

## CHIPS AND SAWDUST.

Mr. J. Warren, of Cobden, purposes erecting a large sash and door factory in that village.

Messrs. Rowe, Avery & Hare, of Hampton, Ont., intend running the saw mill at that place.

A. D. McNab and R. C. Campbell have opened a new lumber shanty near Golden Lake, Ont.

Mr. Wm. Robinson is said to have leased the sawmill at Furnace Falls from Parry & Mills.

The Rathbun Company will take out about sixty thousand railway ties around Calabogie this winter.

L. J. Hughes & Co., lumber, Sarnia, Ontario, are succeeded by the Muskoka Mill and Lumber Company.

The closing down of the box factory at Waukegan has thrown quite a number of men and boys out of employment.

A gentleman from Port Huron is trying to get a site for a small mill which he intends erecting in the spring at Calabogie, Ont.

Messrs. Shurly & Dietrich, of Galt, have received a large order for their lance tooth cross-cut saws from the Western States.

It is reported that Mr. McRossie, lumberman, of Kingston, is about to build a large mill on the Madawaska river near Calabogie, Ont.

Chew Bros' mill, at Midland, is running constantly cutting the oak recently purchased from Mr. S. Fraser. The timber is turning out well.

Boyd Caldwell's mill at Wilbur Station, Ont., started to cut shingles on Jan. 1st., and will cut all winter. Donaldson's mill will also run all winter.

Ottawa lumbermen report sales to be slow, prices high and purchasers holding back and do not seem inclined to buy. Scarcity of box cars is a great hindrance to the shipment.

The Export Lumber Company of New York is credited with having recently purchased the entire cut of McLaughlin Bros., Ottawa, Ont. The purchase amounted to about \$500,000.

The A. Mfg. Co's men and teams have been in the lumber woods west of the Albert Mines, N. B., about three months, and at the present time have more than 5,000 logs yarded.

Grant's shanties on the Bonaventure intend breaking up on account of the deep snow and thickness of the crust, as it is impossible for horses to work owing to their legs being badly cut.

The suit, involving 25,000,000 feet of lumber, between the liquidator of the Rainy Lake Lumber Co., Rat Portage, Ont., and the Union Bank of Toronto, was decided in favor of the bank.

The celebrated suit involving 2,500,000 feet of lumber between the liquidator of the Rainy Lake Lumber Co. and the Union Bank, has been decided in favor of the bank by the supreme court.

W. A. Quinton, M.P.P., has about 70 men lumbering in the vicinity of Loch Lomond and 25 men in the woods in Lancaster, N. B. Mr. Quinton will get out a large quantity of logs this winter.

The Chatham Manufacturing Company have secured a valuable tract of timber land, in the vicinity of Newbury. There are walnut, chestnut, oak, white ash and other timbers of good quality on the limit.

In 1877, Montreal shipped to Great Britain 3,400,000 feet of lumber, and to South America 8,000,000 feet. In 1886 the shipments to Great Britain amounted to 38,000,000 and to South America 21,500,000 feet.

For the want of snow lumbering operations in New Brunswick have been somewhat curtailed. Patrick Long intends putting in about 1,000,000 feet on the Kennebecasis river this winter for Freeze Bros., of Penobscot.

**Rat Portage Progress:**—We understand that Mr. Mather is sending a gang of men under the superintendence of Desj. Harris, up to Rainy River to build a boom to facilitate the transportation of his logs the coming spring.

The Glenora sash and door factory is to be rebuilt by Messrs. Huston, Hopkins and Stevenson, who are about to purchase a couple of lots near the railway station from A. P. McDonald for the purpose. The new building will be of brick.

The lumbermen on the Gatineau report that there is more snow this year in the bush and on the open and rivers than has been seen for a number of years in that district, and they say that if the spring comes with a rush all the rivers will be swollen greatly.

Reports from Baltimore, N. B., state that times are dull there this winter. Very little lumber is being cut. William and Edward Stevens will get in about 20,000 feet at their mill for spring sawing. George Irwin will get in 10,000 feet or upwards at his mill.

Mr. T. P. Pierce gives notice in the *Canada Gazette* that he has purchased the property of the Cobourg, Peterborough and Marmora Railway and Mining Company, and will apply to Parliament for an Act authorizing him to build the road and operate the mines.

In some of the shanties up the Ottawa river log cutting for some time past has been curtailed for a want of means of getting the logs to the ice. Teams suitable for the work are in some cases getting \$1 75 a day and the demand is brisk. Snow is reported to be deep in the woods at present.

Mr. Cooper, President of the British Carriage Manufacturers, after a tour throughout Ontario and Quebec, is writing a book upon our hard woods. He advocates the utilization of our immense and injurious waste of sawdust by mixing with pitch or something similar and pressing into bricks to be converted in a charcoal, for which there is a great demand in England.

James Connelly, who has had charge of one of Mr. J. R. Booth's shanties on South River, returned home recently suffering acutely from injuries received while working in the woods. It appears that while loading a sleigh a log slipped from its position on the railway and passed over his body, breaking several of his ribs and otherwise severely injuring him. It is thought he will speedily recover.

It is stated that the largest tree in California is to be found in Tulare Co. It is four hundred and thirty-eight feet in circumference. To comprehend the size of this tree, one has only to reflect that a building forty-five feet square could be set on the butt for a foundation, if the tree were cut down, and not project over the sides. "The Father of the Forest" seems to be a fitting name for such a monster.

Fine specimens of French walnut have come as high as \$2 a pound. Ebony is as costly as French walnut. It often brings as much as \$300 a ton, providing the wood is of the finest quality. Five dollars a pound is often asked and received for exceptionally fine pieces. Rosewood and mahogany are popular woods and are always in demand. The best mahogany comes from San Domingo. Rosewood is worth from three to six cents a pound.

Below we give a statement of the quantity of logs and timber that will go down the French River in the spring:—Ontario Lumber Co., 20,000,000 feet of logs, and 50,000 cubic board pine. Georgian Bay Lumber Co., 200,000 board pine. McLean & Co., 6,000,000 feet of logs. Sluch & Co., 6,000,000 feet of logs. Whiting & Co., 4,000,000 feet of logs. L. & H. McLean, 5,000,000 feet of logs. Power & Co., 7,000,000 feet of logs. Oacoda Salt and Lumber Co., 8,000,000 feet of Tona-wanda timber. Emery Lumber Co., 18,000,000 feet of logs.

A Winnipeg lumber dealer states that at the present reckoning, the number of feet of lumber in Winnipeg and points between that city and Port Arthur, including the latter place, is estimated to be between twenty and twenty-five millions. It is claimed that at this season last year there were about forty-five million feet, and present prices are pretty stiff in consequence of the limited stocks held by dealers. They report no heavy transfers, but are perfectly satisfied with the outlook, as considerable activity is expected in the province and the west when the building season opens.

A correspondent writing from Winnipeg to the *Mechanical and Milling News* has the following regarding the lumber trade:—A number of lumbering companies have their headquarters at Winnipeg, but there is now only one mill which saws in the city. The logs for this mill are procured from tributaries of the Red River which flow into the river from the east side. Supplies of timber from this source are pretty well exhausted. The companies represented here have their mills at Keewatin and Rat Portage, on the Lake of the Woods, and some on Lake Winnipeg. There are also supplies of timber on Lake Manitoba and Winnipegosis, and on the streams and tributaries of the head waters of the Assiniboine, in the northern portion of the Province, but these have only been available for local purposes. The great central portion of the Northwest is devoid of timber to a great extent, though the Wood mountains and Cypress Hills supply some timber districts. In the Cypress Hills there is a saw mill which does a considerable trade in supplying the stations along the C. P. R., in the central parts of the territories with lumber. The lumber is hauled to Maple Creek, on the C. P. R., 600 miles west of Winnipeg, from which the mill is about thirty miles distant. Calgary promises to be a centre of the lumber industry of considerable importance, and will likely be the chief supply depot for the far-western country. Already several companies have their headquarters there, and a large mill is in course of erection. There is plenty of timber tributary to the Bow river west of Calgary, whilst the mountains furnish almost an unlimited supply. The lumber trade has been demoralized here ever since the boom days of 1882, and is only now being placed on a firm footing. At that time anything in the shape of lumber was bought up immediately on arrival at exorbitant prices, and the mills were unable to keep up with the demand. In the following year, however, the business was greatly overdone. Stocks became excessive, and prices were demoralized by a course of cutting which was vigorously indulged in by all the firms. Surplus stocks have now been reduced and during the present year there is every indication that the trade will be a satisfactory one. The log crop in the district tributary to Winnipeg will be somewhat larger than last year, but will not be excessive, and dealers expect to do a paying business for 1887.

## GENERAL INFORMATION.

A curious application has recently been made of electricity to condense dusts and fumes. If air filled with smoke is charged with electricity the smoke at once flies to the sides of the containing vessel in a way that appears almost magical. In the same way, electricity will cause fine dusts which are in suspension, and which are often very difficult to remove from the air, to condense, or coagulate so as to be easily removable.

Take care (says *Power and Transmission*) how you let any machine oil or lubricator come into contact with a cut or scratch on your hand or arm, as serious blood poisoning may result. In the manufacture of some of these machine oils fat from diseased and decomposed animals is used. All physicians know how poisonous such matter is. The only safe-guard is not to let any spot where the skin is broken be touched by any machine oil or lubricator.

A sash, door and blind maker says there is more waste of lumber in the business than is always taken into account. Says he: "A man figures that his lumber costs him so much, his labor so much and his interest, taxes, insurance and what not so much more, and that there ought to be so much left for profit; but when he comes to figure up at the end of the year, he has to inventory his plant at all it cost him to make his books balance." This will apply to others besides the sash, door and blind makers.

On the 27th ult., the annual meeting of the Canadian Rubber Company was held in Montreal. Directors were chosen as under:—President, Andrew Allan; vice-president, James Benning; Directors—William Withall, H. M. Allan, Hugh McLennan, Arthur Prevost, H. A. Allan, Francis Scholtes and J. B. Larmouth. Some days ago, this old and successful company gave a festival to their employees numbering nearly 1,000, the occasion being the opening of a new wing which has just been added to the already extensive premises.

An important enterprise nearing completion on the Pacific coast is the postal telegraph in course of construction between Westminster and San Francisco. From the latter point to the British Columbia boundary is about 1,100 miles, and from thence connection is made with the Canadian Pacific telegraph system. All parts from Victoria and other points on Vancouver Island, thence eastward to Winnipeg are brought into direct communication with the Atlantic seaboard and European cable. Altogether there are included about 60,000 miles of wire.

Canadian shipping has considerably diminished during the past year, the statistics of all the Maritime Provinces showing a decline. There were struck off the list of registered tonnage in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, in 1886, 290 vessels, aggregating 72,346 tons, while the newly registered for the year numbered 215 and 31,613 tons showing a net falling off of 76 vessels of 37,703 tons. While at five ports of registration in Nova Scotia there was an increase in tonnage; such did not occur at all in either New Brunswick or Prince Edward Island.

Shoe pegs require 100,000 cords of timber annually in their manufacture; matches, 300,000; lasts and boot trees, 500,000. All this is of the most superior quality, straight grained and clear of knots and gnarls. To raise the telegraph poles of the country required 800,000 trees, and 300,000 more are required for annual repair. The railway ties of the country annually consume 75,000 acres of timber at least thirty years old, and the fencing of railways represents \$45,000,000 and the annual repair \$15,000,000. These are but a moiety of what is required of the United States forest supply. The burning of brick alone requires 2,000,000 cords of wood annually.

The improved French method of preserving wood by the application of lime is found to work well. The plan is to pile the planks in a tank, and to put over all a layer of quicklime, which is gradually slaked with water. Timber for mines requires about a week to be thoroughly impregnated, and other wood more or less time according to its thickness. The material acquires remarkable consistence and hardness it is stated, on being subjected to this simple process, and the assertion is made that it will never rot. Beachwood prepared in this way for hammers and other tools for iron work is found to acquire the hardness of oak, without parting with any of its well known elasticity and toughness, and it also lasts longer.

An English Journal enumerates the following as among the inventions which are specially needed at the present time:—Macaroni machinery, good red lead pencils, type writers that will work on account books and record books, indelible stamp-cancelling ink, a practical car starter, a good railway car ventilator, better horse shoes, locomotive headlights, an instrument for measuring the velocity of wind currents, apparatus for measuring the depth of the sea without sounding by line, piano-lid hinge which shall be flush on the outside, good fluid India ink for draughtsmen, a good metallic railway tie, an effective cut off for locomotives, a method of alloying copper and iron, and a molding material for iron and brass casting, capable of giving a mold that can be used over and over again.