

LOOK OUT FOR FIRE.

One can scarcely pick up a paper, says the *Lumber World*, and glance at its news columns without finding brief particulars of the burning of one or more saw mills, planing mills, furniture factories or other wood-working establishments. We believe we are safe in saying that the proportion of insurance to loss, is less in the case of the burning of wood-working shops than in any other class of industrial establishments, powder mills, of course, excepted, while as a rule, the premium rates for reliable indemnity, are much higher than upon most other classes of risks. This premium rate is so high indeed, as to be, in some cases, almost prohibitive, and loss sustained must, in some instances, be absolute. We know of no class of industrial establishments where vigilance to prevent fire possibility would return so handsome gains as in wood-working shops, and we know of no class where greater apparent carelessness is exhibited. There are many, very many exceptions. We do not make this assertion as sweeping in its nature, but these exceptions do not, usually, from internal causes, go up in smoke, and some of them to our knowledge, carry no insurance whatever. They exercise most scrupulous vigilance to prevent ignition upon their own premises, and the result establishes the wisdom of their course.

This matter of carefulness in the avoidance of fire has been so frequently written upon that scarcely anything new remains to be said. It is doubtful if the habitually, or naturally, careless man will be impressed, except it be by a fire upon his own premises, and even this, except the origin be directly and indisputably traceable to carelessness, will be devoid of beneficial result, and the occurrence be ascribed to "jist my darned luck." When a man's pocket is in danger one would naturally anticipate that he would exercise every precaution for its preservation, but, seemingly, the danger is under-rated or not fully comprehended by very many owners of wood-working establishments.

THE DULUTH FIRE.

The saw and planing mills at Duluth, Minn., operated by Little & Simonds, together with 7,000,000 feet of lumber were burned August 23. The saw mill was owned by Little, Peck & Co., whose loss is \$40,000. The planing mill was owned by D. E. Little; loss, \$25,000. Little & Simonds lost 4,000,000 feet of lumber and 3,000,000 lath, valued at \$50,000; insurance, \$29,000. Cutler & Gilbert lost 3,500,000 feet of lumber, valued at \$35,000; insurance, \$20,000. The total insurance was stated to be \$94,000. Other saw mills in the immediate vicinity had a narrow escape. Little & Simonds have 3,000,000 feet of logs left and will continue business. The mill will probably be rebuilt in the fall.—*Northwestern Lumberman*.

THE LUMBER INDUSTRY.

It is predicted by those who have given their attention to the subject that ten years hence the lumber industry will be transferred from the northern lake region to the south. It is an enormous interest. In 1880 there were 25,708 lumbering establishments in the country, employing \$181,000,000 capital, and 146,000 hands, distributing \$31,845,000 a year in wages, using \$146,000,000 worth of material, and turning out an annual product of \$233,000,000. Michigan stands first with a product of \$52,419,000; next comes Pennsylvania, with \$22,457,000; Wisconsin, with \$17,952,000; New York, with \$14,356,000; Indiana, with \$14,260,000; Ohio, with \$13,864,000; Minnesota, with \$7,366,000; Maine, with \$7,900,000. The Southern States make a very small showing, few of them reaching a product of over \$4,000,000. But Michigan is consuming her lumber material at a frightful rate. The magnificent pineries of Michigan and other states in the Lake region are disappearing before the chopper's axe and sawed into boards for building farm houses and towns in the prairie regions of the west. In a few years they will either have been destroyed entirely or so greatly impaired as to ruin the vast industry and trade of which they are the basis. But the whole south is a forest region, and its gigantic pineries, cedar, poplar, cypress, and oak district are still almost untouched;

and when the lumber supply in the lake region shall begin to fail, as it must in a few years, the great saw mills in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, northern Ohio and northern Indiana will be removed to the southern forests, and these will become the new centres of the industry.—*Journal of Progress*.

THE FORESTRY CONGRESS.

At the annual meeting of the American Forestry, Congress, which will be held at Saratoga, N. Y., on Sept. 16th, the following topics will form the basis of the discussion:—

1. The mercantile significance of the Adirondack forests for the State of New York.
2. Statistics of deforestation of the Adirondack region.
3. Present condition and comparative value of the Adirondack forests at present and under more systematic management.
4. Attempts at legislation for the benefit of the Adirondack forests.
5. Hydraulic influences of the Adirondack forests.
6. Causes of, and provisions necessary to prevent, destructive fires in the Adirondacks.
7. Management of mountain forests.
8. Methods of re-foresting waste places, mountainous and stony grounds.
9. Forests supplies of the eastern states.
10. Suggestions for a forest policy of eastern states.
11. Canada's method of lumbering.
12. "Pruning the forest."
13. Formation and work of local forestry associations.

BIG RAFTS.

Two of the largest rafts of pine logs ever brought to this port, and the only rafts ever brought from Lake Superior, lie just inside the breakwater. One covers about five and the other eight acres of territory. The largest raft contained about 3,000,000 feet of lumber, and the smallest a little over 2,000,000 feet. There are in both rafts about 16,000 logs, ranging from 12 to 16 feet in length. The rafts left a point on the south shore of Lake Superior between Grand Marais and G. and Island, about 100 miles west of the Sault, a little more than two weeks ago. They were made up in two sections each, pear-shaped, and enclosed in booms. Through the rivers the sections were towed separately, and they also went through the rapids in the same shape without loss or damage. The run is about one mile in length and the fall in the neighborhood of 20 feet. The entire distance from start to destination is 600 miles. The run from Detour was made in 14 days, the average speed being about 1 1/2 miles an hour. There were four tugs, the Winslow, Mocking Bird, Jas. Reed and D. L. Hibberg. The tug bills run from \$150 to \$200 a day, with half pay when detained by bad weather. The enterprise is a new one, and the projectors, H. C. Thurber, of Marquette, and R. K. Hawley, of this city, are rather proud of their success, a number of lumbermen having prophesied that it was impossible to bring rafts through the rapids. Although at the present low freight it would be about as cheap to bring the logs down in the shape of lumber, the owners announce their intention to start another big raft from Lake Superior this season and to keep it up for some time to come.—*Cleveland Press*.

AN INTERESTING DECISION.

A case of peculiar interest to lumbermen and particularly to inspectors was decided before the arbitration committee of the Lumberman's Exchange a few days ago. As has been reported in these columns a cargo of lumber arriving from Ludington was remeasured, and the Chicago inspector reported a shortage of 9,000 feet on the Ludington tally. The chief inspector, under whose control the remeasuring was done, proposed that a disinterested chief inspector should send a man to Peoria, whither the lumber had gone in canal boats to verify the tallies. The consignee of the cargo at this point preferred to notify the Ludington inspector, who in turn decided to be personally present at the Peoria measurement, the chief inspector sending a journeyman from Chicago to assist him, paying all the bills of the journeyman

inspection. The cargo was found to be full measurement, according to the original Ludington tally, and the Ludington inspector presented a bill for his time and expenses, which the Chicago chief inspector contested as to a portion of the charges. The arbitration committee before whom the matter was brought rendered a verdict in favor of the Ludington inspector for travelling expenses and board, but ignored his claim for compensation for the time spent by him. The committee in the award—after stating that, no similar case having heretofore presented itself, they had no precedents to guide them in arriving at a decision—lay down as the rule adopted by them as follows:

We believe that in disputes arising out of the tallying of lumber the party in error should pay all legitimate expenses arising out of such error. We believe that both parties should be entitled to representation in the consideration of the correction of the error, but do not think the personal time of a principal should be charged in cases where a revision of the tally can be readily made through one disinterested party.—*Northwestern Lumberman*.

A NOVEL ENTERPRISE.

Mr. C. A. Hego, of the Salem Iron Works of North Carolina, has a novel enterprise now under way at that place. Near the coast of many of the Southern States are large quantities of cypress timber, of the finest quality which, owing to its nature cannot be successfully rafted. The enterprise referred to is to cut this timber on a boat especially arranged for the purpose, and for which Mr. Hego is to furnish the machinery. The boat will be supplied with the necessary engine power, and with a 70 feet double and a 60 feet single saw mill, a direct acting steam gang mill, with edgers, cut-off saws log turners; in fact, with all modern appliances for expediting work, and thus equipped will proceed along the coast of North and South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, cutting lumber along the route. The timber can be bought cheap, and the experiment, if successful, will be of considerable importance.—*American Machinist*.

TRANSPLANTING TREES.

Until within the past few years it was generally thought that quite young trees could be successfully transplanted, and horticulturists and arboriculturists invariably recommended that young trees be selected for transplanting. Horticulturists asserted that a two year old apple tree transplanted would become fruit bearing sooner than a tree transplanted at four years old, and arboriculturists insisted that it was next to impossible to transplant successfully any but quite young forest trees. The experience of the past few years has demonstrated that old trees of any kind may be transplanted as successfully as young trees. Full grown forest trees, such as oaks, maples and hickories, are now removed for miles without injuring them in the least. The method of removing old trees is not as well understood as that of removing young trees, and hence even now in the majority of cases the work is not successful, and young trees are generally chosen for transplanting, thus compelling those desiring the luxury of fine shade trees to wait a number of years for the trees to grow. The season for transplanting old trees is in the latter part of winter, the frozen earth surrounding the roots being elevated carefully with them so as not to disturb the roots, and all placed in the excavation made at the new location. The circle of earth around the roots should be large enough to secure as many of the long roots as possible. After the tree is securely placed in the ground strong stakes or posts should be placed around it, and ropes or wires fastened in the tree top and at the other end to the posts, to prevent the wind from moving the tree about and disturbing the roots. This latter requirement being often neglected is the reason for so much failure in transplanting old trees. If the branches of the tree are large and spreading, a portion of them ought to be cut out, confining the cutting as much as possible to the last year's growth. It is considered a good plan to trim a tree intended to be moved a year before the work of removal is done. It is not necessary to fasten trees in the manner mentioned

transplanted at the age of two or three years, but trees older than that should be so fastened. This requirement was neglected in the work of transplanting trees in Summit Avenue Park, and the result is that twenty of them have already died and the balance of them are in a fair way to die.—*Lumber Trade Journal*.

THE STRONGEST TIMBER.

A general impression has existed that slow-grown timber is the strongest, but this opinion does not. It is stated upon highly scientific and reliable authority, stand the test of practical and powerful experiment. There is in London, England, a government establishment for testing the quality and strength of all woods and metals used for government purposes, the chronicles of which are said to be extremely interesting. Among other important things which have been proved there is the fact that fast-grown timber—oak at least—is the strongest, and bears the greatest degree of tension! This remarkable fact has also been discovered recently in some of the eastern wood-working establishments, where oak and other fast-grown woods are wrought into furniture, building materials, and other commercial shapes that require substantial and great tension. A prominent stair-builder, who has erected several massive and elegant stair-ways in the government buildings at Washington, D. C., has informed the writer that timber of a rapid growing nature is the best for the architectural interests he is engaged in.—*American Lumberman*.

DEYING LUMBER.

A new process for drying lumber is just now attracting attention. It is said to be the best and most effectual and economical method ever practiced. No kiln is necessary, although where a shop has one it can be utilized to an advantage. The process has the great advantage of keeping the surface of the lumber moist during the drying; this holds the pores open, obviates all tendency of cracking and leaves the albumen free to perform its functions. In ordinary kiln-drying the albumen is killed or destroyed, and surface dries first, thus sealing the juices inside, to escape eventually through cracks caused by the uneven expansion of the wood. Some readers may perhaps be surprised to learn that the process consists of surrounding the wood to be dried with common salt; but those who are acquainted with the peculiar power for extracting moisture which salt possesses will not be at all astonished at this novel and ingenious utilization of this power.—*Builder's Journal*.

QUEBEC CULLERS' OFFICE.

The following is a comparative statement of Timber, Masts, Bowsprits, Spars, Stavos, &c, measured and culled to date:—

	1882.	1883.	1884.
Waney White Pine..	1,478,304	2,114,484	1,620,680
White Pine.....	5,976,185	4,443,659	2,192,314
Red Pine.....	1,000,713	327,112	250,070
Oak.....	846,051	1,278,741	640,792
Elm.....	495,891	802,412	637,893
Ash.....	200,303	211,077	375,316
Basswood.....	816	2,145	3,992
Tamarac.....	2,283	989	1,121
Bur.....	4,835	4,999	18,633
Birch & Maple.....	262,417	137,243	186,156
Masts & Bowsprits...	53 pcs	— pcs	— pcs
Spars.....	51 pcs	— pcs	41 pcs
Std. Stavos.....	222,500.16	600,522.10	38,122.25
W. I. Stavos.....	871.13.16	440.12.9	78.00.28
Bri. Stavos.....	21.93.26	87.1.1.27	0.6.2.13

JAMES PATTON,

Supervisor of Cullers

Quebec, Aug. 29.

The planing mill of Joseph Ainsly, Scranton, Pa., was burned August 26, together with a large quantity of lumber. The fire broke out in the sash and glazing factory. Loss, \$75,000; insurance, \$7,000.

At Vincennes Ind., 15, August, fire broke out in Tynolph & Co.'s lumber yard. About 700,000 feet of lumber was burned, together with barn belonging to the firm, with its contents of hay, 500 bushels of oats, a large quantity of corn, four horses and six mules. Loss, \$15,000; insurance, \$10,000. The mill was saved. The origin is supposed to have been incendiary.