

SAWDUST IN RIVERS.

In the House of Commons on April 30th quite an interesting debate took place on a bill introduced by the Hon. Mr. Foster respecting the protection of navigable waters. One of the objects of the bill was to provide for the prosecution of saw mill owners, who put rubbish and sawdust into rivers, thereby injuring the fishing business and interfering with navigation.

Mr. Cook pointed out that the Ottawa river was exempt from this clause.

Mr. Mills thought the Government was going beyond their jurisdiction when they interfered with Provincial matters.

Mr. Cameron (Victoria) agreed with the member of Bothwell.

Mr. Mitchell said it was a subject which had occupied public attention for many years. When he was Minister of Marine and Fisheries, it was agitated a great deal, and steps were taken to try and prevent the evil. He was in entire sympathy with the honorable minister in his efforts to get additional powers in relation to this matter. It is painful to see the way the Ottawa river was being destroyed, not only by sawdust, but by the slabs, refuse and bark thrown into it. The latter are quite as, if not more, injurious than the sawdust. When you reach Carillon or Grenville by steamer, in order to take the cars there, you will see at either place, forty or fifty acres of sawdust banks, the accumulation of refuse from the Ottawa mills. That should be put a stop to. In other portions of the country it is not allowed to exist. Take one of our greatest lumbering and manufacturing sections, that of Miramichi, from which he came, every mill owner there has his furnace for burning sawdust and the refuse from his mills, and by that means we have kept them out of our rivers, and our navigation such as it is has been largely preserved by the regulations established by the department for the purpose of preventing sawdust and refuse being thrown into the river. It was iniquitous the way in which the Ottawa river was being destroyed, and he was in entire accord with the Minister of Marine and Fisheries in his endeavor to get additional powers in this respect.

Mr. White (Renfrew) was glad to see that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries had reserved to himself the right of exempting from the provisions of this clause in cases where it may be deemed not against the public interest to allow sawdust to be conveyed into streams. Some reference had been made to the fact that sawdust is allowed to be conveyed into the Ottawa by mills in this vicinity. There are two sides to this question. There is the question of navigation, which is a very important one, and which ought to be paramount in connection with the navigation of these streams, but there was also the question of the interest of those people who have a very large amount of capital invested in the construction of saw mills, giving employment to a very large number of persons, who would be subject to enormous cost and great inconvenience, especially in a place like the city of Ottawa, in disposing of their sawdust in any other way than that in which it is now disposed of. That was not a new question. It engaged the attention of the Government of the honorable member for East York, when he was leader of the Government and Minister of Public Works, and a commission was appointed, either in 1876, or 1877, to inquire into the question of the obstruction of the Ottawa river by the depositing of this mill refuse, and, as the result of the investigations of that committee or commission, the practice was allowed to be continued under certain conditions and restrictions—one of the conditions being that all the slabs and edgings had to be converted into small chips or pieces by machinery placed in the mills. It would be a great and serious inconvenience and a great loss to the laboring population of this locality, if the power were taken away from the Minister to exempt certain localities from the provisions of this act, if, in the wisdom of the Governor-in-Council, it was deemed expedient and proper that those localities should be so exempted. It was quite true that there have been banks of sawdust formed in the Ottawa below the mills; but, as far as his observation had enabled him to judge, those banks have accumulated, not

in the navigable portions of the stream, not in the deep water, but along the shores and in the eddies, and so they have not obstructed the navigation to any appreciable extent, though they show themselves in passing down the Ottawa. He ventured to express the hope, and to concur with the opinion of the member for Charlotte (Mr. Gilmour) that this portion of the act shall not be expunged from it, but that the power shall be continued to the governor in council to make exemption where it is thought necessary to do so.

Mr. Hilliard thought that if mill owners were prevented from putting in slabs and edgings into the river the sawdust would not do much injury. If the act was enforced in its entirety it would result in closing down the mills.

Mr. Vail said that the bill was legislating against the smaller mill owners in favor of the larger ones. He objected to making any exceptions in the case of any streams.

The bill was read a second time.

CAN'T KEEP ANYTHING.

When a careful workman is noticed making use of more than half his time in looking for what few tools he may be permitted to work with, or some one of the parts of a machine he is to repair, either he is slightly inclined to be forgetful, and fails to take notice where anything is left when he is through with it, or some one who is a privileged character is assisting in the disarrangement of an orderly shop. It must be the latter, for every mechanic has no trouble in finding plenty of victims who must have encroached on forbidden territory. Such a simple thing as a belt lace is a handy thing to have and it is a source of pleasure to come across a workman who has a number of them carefully laid away in his workbench, with a belt punch and belt-awl in working trim. A long twist-drill, with a fluted reamer to follow, and a hardened and lathe-arbor make a nice set to keep by themselves whenever their size is mentioned, were it only possible to keep anything; but the belt-punch vanishes the very moment it is wanted for use, and the drill in the arbor set is diminished by one half its length in the pleasure of trying a cut in the boring mills. Not even the varnisher is permitted to keep a vial of shellac varnish, a little reducing fluid and lamp black where they will be handy without the brush walking off with a dish of asphaltum when a neat little pattern is ready for a coat of blacking. No forgetfulness here; only a slight inclination to disseminate throughout the whole establishment, and out into the back yard. The lock and key is called for and an inventory taken every fourth hour of the day, which serves to brighten up the memory. More than half the time the missing tool is just where the finder had left it, and a little attention in the beginning would have saved time and trouble.

The man at the work bench, or the polisher at the lathe will have tools by the dozen that he can lay his finger on without noticing where he is to reach for them, simply for the reason that they are returned to the same place again though they are scattered waste pile. Out of all the explanations, in which lost, strayed and stolen figure conspicuously, the one "I know nothing about it," or "It's where you used it last," has done more toward fitting up a tool room where a check stands ready to account for every tool that is missing than the consoling advice "Have a place for everything and have everything in its place," as it is more in accordance with the nature of a mechanic.—*Boston Journal of Commerce.*

HARDWOOD INSPECTION.

The New York Lumber Auction Company's rules for the inspection of hardwood lumber are as follows:—

WALNUT.

The standard lengths are 12, 14 and 16 feet. The standard thicknesses are 1, 1½, 2, 2½, 3, 4 and 5 inches; and is inspected as firsts, seconds and culls.

FIRSTS.—Must not be less than 8 inches in width free and clear of all defects. 12 inches wide may have 2 inches of bright sap on one side. Boards 10 feet in length must be 10 inches over in width and clear, to be classed as

a first. In wide boards a few small defects will be allowed.

SECONDS.—Must not be less than 5 inches in width. All pieces 5 inches wide, 10 feet and over long, must be free from defects. At 6 and 7 inches wide, one defect may be allowed. At 8 or 9 inches wide 2 defects, and 10 to 12 inches wide 3 defects, but in extra wide lumber a few more defects may be allowed.

CULLS.—Any board, regardless of width or length not up to the standard of seconds, and where half the piece is fit to use.

NEWELS.—Must be without heart or defects any kind. 5x5, 6x6, 7x7, 8x8 and 9x9 are the most used; the regular length being 3½ and 4 feet; but 12, 14 and 16 feet are the most desirable.

BALSTERS.—Must be strictly squared to 1½x1½, 2x2, 2½x2½, 3x3 and 4x4; the regular lengths being 28 and 32 inches free from all defects.

ASH.

The standard lengths are 12, 14 and 16 feet. The standard thicknesses are 1, 1½, 1¾, 2, 2½, 3, 4 and 5 inches; and is inspected as firsts, seconds and culls.

FIRSTS.—Must not be less than eight inches in width, and free from all defects. 12 inches and over will admit of 1 or 2 small defects, and a split of 12 inches will be allowed.

SECONDS.—Must not be less than 6 inches wide. 10 inches wide may have at the most, 3 small sound knots. Additional small defects will be allowed according to the width of the board, but must be free from all doty and rotten spots.

CULLS.—Any board, regardless of length or width not up to the standard of seconds, and where half the board is fit for use.

HEMLOCK.

The standard lengths are 12, 14 and 16 feet. The standard thicknesses are 1, 1½, 1¾, 2, 2½, 3, 4, and 5 inches; and is inspected as firsts, seconds and culls.

FIRSTS.—Must not be less than eight inches in width, free and clear of all defects. 12 inches wide may have 2 inches of bright sap on one side. Boards 10 feet in length must be 10 inches and over in width to be classed as a first. In wide boards a small defect will be allowed, but those having gum specks are positively excluded from this grade.

SECONDS.—Must not be less than five inches in width. All pieces 5 inches wide, 10 feet and over long must be free of defects, 6 and 7 inches wide one defect will be allowed, 8 and 9 inches wide 2 defects, and 10 to 12 inches wide 3 defects; but in extra wide lumber a few more defects may be allowed.

CULLS.—Any board, regardless of width or length not up to the mark of second, and where half of the board can be used.

OAK.

The standard lengths are 12, 14 and 16 feet. The standard thicknesses are 1, 1½, 1¾, 2, 2½, 3, 4, 5 and 6 inches; and is inspected as firsts, seconds and culls.

FIRSTS.—Must be 8 inches and over in width, clear and free of all defects. Small defects allowed in accordance with the width of the board, but boards having worm holes absolutely excluded.

SECONDS.—At eight inches in width from 1 to 2 small sound knots or a little sap may be allowed; and at 10 inches and up other small defect may be allowed according to width of board.

CULLS.—Any board that is wormy, knotty and unsound generally. No den and at all for this grade.

WHITEWOOD.

The standard lengths are 12, 14 and 16 feet. The standard thicknesses are 1, 1½, 1¾, 2, 2½, 3, 4, 5 and six inches; and is inspected as firsts, seconds and culls.

FIRSTS.—Must be 10 inches and up in width, free from all defects. 12 inches and over in width a little bright sap may be allowed.

SECONDS.—Must not be less than 6 inches wide; and from 6 to 7 inches must be free of defects with a little bright sap allowed on one side; and 10 inches and over from 1 to 3 small sound knots.

CULLS.—Any board having black sap, knots, and not up to the grade of seconds generally.

SQUARES.—Must be free from splits, shakes, and hearts. The general lengths are 12, 14 and

16 feet, and in some cases 10 feet is saleable. The general sizes are 4x4, 5x5, 6x6, 7x7, 8x8, 9x9 and 10x10.

BASSWOOD.

The standard lengths are 12, 14 and 16 feet. The general thicknesses used are 1, 1½ and 1¾; and is inspected as firsts, seconds and culls. FIRSTS.—Must not be less than 8 inches, free from all defects.

SECONDS.—Must not be less than 6 inches; at this width must be clear, but from 7 inches and up small defects are allowed according to the width of the board.

CULLS.—Any board, regardless of length or width having black sap, knots and other imperfections, and not up to the grade of seconds.

MAPLE.

The standard lengths are 12, 14 and 16 feet. The standard thicknesses are 1, 1½, 1¾, 2, 2½, 3 and 4 inches; and is inspected as firsts, seconds and culls.

FIRSTS.—Must be 8 inches and over in width, free and clear from all defects; slight allowance being made according to width of board.

SECONDS.—Must not be less than six inches in width, and admitting 1 sound standard knot. Increased defects allowed according to the width of the board or plank.

CULLS.—Any piece of defective lumber, not up to the grade of seconds, in which half the board can be used.

CHESTNUT.

The standard lengths are 12, 14 and 16 feet. The most desirable thicknesses are 1 and 1½ inch.

This is inspected and graded the same as walnut with the exception of wormy boards which will reduce them in grade.

SQUARES.—Must be fully squared to 4x4, and free from heart and shakes.

BUTTERNUT.

The standard lengths are 12, 14 and 16 feet. The usual thicknesses are 1, 1½, 1¾, 2, 2½ and 3 inches.

This is inspected and graded the same as walnut.

All wormy and otherwise defective boards not up to the mark for seconds, are classed as culls; and are positively unsaleable in this market.

THE past winter, says the Sherbrook, Que., *Gazette*, has been one of the great activity here at the pulp mills, which any one can readily see judging by the immense stock of pulp wood, fuel wood, which is in the yards of the company. They have also some 3,000,000 ft. spruce logs on the Bank of the St. Francis river for the saw mill. The mill is running day and night to its fullest capacity, and, as usual, without mishap. There is not a pulp mill in Canada which can show such a successful running record as the East Angus chemical pulp mills.

THE Kingston *News* says:—The Government will be wanting in its duty if it does not check this losing game at once. Let a good stiff export duty of \$4.00 per thousand be put on saw logs, and probably the enterprising American, who has captured 500,000 acres of our timber land, will find his patriotism succumb before the prospective loss of \$2.00 per thousand on his timber.

JAMES McLEISH, of Sebright, a river driver in the employ of the Longford Lumber Company, was drowned, while breaking a "jam" in Tollman's drive on Black river. Finding himself unable to reach the bank after he had disengaged the key piece, the poor fellow determined to go down the rapids with the logs, but he had scarcely started when he suddenly disappeared.

DANIEL TAYLOR, over 80 years old, of Schroon Lake, N. Y., a year or two ago had his hand mangled by a circular saw. He got well of that and last winter he had his skull fractured while at work in his mill. He has fully recovered from that also, and is again ready to tackle a buzz saw or stand a crack on the head.

THE log input on the Wisconsin and its tributaries for the season now closed, it is said, was 166,787,000 feet. Of this amount Wausau parties claim that 137,000,000 will go to that place for sawing.