

**Protect the Forests.**

[Chicago News.]

The present depression of the lumber interest is not without its brighter side, inasmuch as it gives a little longer lease of life to our few remaining forests. How rapidly they are being depleted may be judged from the fact that the annual lumber crop is estimated at \$800,000,000, which is more than any other crop produced in this country. Two millions of laborers find employment in this industry. With a fatality greater than that of the secretive ostrich our laws impose a tariff upon Canadian lumber, thus hastening the speedy finishing up of our own forests, which no man now living will see restored. Upon the destruction of the forests grave meteorological consequences follow. The forests do not increase the rainfall, but they serve to store up the water and to steady the flow of the rivers, which but for their assistance would alternate between raging torrents and mere dry beds. The ordinary laws of supply and demand do not operate to protect the forests. For, since the timber upon the land is worth many times over what the government asks for the land, the greedy speculator fells and destroys with extravagant enterprise. It is necessary, therefore, to educate a vigorous public opinion in favor of free foreign lumber and the protection of our own supplies, which will soon be exhausted, with consequences such as will busy the next generation or two in undoing. It will not be easy to work this reform, for the depressed lumber interests will be clamorous for a yet higher "protection," and in such a case the few who want it, and "want it bad," far outweigh the merely negative state of the millions who do not want it. Congress is a victim of the "zeitgeist"; it looks out first for number one, and next it joins with Mr. Matthew Arnold in regarding the cries of the sacred few immediately adjacent to "number one." It is the people who must protect the forests.

**What Builds Up the Country.**

[Corinth (Miss.) Herald.]

Producers of wealth build up the country. The tillers of the soil add the results of their labor to the public, as well as to their individual wealth. And the manufacturer who takes the raw material, and by working upon it, increases its value, is a producer of just so much wealth. If the farmer by producing a bale of cotton adds \$50 to the public wealth, the one that manufactures it doubles its value, and the two combined have produced a hundred dollars. To build up the country, then, it is not necessary to have the farmer, but the mechanic, machinist, and manufacturer.

The possible productiveness of a country is only reached when the raw material of every character is subjected to the manufacturer. That country is not prospering as it should which sends off all its cotton, wool and hides to be manufactured in other States, and lets its own timber rot in the forest while it sends abroad for furniture, wagons, buggies, plow-stocks and ax-handles.

Towns belong to the country, and adds more or less to the building up the country. But merchants alone cannot build up a town. Town and country are both interested in the establishment of factories, both are benefitted by the increased production as well as the convenience.

The country cannot succeed with all its people farmers, nor a town with its whole population merchants. Diversity of calling is essential; one is dependent on the other, and each derive a support from the other. There is no need of encouraging men to become merchants; the demand is always supplied. But encouragement is needed to get our people into manufacturing, and that the greatest possible value may be produced, and the country be built up and grow wealthy.

Delinquent tax-payers in Madagascar are compelled to work out their dues by serving in the army.

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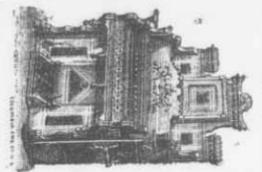
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