



It seems pertinent to dwell for a moment on the subject of lumber limit values. Recent events suggest an enquiry, has the appetite for pine timber been appeased? Or may it be that so much has been heard of late regarding the magnificent fortunes awaiting the holders of pine limits that it has created a desire on the part of owners for an immediate realization of this unexpected wealth, and they have fixed their reserve bids beyond what others have considered to be the market value of the property. The fact remains that several auction sales of good timber properties have recently fallen flat. Going to one of these sales a few days ago, a few minutes after the appointed hour, about a dozen persons were seen departing from the chambers, and an inquiry from the auctioneer elicited the response "no bid." This is in striking contrast to the results of similar sales held in the fall of last year, when every one seemed to want limits and excellent figures were received. What is the deduction?

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Few men of his years have had a wider experience in the lumber business than Mr. J. M. Thompson, now on the road for Meaney & Company, Toronto. About ten years of his experience was gained in the Eastern States; for some time he was manager at Calendar for Robert Thompson & Company, of Hamilton; and for a few years was in charge of the business of the late Hon. A. R. Dickey, at Sheet Harbor, Nova Scotia. He knows the business from start to finish. When at Sheet Harbor Mr. Thompson had considerable to do with British trade, of which he has very pleasant recollections. "The first specification submitted to me" said he, when relating some incidents, "was not easily deciphered, but I soon became accustomed to the trade and found it very satisfactory. Once you get a connection with a British house," he added, "you can rely on their business, provided you fill your orders properly. Their specifications call for different sizes than are generally used in this country, but it is not a difficult matter, with the specifications before you, to cut the stock as desired." Mr. Thompson is one who believes that Canadian manufacturers might easily supply a much larger quantity of stock to the British market if they would push for the business and give the Britisher what he requires. He does not think that they are as hard to satisfy as is generally supposed.

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One who is laboring earnestly for the extension of Canadian trade is Mr. Thomas Moffat, whom I met in Toronto recently. Mr. Moffat is the Canadian Government agent at Cape Town, South Africa, and has spent the past few months in Canada securing information from manufacturers, and incidentally renewing old acquaintances. Mr. Moffat believes that if our manufacturers would advertise themselves in South Africa it would be the means of bringing them consider-

able business. Another suggestion made was that samples be sent to the Canadian buildings in Cape Town, which are under the control of the commission firm of Moffat, Hutchins & Company, of which he is a member. They would there be inspected by importers. Speaking more particularly of lumber, Mr. Moffat stated that a considerable quantity was now being received at Cape Town from British Columbia, whereas a few years ago almost the entire importation from the Pacific coast was from Washington and Oregon. And I believe Mr. Moffat was largely instrumental in changing the course of trade from the Western States to British Columbia. It was a source of satisfaction to learn that the British Columbia product has now a firm hold on the market, and is believed to be better than the Washington production, there being a difference in grain. The western fir meets with favor in South Africa on account of its large size. The demand there for large timber has been a drawback to shipments from eastern Canada. Quebec pine deals, for instance, would average perhaps sixteen feet in length, while the building trade in South Africa calls for an average length of about twenty-two feet. The reason of this is that the rooms there are made larger than in this country. Mr. Moffat spoke very emphatically as to the desire of importers to get consignments direct from the manufacturer. He sees no reason why the manufacturer cannot ship direct. In proof of this statement, he referred to a commission which had been given him to purchase a cargo of deals direct from some of the Canadian mill owners, the object being, of course, to secure the stock at the lowest possible cost by eliminating middlemen's profits. Mr. Moffat returns to his home in Cape Town some time this month.

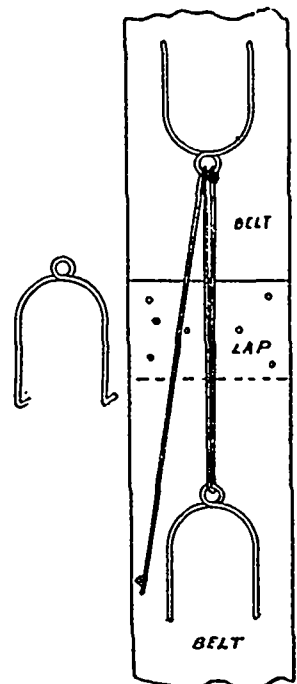
WOOD PRESERVATION.

Another addition to the numerous existing processes designed to prevent decay in wood is now being introduced into Great Britain by the Xylosote Company in the shape of the Hasselmann system. In this the timber to be treated is enclosed in a cylindrical vessel in which a fairly high vacuum can be produced by a suitable air-pump. When the sap has been drawn out of the pores under the diminished pressure a solution of metallic and mineral salts is allowed to flow into the vessel, and the wood is steeped in this for some hours under a certain pressure of steam and at a temperature of about 130 deg. C. Then, after being dried, it is ready for use. The impregnating liquid is a solution of the sulphates of copper and iron, whose preservative properties are generally acknowledged, together with some aluminium, potassium, and magnesium salts. The inventor of the process maintains that the copper destroys any germs of decay that may be present, while the iron combines with the cellulose, or woody fibre, to form a compound which is insoluble in water and hence cannot be washed out by the action of rain. The salts in this way are made to permeate the substance of the wood, and are not merely deposited mechanically as minute crystals in the pores by the evaporation of the solvent. It is claimed for the process, which, apart from the drying, takes about four hours, that it greatly reduces the inflammability of the wood, enables it to take a brilliant

polish, and increases the hardness of certain soft woods to such an extent as to render them available for purposes to which formerly they could not be applied. Another advantage attributed to it is that it saves the expense of seasoning in the ordinary way, since perfectly green wood after treatment neither shrinks nor warps. The process appears already to have gained considerable recognition abroad; thus it is stated that the Bavarian State railways and post office have contracted to have all their sleepers and poles up to 1905 treated by it, while the Swedish Government has adopted the system and ordered 600,000 sleepers preserved by its use.

A HANDY BELT STRETCHER

"REX," in the American Miller, describes a belt stretching device he has used for ten years past and considers the most convenient tool, barring saw and hammer, that he has in the mill. The forks are made out of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch round iron. The turned points should be one-half inch long



and slightly hooked so they will not pull out of the belt.

Punch holes in the belt far enough above and below the lap or lace so they will not be too close together when the belt is drawn tight. Tie the rope in the eye of the upper one, bring it down and through the eye of the lower fork and then up and through the upper one again. Now, pull down on the rope until the belt is sufficiently tight, then take a loop hitch with the loose end around the taunt rope below the upper eye and you are ready to splice.

With this simple arrangement a miller can take up an elevator or other belt with less labor and time than by any other method I have seen.

The rod for making each fork should be 16 to 18 inches long and the eye should be at least one inch in diameter, so the rope will pass through without riding. The cost will not be over 25 cents.

The Orillia Export Lumber Company write: "The Export Number has come to hand, and we think you have succeeded in getting out a very nice number indeed."

W. H. McAuliffe, of Ottawa, has purchased property on Duke street in that city, on which he is building several residences. He will open a lumber yard in the year,