THE RETAILER AND Wood-Worker

UNIQUE SPECIMEN OF WOODWORK.

AFTER sixteen years of labor, off and on, Llewellyn Cunningham, of 184 Adams street, Dorchester, N.B., has recently completed a table which stands unique as a specimen of handiwork with carpenters' tools. When it is stated that in the construction of this piece of furniture the maker has utilized over 160,000 separate pieces of wood, the reader will have a slight idea of the magnitude of the task. It is not alone in this, however, that the interest in the table lies, for included in the immense number of pieces worked into its construction there are 270 different species of wood, from all parts of the world, as well as relics from railroad disasters, floods, big fires, battle-fields and old government ships, and others commemorative of important events.

Mr. Cunningham began work on the table in 1882, then having considerable leisure at his disposal, and from that time until the present he has worked a few hours each day upon the affair. During all these years he has kept strict account of the hours so spent, and he reckons them at 3,692. The result is that in its completed state the table is not only ornamental, but useful as well. By Mr. Cunningham's ingenuity, patience and perseverance, he has worked every piece together, however small, into odd and striking designs, which are inlaid on the top, bottom and legs. The central design in the top is a checker board, which contains the largest pieces to be found in the table. These are 1½ inches square. The finest work, into which are worked the smallest pieces, figures about 1,200 of them to the square inch. Of the various soft woods, a very small piece of each has been utilized. Of the hard and rare woods many pieces of the same kind were used. These woods were obtained at considerable expense and labor, and came from every state and territory in the United States, as well as from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Cape Breton Island, British Columbia, Quebec, Manitoba, Mexico, Chile, Peru, the Andes Mountains, Bolivia, United States of Columbia, Honduras, Venezuela, the Guianas, Ecuador, Brazil, Argentina, Rio de Janeiro, Trinidad, Russia, China, Japan, Siberia, Asia Minor, Turkey in Asia, Constantinople, Austria, Hungary, Prussia, Poland, Sweden, Lapland, Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, England, Ireland, Scotland, Norway, Greece, Cyprus, Sicily, Sardinia, Borneo, Sumatra, Singapore, Arabia, Persia, Madagascar, Liberia, Australia, Zanzibar, Africa, Cairo, Tasmania, Sandwich Islands, Society Islands, Samoa, Cuba and Porto Rico.

Among the many important events from which relics are worked into its construction are the railroad disaster at Ashtabula, Aug. 29, 1876; Spuyten Duyvel, Jan. 13, 1882, and the Quincy wreck, Aug. 19, 1890; also the big fires of Portland, Me., in 1860; Chicago, in 1871; St. John, N.B., in 1877; Boston, in 1872, and Seattle, Wash., in 1889, and the floods of Mill River, 1874, and Johnstown, in 1889.

Other interesting souvenirs are from the old government ships Ohio and Merrimac; a piece of the Benedict Arnold house in New Haven, Ct.; a piece of the Judges' cave and the old Yale fence in the same city; a piece of shrub near Ledyard monument on the hill opposite New London; a piece of the old Liberty elm, Boston, and the old Washington elm, Cambridge; a piece of a wrecked car at the Pittsburg riot in 1877; a piece of the stock of a rifle shot off at Gettysburg, July 1, 1863, and a piece of the deck load of the barkentine Herbert Fuller, when she lay in Halifax harbor.

MAKING FIGURED VENEER.

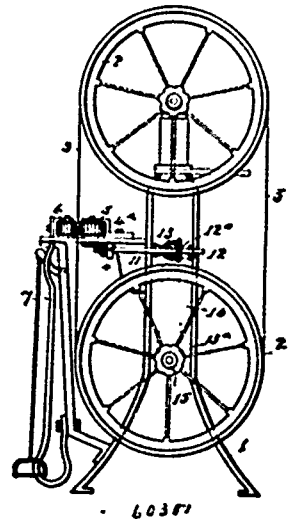
THE Timber Trades Journal, of London, England, gives out the formula by which a curious yet beautifully figured piece of veneer is now being made. It is difficult to secure figured wood which can be thoroughly relied upon, but by this method a figure is artificially produced with the certainty of securing a very effective result. The process has mainly been applied to Italian walnut. An ordinary log is first cut into veneers of perhaps thirty to the inch. These veneers are then glued together and pressed into a corrugated steel mould until a solid block several inches in thickness is secured, which is of a corrugated shape. From this block veneers are then cut, so that in each leaf of the new veneer the figures and marking of some eight others are intermingled, and a sort of fine tortoise-shell figure is produced. The effect is said to be strikingly beautiful, and there is little or no evidence in the veneers of how they were produced.

DEMAND FOR DOVE-TAILING MACHINES IN FRANCE.

THE United States Consul at Nantes, France, writes:—"One of the leading business men of Nantes informs me that certain American wood-working machines used in dove-tailing lumber for packing cases would find a market here. The gentleman was unable to give the name of the manufacturer, or the exact name of the machine, but said he saw them working in England, and that they did their work neatly and rapidly. An immense amount of lumber is constantly used here in making the cases in which small sardine boxes and packages of conserves are packed for shipment. Not only could the machine be used in Nantes in dove-tailing lumber for boxes, but also at Brest, Lorient and Concarneau, where other large sardine factories are located, and at Samur, where quantities of fine wines are packed for shipment. Thousands of cases are also used by the extensive biscuit factories of Nantes. Manufacturers wishing to place the machines on the market in this part of France will do well by corresponding with Mr. Edward Kerr, 3 rue Gresset, Nantes." Here is an opening for Canadian manufacturers of wood-working machines.

PATENTS FOR WOOD-WORKING MACHINERY.

PATENTS have recently been granted in Canada for the following wood-working devices:

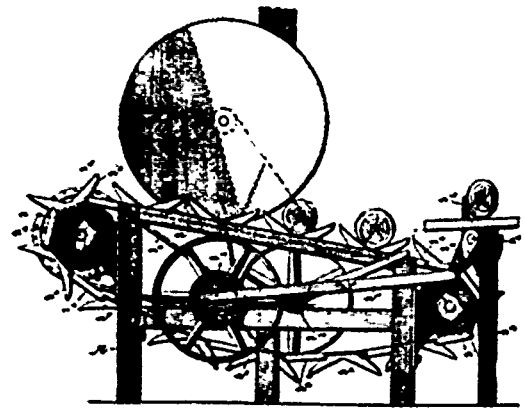


60351

MACHINE FOR SAWING BARREL HOOPS.

Patentee: T. C. Seckel, Bay City, Mich., granted June 13th, 1898; 6 years.

CLAIM.—In a machine for sawing barrel hoops from poles, having a band saw with a horizontal swing table and a yielding whip roller, flexibly mounted, combination feeding and guiding mechanism, consisting of a vertical guide roller at the side of the saw and substantially on the same transverse line with the saw teeth and the axis of whip roller, together with means of rotating said roller at a speed proportional to the speed of the saw, the roller being mounted on a line with the teeth of the saw, and forming a fulcrum about which to swerve the pole in feeding.



60313

WOOD SAWING MACHINE.

Patentee: Samuel W. Butterfield, Three Rivers, Que., granted 13th June, 1898; 6 years.

CLAIM.—In a log sawing machine, comprising a frame, drums mounted on each end of frame, a series of log carrying chains mounted on said drums, and having movement thereon, said chains being adapted to carry a log into and past the movement of a saw, and an automatic log releasing device adapted to place the logs on said chains singly. The log carrying chain comprises a series of log carrying links, and a series of connecting bars arranged alternately; a link having a V-shaped opening, and log engaging teeth extending inwardly from the sides of said opening, the chains being arranged in a manner to retain the portions of the log after being sawed.

Readers of THE LUMBERMAN who contemplate enlarging their mill, or purchasing new machinery of any kind, are asked to advise us of their requirements. Such information is greatly appreciated.