



OUTSIDE views of a newspaper office are very varied, and often quite amusing. Will Carlton's poem of the farmer who wanted to make an editor 'outen' of his boy Jim is one view of the material of which editors are supposed to be made. It is needless to say that the old farmer was off color on this occasion. In a sketchy article in a recent Scribner we have a lumberman's idea of the kind of timber used in making ye editor which, it may be remarked, hits the situation more closely than did Mr. Hayseed. "Newspaper making," says Julius Ralph, the writer of the article, "is not a business, except in the publication office. It is not a business - as the word is meant to be used - in the editorial or reporters' rooms. The kind of brains that are powerful there would not fit a man to earn his salt in trade. Once, when I called on a millionaire for a piece of news, at seven o'clock every morning, twice a day at his office, and at least once every night at his home, he said to me, 'You newspaper men amaze me by your persistence and enterprise. I have made ten millions in the lumber business, but if I could have employed young men like the newspaper reporters, I would have made one hundred millions in half the time.'"

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Mr. D. Ring, foreman of the Bronson & Weston lumber company, returned to Ottawa a few weeks ago. He has been engaged for over a month on the construction of a short railroad as overseer. At Bay Lake where he was working at the very head waters of the Grand river, some 50,000 logs are being piled ready for transshipment across the height of land and thence down by the tributary streams saving a long turn of several hundred miles. The storms in that region he describes as most terrific, tearing the mighty trees of the forest and doing great damage.

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"My shipments," said Mr. Norman McIntyre, of Durham, "are altogether of elm and ash, which goes as square timber to the United Kingdom. This season I am finding trade slow. The British markets are very lacking in buoyancy and it does not look as though a period of revival was near by. It had been my intention to cut considerable during the coming winter, but unless business looks up between now and the time to get to work in the woods, I shall withhold much logging next winter. There is a good supply of elm and ash in our district. I don't speak of soft elm, which, I understand, is rather scarce."

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"Business is pretty quiet in Canada so far as lumber is concerned," said Hon. R. A. Loveland, president of the Saginaw Lumber & Salt Co., on his return from a trip through the Dominion and the eastern states. "Prices are maintained, however, and the people are all eyes and ears as to what is going on this side of the line and what congress will do. They seem to think over there that if the purchasing clause in the silver bill is repealed it will inspire greater confidence. The banks think very favorably of the operations of Michigan lumbermen and have had extensive operations with them. I have been told by Canadian bank officials that they have always found them prompt and reliable. In regard to the New England market and Boston, prices have not dropped materially on pine lumber but spruce has declined considerably. In looking over the Albany market, I've never seen so small a stock on hand for this season of the year and the dealers say that the buyers in the month of July were few and far between, but they are now looking for a good fall trade. In my judgment there would be very little, if any, more lumber sold if prices were reduced. Our company has plenty of logs and our own mill at Crow Island is running full capacity and three mills of Bay City are cutting logs for us. We have plenty of dockage room for the next

ninety days. The yard trade as a whole is quiet and Micawber-like is waiting for something to turn up."

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"Experience," says Mr. Geo. Hague, general manager of the Merchants Bank, "shows that it is more and more difficult to carry on business successfully. There was a time when almost anybody could make money either out of farming or any other pursuit. In these days it is impossible to succeed without a practical knowledge of business, close application, the adoption of all new methods and appliances, and the exercise of sound judgment and self-restraint in giving credit. The banks, as a whole, hold the purse-strings of the supply of gold for mercantile purposes, and all my experience points to this conclusion that they have it in their power to do much to promote mercantile success or failure. I verily believe, looking back over the varied events of thirty years' management in Toronto and Montreal, that if the banks generally came to a good understanding among themselves as to the manner in which they would lend money, the rules they would adopt about the security for it, and as to limitation in amounts according to the circumstances of borrowers, the number and amount of the failures that occur year by year might be diminished one-half. I put this on record as my deliberate opinion, and would be glad if due note were taken of it. What benefit would arise from this you can readily imagine. I for one would be well pleased to see it."

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Mr. McRae, of McRae & Co., Ottawa, Ont., speaking of the new patent for the treatment of beech and birch woods, the control of which has been secured by his firm, said: "The great objection hitherto held against these woods is the fact that they are very difficult to season, and even when they have been seasoned fully 40 per cent. is defective. By the new process the sap is sweated out of the boards by being placed, in a green state, in steam chambers for twelve days, after which it is put into the drying chamber for two or three days, according to thickness, and then, by a chemical application the wood is stained throughout a rich walnut color. The process has been tried on a large scale in Germany for the past eighteen months, and has proved such a success that experts acknowledge that wood so treated is superior to walnut, and the owners there write that they are quite unable to supply the demand. No country in the world has such forests of beech and birch as Canada, and the discovery of this process will no doubt greatly enhance their value. A trial kiln has been built in Ottawa, and the first parcel turned out is so satisfactory that works for the treatment of twenty-five car loads monthly will be erected there immediately, and arrangements made for the erection of two other plants, one in western Canada, and the other in the Province of Quebec. It is probable that the bulk of the first season's output will be shipped to England, where the wood is well known and can be readily sold on a profitable basis."

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An Ottawa gentleman, who believes he knows the lumber business of Ontario and Quebec quite familiarly, talked freely the other day of the profitable deals that have been made at various times in Canadian timber. He said: "William Mackey bought, I think, for \$30 the Amable du Fond timber limit 130 square miles on the Mattawa river thirty-one years ago. He has held it since, occasionally cutting a little timber, and eight or ten years ago he was offered and refused \$76,000 for the limit. This was not a bad advance on the original price, but this spring, it is said, a bid of three-quarters of a million dollars came to Mr. Mackey for this same limit. And gauged by the advance in value of other limits in the same period, this appreciation in value is not exceptional. Mr. Mackey again declined. Mossom Boyd, in 1886, paid \$86,000 for 68 square miles of pine timber on the north side of Lake Nipissing, which affords an outlet for logs to Georgian Bay, whence the logs are rafted across Lake Huron to the Michigan sawmills. Boyd did not cut any timber on this limit. He held it until last year untouched, when it was sold for \$450,000 to Davidson & Hay, Toronto. Six years brought him a profit of 400 per cent., or over \$360,000. The Hon. Peter White, of Pembroke, Speaker

of the Dominion House of Commons, bought a limit of 150 square miles on the Magnassippi river, near Mattawa, from David Bell fifteen years ago for \$72,000. Last year he sold this territory, on which meanwhile he had felled a good deal of timber, to the Hurdman firm, of Ottawa, for another quarter of a million. They say that J. R. Booth seven years ago bought from Charles Smith, of Ottawa, for \$67,000, a pine limit on the north shore of Lake Superior. That limit is now held at \$400,000. J. K. Ward, of Montreal, bought four or five years ago from the Mercier government of Quebec province, a timber limit on Lake Expansé, among the head waters of the Ottawa, paying, it is said, some \$3 a mile. He holds it now at \$1,000 a mile. Perley & Pattee sold to Arthur Hill & Co., of Saginaw, Mich., a large limit on the Madawaska for a big sum, said to be close on half a million dollars. Sixteen or eighteen years before they bought it for a few thousands. The story is told that Mr. G. P. Brophy was standing in the rotunda of the Russell hotel one day some eight years ago, when a business acquaintance stepped up and offered to sell him a small limit on the Upper Ottawa. "What's your price?" said Mr. Brophy. "Twelve thousand dollars." "I will give you eight thousand." "Make it ten," said the seller. Mr. Brophy is a keen, sharp business man, as well as competent engineer, and no man in Canada has better chances of sizing up speculative opportunities in timber. But he could not, any more than any one else did, calculate at the time the money in timber limits. He declined. Subsequently the limit was offered to him at his own figure. He again declined and he had the pleasure last year of seeing the same limit change hands at \$86,000."

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Editor Met L. Saley, of the Northwestern Lumberman, in a paper on "Ignorance Concerning Woods," read before the World's Fair Congress, said: "If I were to arraign more severely one class of men than another for their ignorance concerning woods, it would be our architects, for the reason that it is their business to know. They can tell us about the wearing quality of stones, the crushing strength of this material and that, but when it comes to any specific knowledge of the lumber used inside of our houses for doors, casings, floors, mop boards, and possibly ceilings - objects which are constantly before our eyes - they are woefully ignorant. When furnishing a fine house you select for one room furniture, carpets and draperies of colors to blend, and for adjoining rooms other shades to carry out a general idea of harmony. If the upholstering of the furniture, the carpets or the portieres were to turn another color, the harmony would be destroyed. So it may be destroyed through the lack of knowledge on the part of the architect. Were you to ask the question, 'I desire to finish my front parlor in one kind of wood, my back parlor in another, the reception hall in another, my library in another; now as these rooms are practically one, what woods shall I use in order that the harmony may be preserved after the house shall have been in use for years?' I am fearful that you would fail to find an architect who could answer it. Architects pay little attention to these vital points, which are really most intimately connected with their business - in fact, are and should be regarded as a part of their business. I am not aware that an architectural journal has given a line to this subject, and the furniture papers are equally dumb. Exposure has much to do in changing the color of wood. There is a piece of wood on my desk of a rich, dark brown color, and no man into whose hands it has been placed has rightly named the kind. The color which age has given to it misleads as to identity. A shaving taken from it with a knife reveals a bright saffron color, for it is nothing but osage orange. It has been remarked that yellow pine as finish is too glaring; for no great length of time will it offend the supersensitive eye in this respect, however. It becomes darker and darker, until it acquires the shade of old mahogany. The grainer's occupation is gone. No man can now earn a living by counterfeiting woods. People have learned in this line that nature surpasses art. Even in many of the cheaper dwellings now erected the finish is in natural wood. Considering the fact that wood in its natural state is used so extensively, it seems to me that architects and builders should make a study of it."