

top of one another and put enough pieces on edge to fill out the space.

Employers should teach their employees the necessity of careful handling and neat piling. While in this era of cheapness it may be necessary to keep the cost of handling down to the minimum, yet it is the clear, bright, carefully handled stock that brings the most money and meets with ready sale.

A DECLARATION WANTED.

In another column will be found the wood schedule of the Dingley bill as finally passed by the United States congress. The two dollar rate on both pine and hardwoods has been maintained, while the duty on shingles and other classes of wood goods is equally protective. The result of the imposition of this duty cannot well be foreshadowed. It will not, we believe, prove to be in the best interests of the United States, which is to a large extent dependent upon Canada for raw material, and that it will cause a transformation in the Canadian trade may safely be predicted.

The lumber interests of the two countries are closely allied. The United States is looking to Canada for her supply of saw logs and pulp wood, while in the United States Canadian lumbermen find their natural market. But by means of a tariff wall, initiated by the American government, the two countries are to be separated, probably to the detriment of both. The president's signature has been affixed to the Dingley bill, and it now remains for the Dominion government to declare whether we shall meekly submit to the injustice of the bill or adopt retaliatory measures.

Whatever course may be decided upon, the lumbermen of this country are entitled to an early declaration from the Governor-General, to whom has been given the power to impose an export duty on saw logs. The time is drawing near when preparations must be made for operations in the woods, and lumbermen desire to know just where they stand. The government should therefore lose no time in making a declaration regarding the imposition of an export duty.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THERE is manufactured in Ontario each year several million feet of oak lumber, most of which is flat sawn. We would suggest for the consideration of manufacturers the advisability of quarter-sawing a greater quantity, which could be done by the addition of a little machinery, and the outlay would soon be returned by the higher prices obtained for the stock. By quarter-sawing the beauties of the grain are shown to much better advantage, and the boards are not likely to warp. Opinions differ as to the expediency of quarter-sawing, but we believe that no mistake can be made in cutting the best logs at least in this manner.

AN insect, called the spruce gall louse, is said to be working its way into the spruce forests of Ontario, and unless steps are taken looking to its extinction, destructive results may follow. It is said to be a native of the old world, and was imported into the United States in 1867, since which time it has gradually been working northward. The eggs are laid about the end of

July on the small green spines, and remain exposed to the weather all winter and hatch out in the spring. The annual report of the Ontario Clerk of Forestry, which will shortly be published, will contain a paper on the pest prepared by Mr. William Brodie, of Toronto, who has given the matter some attention. If taken in time, it is said to be possible to save a tree by nipping off and burning the affected twigs.

THE maxim that "In Unity there is Strength," has been strikingly illustrated in connection with the question of taxing Canadian lumber. After the tariff bill had passed several stages in the United States Congress with lumber at the \$2 rate, a large meeting of Canadian pine limit holders and dealers was held at Ottawa to protest against the proposed duty, and to urge the Dominion government to retaliate by means of an export duty. Influence was brought to bear on the United States government, and the rate on pine was reduced by the Senate to \$1, but the reduction of the duty on hardwoods was apparently never thought of. In all the deliberations one would suppose that pine was about the only lumber in Ontario. The reason of this is found in the lack of organization in the lumber trade. The pine men have large interests involved, and are therefore given consideration, but unless the hardwood manufacturers combine their interests they cannot hope to secure justice.

IN the past objections have been raised to the red cedar shingles of the Pacific coast on the ground that they were over-dried in order to lessen the cost of transportation to the eastern markets. The folly of this over-drying has gradually become recognized by the manufacturers, and to-day the western shingle is looked upon much more favorably by both dealers and consumers. Partly on this account there has sprung up in the east a demand for red cedar shingles almost unprecedented in the history of the trade, and after several years of heavy stocks manufacturers now find themselves in the somewhat enviable position of being unable to fill orders. The shipper now controls the market, a complete reversal of the conditions which have existed during the past few years. Whether prices will be advanced in the eastern markets it is difficult to say, as cypress shingles, which can be purchased at a lower cost, are also coming in favor, and may influence the market in this respect.

REPAIRING A PORTABLE MILL.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Woodworker thus relates his experience in overhauling a portable mill purchased at an administrator's sale:

"The engine was a 15 horse power center-crank. An examination disclosed the fact that there was a half-inch play in the crank, and both brasses burnt in two. The wrist was corrugated to the depth of one-fourth inch. I was informed by the engineer that when it first commenced heating it would hang up sometimes, but they would 'prize' it off the dead centre with a scantling, and go at it again. He also said the governor belt had broken once, and all hands had taken to the woods, but he had ventured back and stopped it after it had gotten down nearly to its normal speed again. He said no one could

run it, and when I found the eccentric slipped back a sixth of a revolution, I was ready to believe him. The boiler was in fair condition.

"Turning my attention to the mill, I found it to be of the latest variable-feed design, and in fair order except the saw. It was an Emerson, Smith & Co., planer tooth, twenty-eight teeth, twelve of which were out, and each of the other sixteen setting on a separate and distinct angle. The Sawyer, who was also an itinerant preacher, had informed the natives that the mill was no good, and the boiler was liable to 'bust' at any time. This had the effect of scaring off most of the would-be purchasers, and the mill was knocked down to me at one-third of what it had cost a year before.

"Now came the question of repairs, and as several men wanted sawing done where the mill was and that was sixteen miles from the nearest railroad depot, and forty miles thence to a shop I concluded to tackle the job myself. I found the wrist would dress to two and one-half inches, it being originally three; so I ordered a pair of brasses from the makers, bored to two and one-half inches. Then I made a template of sheet iron with a two and one-half inch half circle, being careful to get it perfect. I first cut off the ridges with a cold chisel, then finished it with files, referring often to the template. I left the ends round, instead of bringing to a square corner, to guard against a crack starting, as it was considerably weaker than at first.

"The saw was easy to repair, it being necessary only to let the teeth down one-eighth of an inch in the mouthpieces, and after dressing the plate to suit it was equal to a new saw. For a wonder the tension was all right, and the saw did good work until I broke it in a frozen log.

"I suppose some of the readers of this will ask why I did not send the shaft to the shop to be turned. It would have cost time and money, and I had neither. I worked just two days on the wrist, and started up with a pair of babbitt 'brasses' for temporary use, and by recasting them several times sawed 50,000 or 60,000 feet. When the brasses came and were fitted, my troubles were ended, as it has given no trouble since.

"I sold the mill last summer for \$550 more than it cost me, and thought my steam mill days were over, for a portable mill man sees a hard life of it; but with the return of spring and the flowers that bloom therein, I can feel that fascination for the steam mill working into my bones again, and it will not be many moons ere I will be piloting the festive saw again."

PERSONAL.

Mr. John Allan Cameron, manager of the W. C. Edwards Company, Ottawa, and Mrs. Cameron, have returned from their European wedding tour.

Mr. James Lemay, of New Westminster, B.C., has been appointed crown timber agent for the Dominion Government in British Columbia, in lieu of Mr. Higginson, resigned.

The death is announced of Mr. F. B. Robb, secretary-treasurer of the Robb Engineering Co., of Amherst, N.S. Deceased was bathing at Fox Harbor, when it is supposed he was overcome by the heat.

Mr. Parent, Commissioner of Crown Lands for Quebec, left last week for Lake Temiscamingue, in company with Mr. G. Bryson, M.L.C., and Mr. D. Gillies, M.P.P. The object of the commissioner's visit is to settle some difficulties between the owners of timber limits and the settlers there.