

## SOME HINTS ON SAWING.

I HAVE said something, some time or other, to the effect that all logs saw easiest and with less liability to pinch if sawed butt foremost. There are other considerations also in favor of this proposition; the slabs handle easier over the rollers, and if the log is tapering the boards can be handled best wide end foremost and can be edged to best advantage; the edgings will go out of the mill with less danger of catching in the machinery, and where there are edge pieces worth trimming to clips, they come handiest to the trimmer butt end first. But once and above all, the sawyer can see better from the butt how much good stock he is likely to get off the log before striking heart defects. Any way you can put it, a log will handle easiest from stump to lumber stock, butt end foremost.

There are hundreds of small mills throughout the country with only a single hand edger or none at all, the bulk or the whole of the edging being done on the big circular. Here is a chance for pretty nearly making or breaking the owner. In the majority of cases it rubs pretty close to the latter. It is impossible to edge with the big saw and do anything like justice to individual boards and get anything like a day's work done. There must be inevitable waste and making of poor grades. But if the sawyer knows anything about edging to advantage he can save a good deal. His first duty should be to saw everything so as to leave as little edging to be done as possible. No set of rules can be laid down to govern this part of the sawyer's work. It can only be a question of good judgment, to be varied with pretty much every log. There are sawyers who have good judgment in everything else, but who utterly fail in this work and waste much more than their wages every day. Such sawyers should be employed only where there is a gang edger and a skilled edgerman. It is poor economy to run a small portable without a gang edger, as the waste of stock and lowering of grades will pay for a pretty good one in a season's run.

Never crowd a saw so as to lower its speed if you want it to do uniformly good work. All saws are hammered, or should be, to stand up at a certain speed per minute, and if run below that it is not the fault of the saw if it makes wedge-shaped or snaky lumber. This does not apply to the old five and six-gauge boiler plates made for butchering wood with inserted teeth.

In all saw mill practice the sawyer and the setter should be in complete accord, and as a general rule the setter should be under the absolute direction of the sawyer. As has been stated in these papers, the sawyer ought to be a good practical lumber inspector, at least to the extent that he should know what kind of lumber each cut is going to make when he sees the surface presented to the saw. After the slab is once off he should know whether the next piece ought to be cut into graded stock, whether it should be an inch or into something thicker, or, where lumber thinner than inch is being cut, whether it is good enough for that class of stock, or whether the log should be run through and through into something for dimension and gotten out of the way as quickly as possible. He should know whether a log is worth spending time over in order to get out lumber better than common. Where his experience teaches him that there is nothing better than the lower grades in the log, he should only spend time enough in turning the log to get all the sound common out of it that is possible. If the setter and sawyer can not agree fully, and the sawyer is granted the general direction of the work, provided he is capable, then the quicker a new setter is employed the better for the pocket of the owner. My experience has always been that in sawing ordinary stock lumber, beyond certain points which are clearly the setter's prerogative, the latter should be entirely subordinate to the sawyer. But on the other hand, no matter how good a mechanic the sawyer may be, how well he may handle his saw, if he does not know at a glance from the time the log is rolled on the carriage just how to place it for every turn and cut, he has no business there, for that part of the work can not be delegated to the setter with any certainty of economy, as he can not see the face of the log and make the necessary decisions without losing time. Of course there are some exceptions to this general rule, as in all others. In cutting bill stuff, especially to fractional sizes,

and for special purposes, the setter may be allowed some degree of discretion, as he is supposed to know just exactly what the bill calls for, and to check it off as sawed; and he should be capable of judging whether a piece wholly or partly finished is up to the quality of the order, and should be checked off or turned back on the carriage to be run into stock. At the same time it is quite necessary in order that there be no waste, and no loss of time, that the sawyer should know fully as much about what is required for the given lot of bill stuff as does the setter. There are some pretty good sawyers engaged in the business who allow themselves to be practically run by the setter who happens to be a man of more force of character, and perhaps better knowledge of how the lumber should be sawed. —O. S. Whitmore, in The Wood-worker.

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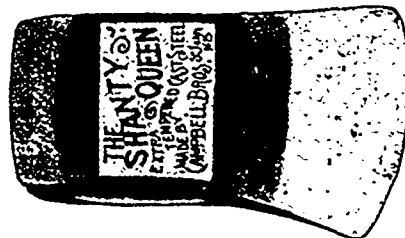
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