

the prices of which are slightly lower. Staves are heavy in stock and prices lower.

The consumption of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia spruce and pine deals has been about an average for this time of year, but the stock is considerably in excess of last year's. There have been on arrivals, the late shipments from St. John having nearly all been diverted to other ports, otherwise there must have been a further decline here on the low prices now ruling; our market is weak, and it is very important that imports should be moderate for some time to come. Lower Port pine deals are low in value and seldom asked for. Birch continues in good demand, and prices are well maintained.—*Farnworth and Jardine.*

SUBSTITUTE FOR MATCHES.

Countless accidents, as every one knows, arise from the use of matches. To obtain light without employing them, and so without danger of setting fire to things, an ingenious contrivance is now used by all the watchmen of Paris in all the magazines where explosives or inflammable materials are kept. Any one may easily make a trial of it. Take an oblong vial of the whitest and clearest glass and put into it a piece of phosphorus about the size of a pea. Pour some olive oil, heated to the boiling point, upon the phosphorus fill the vial about one third full and cork it tightly. To use this novel light remove the cork, allow the air to enter the vial and then recork it. This empty space in the vial will become luminous, and the light obtained is equal to that of a lamp. When the light grows dim its power can be increased by taking out the cork and allowing a fresh supply of air to enter the vial. In winter it is sometimes necessary to heat the vial between the hands, in order to increase the fluidity of the oil. The apparatus thus made may be used six months—*Builders' Journal.*

A Remarkable Slab.

The London *Timber Trades Journal* says:—We have had our attention called to a most remarkable slab of wood lying at Messrs. Hol & Sons' cabinet factory, Ebury Street, which we at first supposed to be African mahogany, but have since learned is from the Island of Borneo, in the China Seas. It was cut by the natives by means of small hatchets only, was found in the exterior jungles, where other similar logs are known to be, it strongly resembles African mahogany in color and texture, is of straight growth, remarkably hard, and consequently of great weight, and measures no less than 12 feet across. Admiral the Hon. Sir Henry Keppel informs us it was given to him by the Rajah of Sarawak, and he further states that, "being at the time in command of a line of battle ship, the *Rodway*, I had, of course, not much difficulty in bringing it home." We understand it is now the property of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, who has instructed Messrs. Holland & Sons to convert it into a table top. Undoubtedly this will be an object of great interest to many.

Planking Portage Avenue.

The property owners on Portage Avenue are interesting themselves in planking that thoroughfare, and Mr. G. B. Spencer interviewed the Board of Works asking that the avenue be planked with four inch oak plank for a width of 33 feet on each side of the street, leaving a portion of the centre unplanked. The city engineer estimated that the cost would be \$1.40 per square yard, making a total of \$16,000 between Maine and Hargrave streets, of which the frontage owners were willing to pay half, the payment to extend over a term of years.

A Heavy Contract.

J. E. Loxley has recently made a contract with the Calcasieu Lumber Company, St. Charles, La., to cut and deliver at the mill of the company 200,000,000 feet of logs. He will deliver 20,000,000 feet yearly. The logs will be hauled to the Calcasieu river a distance of from three to eight miles, by rail, rafted and run down a distance of about 30 miles to the mill. This company is composed of Saginaw, Bay City and Detroit capitalists, N. B. Bradley, of Bay City, is president of the company.

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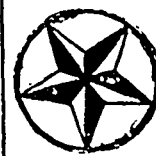
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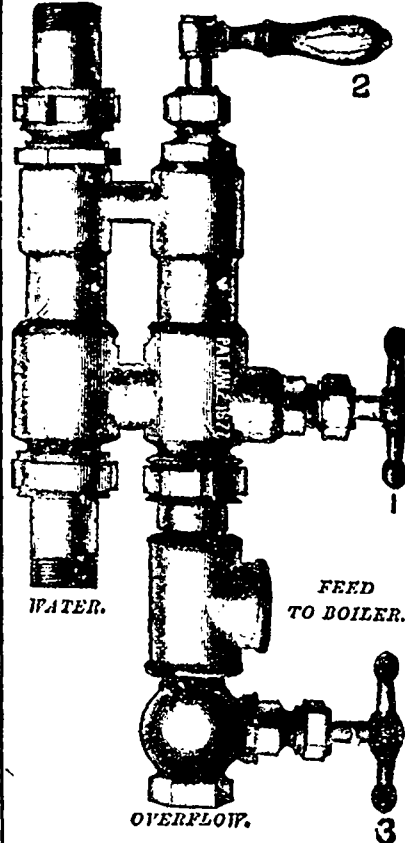
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