

NEWS AND NOTES.

Snow in the Georgian bay district is about 14 inches deep and good progress is being made in skidding.

Mr. Ed. Fumette, while working in the Muskoka Mill and Lumber Co's. camps, had the misfortune to cut his foot.

John Burr, foreman of the Columbia River Lumber Company, B. C., was shot in the face a few days ago, whilst engaged in an altercation with a provincial constable.

Ewan Cameron, Desert, Ont., has assigned. He was a pulp wood contractor, but started a general store in December 1892, without previous experience, succeeding one, Geo. Alderson.

A fire destroyed the lumber camp of Charles Angus, Cedar Lake, north of Kingston, on Jan. 1st. Wm. McLeod, a young man, was suffocated and burned to death. Some others were badly burned.

Mrs. Mackay, widow of William Mackay, lumber merchant, Ottawa, died a few days ago, after a week's illness. Mrs. Mackay resided at the Capital for nearly sixty years and leaves a large circle of relatives and friends, by whom she will be greatly missed.

F. Atkinson, saw mill, Ailsa Craig, Ont., is financially embarrassed and seeking an extension of time. Liabilities direct \$1,600; indirect \$200 or \$300; assets \$3,000 to \$3,500, nominally. He was formerly a cooper, and started his present business a few months ago.

Fifty years ago twenty-five per cent. of the logs entered at the large sawmills in the State of Maine was returned to the rivers as waste in the state of slabs. Now there is scarcely a foot of it wasted. Modern inventions have found a way to utilize everything, and the surplus seldom gets in advance of the demand.

In the course of a week a vessel will leave Vancouver for East London, South Africa, and the cargo of lumber which she carries will be the first from Vancouver to the dark continent. Three ships destined thereto have already left Puget Sound, but the Talbot is the pioneer from Vancouver in the new avenue for exportation.

Mr. John Sykes, of Oshawa, who called on the LUMBERMAN the other day, says he is doing a large trade with the cedar shingles of British Columbia. He is able at present prices on the coast to lay them down here at a close figure. Mr. Syke. is of the opinion there is an increased trade to be done in the manufacture of doors, sash, and blinds.

It has been affirmed that 1,100 years or more before Christ, some ingenious Chinamen invented the mariner's compass. A writer to the China Review, who has been investigating the subject, now asserts that the first unmistakable mention of the compass in the Chinese records is not earlier than the twelfth century of our era, and the instrument undoubtedly became known in Europe before the return from China of Marco Polo, who is fabled to have brought it in his baggage.

An effort is being made by Mr. A. R. Sutton to enlist support for a company, which he says is ready to undertake to secure charters from the Canadian and United States governments for ship canals between Canadian and American waters. He proposes to construct a ship canal between Welland canal and Niagara river, below the falls, and another system that shall connect St. Lawrence river and the Hudson by way of Lake Champlain. He has recently been to Washington in connection with the proposed work.

An Ottawa news item says: "Barnes & Co., who carried on an extensive box shoo business in this city several years ago, and afterward removed to Rouse's Point, disposed of their business at that place a few days ago to the Mallard Lumber Company. John McFarlane, of the latter company, was in the city yesterday. The box business was quite a profitable industry in Ottawa until the United States tariff on manufactured lumber put an end to it. The imposition of the duty obliged Mr. Barnes to close down here, and when he did so he removed to Rouse's Point, N. Y. There is some prospect of the business being revived here under the new Wilson tariff, which imposes a lower duty on dressed lumber."

H. H. Spicer, of Vancouver, B. C., one of the largest shingle manufacturers of the Pacific Coast, anticipates a new trade with Honolulu and Australia, and will send trial shipments of shingles to these countries. He places his chief reliance for trade, however, on the home market, only regretting that desperate competition has of late made this trade unprofitable. The new association of Coast shingle manufacturers may be a means of remedying this evil. As an outcome of over production of shingles in 1892, very little was done in 1893 as the existing surplus was amply sufficient to supply the demand. The competition of the Soo Pacific Railway, however, opens up a possible market in the district of Ohio, etc., though a duty of 30 cents per M. constitutes a serious obstacle seeing that 30 cts. is often enough the full amount of profit dealers calculate upon receiving upon the same quantity. The largest quantity of shingles ever shipped to the East, beyond Winnipeg, was made by Spicer & Co. this summer and consisted of 15 car loads or about 15,000,000 shingles.

Alonzo Wright, familiarly known from one end of the Dominion to the other as the "King of the Gattineau," died of pneumonia the early days of the present month. Deceased was born in the month of February, seventy-one years ago, in the village of Hull, which was founded by his grandfather, Philemon Wright, who was one of those patriots who refused to remain in Massachusetts after the revolutionary war and came to this section, the sight of Hull being then an Indian trading post. He later on bought the Farmer mill and went extensively into lumbering operations, but fortune played him false, and for many years he had much to grieve his spirit owing to financial inability to meet his demands. In after life all this difficulty was removed, and succeeding good luck enabled him and his partner to lend a helping hand to those who were in distress to an almost unlimited extent. His grandfather was originally a member of the Lower Canadian Assembly and to this body deceased was returned in the year 1862, remaining a member of parliament until the general election of 1890 when he retired.

THE MAN AND THE MACHINE.

THERE was a former time when an issue was made in the minds of working people principally in the form of "Men vs. Machines," and a labor saving invention was believed to be entirely antagonistic to the interests of manual labor, says the Metal Worker. In mechanical processes especially brains were popularly considered a less important factor than muscle, and men clung to primitive ways because they were old, and to their limited views, satisfactory. Happily, that time of obstinate ignorance is past, the prejudice against machines has largely abated, and the trials of inventors have taken a different form. It is probably that the triumphs of steam have so settled opposition that its competitor and possible successor, electricity, will have less to contend against. We have learned that the man and the machine are not in opposition, but are both important factors in the world of industry.

We would call attention to what may be termed the teaching of machinery, meaning the attempt to learn from its operations, if possible, a way of working which the artisan may copy to advantage. The machine, while it is on duty, so to speak, attends strictly to business, carrying on processes of construction assigned to it, whether simple or complex, in a consecutive, orderly, and perhaps monotonous manner. We do not imply that the man should be a mere automaton, but that the head and the hands should both be interested. If the labor is such that the hands do it nearly independently, the head may be seeking a method of helping them. In this manner inventions are generated and the machine is made which does the work faster and better than it was previously done. In those constructive operations where the machine has not replaced the man, experience has taught that the doing of the right thing at the right time, or "machine fashion," is productive of the best results. The discipline of soldiers, which is largely effective in producing a reliable fighting machine which moves at the will of a controlling mind, is illustrative of that attention to routine and detail which the young mechanic will find a good rule to work by. The ma-

chine has come to stay, and the man must adapt himself to it, learning the lesson that undivided attention to the work in hand, with a systematic progression, from start to finish, will make him successful both as a man and a machine.

WOOD-WORLD WAIFLETS.

A QUEER drum is in use among the Nagas of India. It is formed from the trunk of a large tree, hollowed and elaborately carved and painted in front, after the manner of the figure-head of a ship, and furnished at the other end with a straight tail. The drum is raised from the ground on logs of wood. It is sounded by letting a heavy piece of wood fall against it, and by beating it with double-headed hammers.

There are 30 varieties of bamboo, the smallest six inches and the largest 150 feet tall.

Gutta percha is no longer obtained by cutting down the trees producing it. M. Rigol claims to have invented a process for extracting the material from leaves and prunings, so that the trees will no longer be sacrificed. A plantation near Singapore is about to be worked on the new method.

The period of growth in various trees has been ascertained by counting the number of rings in a horizontal section of the trunk. By this it appears that the elm lives 300 years; ivy, 325; maple, 516; larch, 576; orange, 630; cypress and olive, 800; walnut, 900; oriental plane, 1,000; lime, 1,100; spruce, 1,200; oak, 1,300; cedar, 2,000; and yew, 3,200.

One-sixth of the surface of Belgium is taken up by wood and forest. This is surprising, in the face of the manufacturing character of its industrial population and its being the most densely peopled country of Europe.

STEAM BOILER INSURANCE.

WE take pleasure in directing the attention of the owners of boilers to the advertisement of a London Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company which appears on the sixteenth page of this issue. Judging from the large number of disastrous explosions which have taken place in Canada and the United States, it is about time that steam users were awakened to the fact that an insurance company with a heavy monetary interest in the boiler and premises will see that the boiler is in a safe condition, and that the man in charge of the engine is capable and trustworthy. It is better that the responsibility should be assumed by a company that has a staff of trained engineers, than by the owner of the boiler, who, except in a few cases, is not capable of judging of the condition of his steam plant. Within the last two weeks there were four explosions of steam boilers in Canada, all of which resulted fatally to those in charge of and in the immediate vicinity of the boilers, to say nothing about the loss through damage of the property. The subject of boiler inspection is receiving more consideration to day than it has for a long time.

HIGHLY COMPLIMENTARY.

WHEN Mr. John A. Reinhardt, the manager for Washington Territory of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co., was spending his holidays a few weeks ago with friends in Strathroy, he took a policy on his brother with the Ontario Mutual Life Assurance Co., on the twenty payment life, twenty year survivorship distribution plan. On the receipt of the policy he wrote to the company's agent as follows:

"DEAR SIR,—Your favor enclosing my brother's policy was received this morning; accept thanks. I have read it over carefully and am entirely satisfied with the contract. It is just as you represented it, and strikes me as extremely liberal—but not too much so.

"For a young man I think it is the best policy written, and I believe your company writes the best contract on that plan offered to the insuring public to-day.—I am, yours respectfully,
J. A. REINHARDT."
Spokane, Wash., Sept. 7th, 1893.

MR. SEAMEN, of Seamen & Newman, of Warton, Ont., when renewing the firm's subscription to the CANADA LUMBERMAN, a week ago, said: "We appreciate the LUMBERMAN very much, and would not want to be without it."