, - - - - -	2,500,000
Jaffir's Mill, steam, - - - - -	2,000,000
Balferson & Co., steam, - - - - -	3,500,000
J. Vanston & Co., steam, - - - - -	2,500,000
D. Whitney's Mills, steam, - - - - -	2,500,000
John Pierson's, steam, - - - - -	2,000,000
Baugham & Partridge, steam, - - - - -	2,000,000
Doty's Mill, steam, - - - - -	2,500,000
Moore & Vorce, steam, - - - - -	2,500,000

Titabawasse River.

Hulsey's Mill, steam, - - - - -	1,500,000
Carey's Mill, (on Ball River,) - - - - -	1,500,000
Clark & Wisner's, do. - - - - -	3,000,000
Gibson's Water Mill, (Swan Creek,) - - - - -	1,500,000

Cass River.

Lull's Mill, steam,	-	-	-	-	-	1,000,000
Hoyt's, steam,	-	-	-	-	-	2,000,000
Hinckley & McLean's, steam,	-	-	-	-	-	1,500,000
Richardson's, water,	-	-	-	-	-	2,000,000
Hurd's, water,	-	-	-	-	-	1,000,000
North & Edmond's, water,	-	-	-	-	-	3,000,000
Watson & Co., steam,	-	-	-	-	-	1,000,000

Flint River.

Blackman's, steam,	-	-	-	-	-	1,500,000
Seymour's, water,	-	-	-	-	-	1,500,000
At Flint, and above, 14 Mills,	-	-	-	-	-	18,000,000
Kawkawlin Mill, water,	-	-	-	-	-	3,000,000
" " steam,	-	-	-	-	-	2,000,000

St. Clair River.

Port Huron: Four Mills,	-	-	-	-	-	15,000,000
Three on Black River, water,	-	-	-	-	-	4,500,000
St. Clair: Six Mills,	-	-	-	-	-	15,000,000
Three Mills below St. Clair and Newport,	-	-	-	-	-	8,500,000
Newport: Ward's Mill, capacity,	-	-	-	-	-	4,000,000
" Rust's Mill,	-	-	-	-	-	3,000,000
" One Mill, owner's name not known,	-	-	-	-	-	2,000,000
One Mill, between Newport and St. Clair,	-	-	-	-	-	2,000,000
Algocner: Two Mills,	-	-	-	-	-	5,000,000

On Lake Huron.

Forestville: One Mill,	-	-	-	-	-	5,000,000
Between Port Huron and Saginaw River, 13 Mills,	-	-	-	-	-	45,000,000
Between Saginaw and Mackinac, 4 Mills,	-	-	-	-	-	6,000,000
Warner & Co.'s, New Baitimore, Lake St. Clair,	-	-	-	-	-	4,000,000
Warner & Co.'s, Cherry Creek, Sanilac co.	-	-	-	-	-	3,000,000
Warner & Co.'s, Port Austin,	-	-	-	-	-	10,000,000
Ashley's Mill, Ashley,	-	-	-	-	-	3,000,000

Detroit.

Wight's, 2 Mills,	-	-	-	-	-	8,000,000
Warner & Co's,	-	-	-	-	-	4,000,000
S. W. Pitts, 2 Mills,	-	-	-	-	-	8,000,000
Benson's Mill,	-	-	-	-	-	4,000,000
Moffatt's Mill,	-	-	-	-	-	4,000,000
Brooks & Adams' Mill,	-	-	-	-	-	4,000,000
Reeves', 2 Mills,	-	-	-	-	-	8,000,000
Three Mills below the city	-	-	-	-	-	7,000,000

Making a total of 116 Mills, sawing 307,000,000 feet per annum. I have not been able to procure a list of the Lumber

Mills on the streams emptying into Lake Michigan; but they largely exceed the number on this side of the Ridge, and are capable of sawing 350,000,000 per annum, giving a total capacity of 657,000,000 to all the Pine Lumber Mills in the State, which may properly come under this head. If we should add all the small Mills in the State, it would swell up the amount to over 800,000,000.

All the Pine Lands in the State which were considered worth locating have been taken up; and there are none which can now be obtained at Government prices. The only lands which are in the market at all, are those of the Sault Ste Marie Canal Company, and of E. B. Ward of Detroit. Mr. Ward owns eighty-five thousand acres of the best Pine Lands in the State, both in regard to quality and quantity of timber, and proximity to navigable streams. They were selected at an early day by experienced and competent men, and are acknowledged by all disinterested judges who have seen them, to warrant the favorable representation made of them. They are held at prices ranging from five to fifteen dollars per acre, according to location and quality of timber. They are as follows:



E. B. WARD'S PINE LANDS.

SANILAC COUNTY.

On the banks of Lake Huron, 48 miles above Port Huron, one tract of 14,000 acres excellent Pine timber. There is a first class steam mill in operation capable of cutting 30,000 feet per day; one of the best and most convenient docks for shipping lumber on the Lakes, with five miles of Railroad, four of which are laid with iron track; a village is laid out on the premises, which is steadily increasing in population. Fifty thousand dollars have been expended in improvements alone, and the whole is offered for sale for \$110,000. From five to twelve miles west of this place are large tracts of first rate farming lands, and the country is being rapidly settled by industrious farmers.

SANILAC AND HURON COUNTIES.

Six thousand acres, situated on the Lake shore, heavily timbered and easy of access.

LAPEER COUNTY.

Five thousand acres of the very best Pine in the State, more than one-third of the whole amount being clear lumber.

MIDLAND AND GLADWIN COUNTIES.

Twenty thousand acres on the Tittibasse River, which empties into the Saginaw, well timbered with first quality Pine.

ARRENAC COUNTY.

Twenty thousand acres on Rifle River, conveniently situated, and universally acknowledged to be the best large body of Pine in the State. Rifle River empties into Saginaw Bay, has a fine harbor at its mouth, and is navigable for lumber boats six miles up from the Bay.

The Yellow or Norway Pine predominates in this region; and also on Pine River. It grows very tall and straight and is of the best quality. For tenacity and strength it is unsurpassed by any other species of Pine. That of Georgia and North Carolina, so celebrated for its hard texture and toughness, is inferior in these respects to the Norway Pine of Michigan, as has been practically demonstrated in the construction of the Bridge across the Potomac at Washington. In selecting the timber for that structure, a trial was made of the different kinds of wood, including the Georgia Pine and the Norway Pine of Michigan, to test the relative power to support weights, which resulted in favor of the latter. It was found to be capable of bearing a weight of several thousand pounds more than the Georgia Pine. The power of tension also resulted, after a severe trial, very much in favor of Michigan Norway over Georgia Pine.

ALCONA COUNTY.

Four thousand acres situated on the Sable and Pine Rivers, near the mouth of the Sable, which empties into Saginaw Bay.

It is all well timbered, and has good mill sites. The Sable is navigable for lumber vessels.

SCHOOLCRAFT COUNTY.

Nine thousand acres on the branches of the Monistique emptying into Lake Michigan at its head, affording a fine harbor for lumber vessels. Near the mouth of, and on the River, belonging to this tract, is one of the best water privileges in the State.

SAGINAW COUNTY.

Five thousand acres situated on the Tittibasse and Saginaw Rivers, in the heart of the great lumber region of Saginaw, easy of access, and first quality of Pine timber. Also, 2,500 acres on the Coqualaene, emptying into Saginaw Bay.

Mr. Ward has also for sale 8,000 acres of Prairie lands in Iowa, situated in Mitchell and Worth counties. These lands are said by good judges to be equal to the best farming lands in Iowa.

