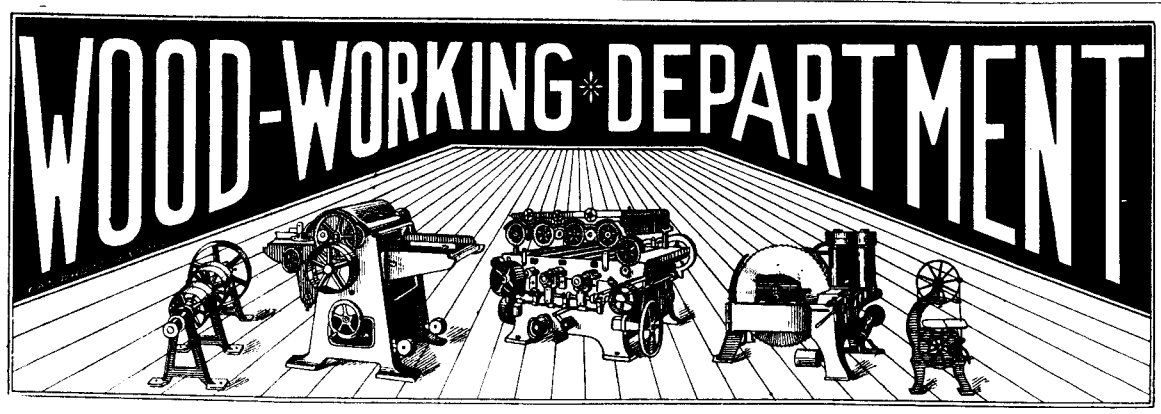

A WORD WITH WOOD-WORKERS.

A GOODLY share of space has always been given in these columns to the wood-working departments of lumbering. Further prominence, however, is given the subject commencing with the present issue, because of the growing importance of this branch of the lumber trades. Besides, with the publication of the WEEKLY LUMBERMAN, discussing specially the commercial side of the business, we have more space to devote to mechanical matters.

The effort will be to present to readers regularly statements of progress being made in wood-working. Cuts of new machines will be published monthly, and wood-workers will be kept posted in regard to the new patents that are being issued in wood-working machinery.

We would like readers to feel that they can add to the interest of the department by frequent correspondence and suggestions. If the reader has in mind something of interest to his fellow workmen, let him send on the information to us. Let no one hesitate, because writing is not in his line. We will attend to the matter of form of expression. It may be that readers can forward us, in connection with correspondence, designs of wrinkles in wood-working that have grown out of their experience. We shall always be glad to reproduce such designs in these pages.

THE PHILOSOPHER.

PHILOSOPHY in anything as practical as wood-working? Some of the world's soundest philosophy has come from the men, whose daily avocations have been along mechanical and industrial lines. The Philosopher will talk occasionally in these columns on matters of every-day import to the wood-worker, indulging, he hopes, in some commonsense philosophy that will be productive of good results.

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The Philosopher has sometimes queried to what extent workers at the bench and before the machine strengthen their position as mechanics by cultivating the mind in directions bearing distinctively on their trades. Perhaps there is a little bit of fad in the tendency of the present day to make mechanics through the schools and colleges, rather than by the old process of straight apprenticeship to the trade intended to be followed. Everyone knows, of course, that schools of journalism have a place in some of the universities of the present day. And yet there are those, high up in the profession, who doubt if there is any school that can equal that which starts as a primary department in the country printing office, and with the pupil as a small imp. Probably, it is the case, in this, as in many matters, that there is a happy medium. The editor, who has had a university training, if he can profit also by the practical education so necessary to his work, is going to be that much stronger in the position he holds. The technical schools, both on the continent and in this land, have done much for the mechanics of the country. The Philosopher has always felt that a great deal of the thoroughness that is a feature of all work in Germany is due, in no small degree, to the training that the mechanics of that country receive through its well equipped technical schools. It is the old story that the man, in whatever calling, who brings to his work, along with diligence, a well cultivated brain, is going to outstrip, in the race of life, the other fellow who thinks only of how easily he can slip through with his work before the bell rings for quitting.

The Philosopher deems it most essential to intelligent success, that wood-workers, without exception, should have a knowledge of mathematics, of drawing, and of the real bearing and possibilities of the machinery with which they are working. In Canada, fortunately, there has been an encouraging development in this direction and there is opportunity presented to every workman through the technical and manual training schools of the country, which are fast taking a position unequalled by few schools of a like kind of any country. The boy, who makes a start through these manual training schools, is likely to stand a much better chance of success than a youth who goes into a trade handicapped with little education. The superintendent of the mechanical training department of one of the large colleges of the continent tells of boys who have gone out to their trades equipped in this manner able to earn several dollars more per week than those who come into the work perfectly green and with little previous education to help them on. The advantage of school-taught mechanics gives the boy a standing upon entering the workshops much above the raw beginner, and if he has proven a worthy stu lent his acquirements are soon discovered and his time under instruction in the shop is shortened, and he is generally paid much higher wages.

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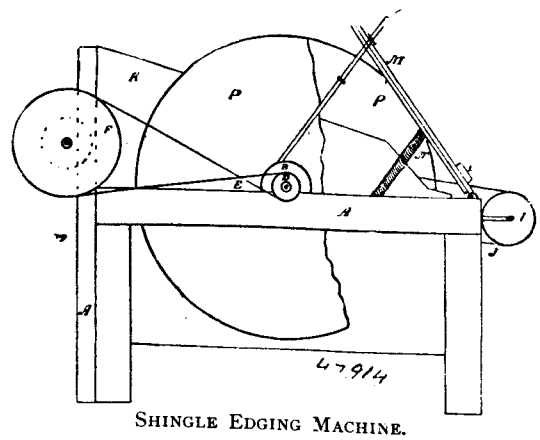
It is one of the hard lessons of life, that real genius consists simply in the faculty of doing one's work well and thoroughly. The Philosopher thought of this as he talked with a friend the other day on the make shifts that are resorted to too often in workshops. The policy is to make the thing do, trusting that it will be all right. A machine gets out of repair, and the disposition is with a little tinkering to make it serve the purpose, where the right plan would be to put it at once into proper condition. Time may be lost in putting on useless fringe and furbelows in one's work. The pottering workman is one who indulges in this kind of nonsense. But time is never lost by the mechanic, who determines that the piece of work he is on will be made as complete as his ability and the equipment at his command will permit him to make it. That this is an old text to hammer on there is no doubt, and yet in a day where there is so much scamp work, and the temptation is to get through things with no regard as to who will suffer in the future, the subject will bear something of line upon line.

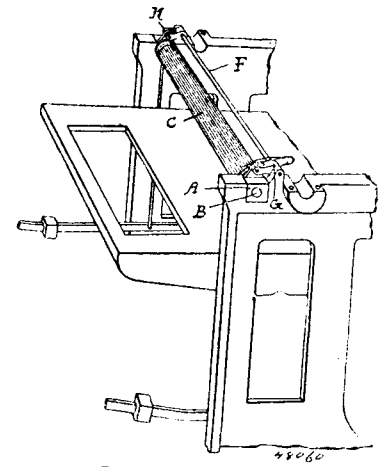
NEW PATENTS IN WOOD-WORKING MACHINERY.



SHINGLE EDGING MACHINE.

Patentee: John Henry Askert, Lucknow, Ont., 15th January, 1895; 6 years.

CLAIM.—1st. The combination of two saws P and P, on one shaft or mandrel C, within from six to eighteen inches of each other, or may be worked on two shafts or mandrel same as C. 2nd. The belt J and guide box K, in combination with said machine and said two saws P and P, substantially as and for the purpose as set forth.



PLANING MACHINE.

Patentee: William Clark, Galt, Ont., 29th January, 1895; 6 years.

CLAIM.—In a planing machine, the combination of the feed or delivery roll movably journalled in the frame work, and means for holding the roll in its proper relation to the table, of the machine when displaced by the passage of the material between the roll and table, substantially as specified. 2nd. A rock shaft journalled in the frame above the roll and a pivotal connection between the journals of the roll and the rock shaft. 3rd. Vertically movable bearing boxes for the journals of the roll, a rock shaft journalled in the frame above the roll, two links connected to the rock shaft and located one above each of the bearing boxes, and a pivotal connection between the links and the bearing boxes. 4th. A snug connected to each of the bearing boxes, and a pivot pin passing through each of the snugs and its respective link, substantially as specified.

SHAPERS AND SHAPER WORK.

I HAVE often observed, says a writer in the Wood Worker, that in woodworking plants of limited size any given number of machines is not quite sufficient to fill the requirements of the variety of work that will be ordered, with despatch and with profit to the owners. It is a well-known fact that no two mills have the same system, though they may be in the same locality. Their methods are entirely different in regard to the handling of work.

It came under my observation recently that a contract was given to a mill which was the lowest bidder for the entire factory work. The plans and specifications called for first-class finish in every particular. One of the features of the finish to the front porch (or gallery, as it is known in certain localities), was turned posts and turned balustrades. The posts were eleven inches in diameter, turned top and base, tapered in size from top to bottom, between the ornamental turnings. Between top and base a plain turned surface was left for raised beads, which presented a fine, rich appearance, and was different from the general run of turned columns. The same style of raised beads was carried out on the same balusters. The posts were of cypress, and the balusters of heart yellow pine.

Now the question was, how were these raised beads to be worked on the posts, as the diameter was large and the beads had to begin and stop at certain points where the ornamental turning came in. The balusters could be handled easy enough, as they were 3 x 3 inches and short enough for a fluting attachment which the mill was fortunate enough to have. Much hand work was out of the question, as it would take so much to complete the columns. The only reasonable way it could be done was with a long, verticle spindle, with the posts hung between centers secured to a guide form. The spindles on an ordinary shaper were not long enough to reach the center of the diameter of the posts, which were, as I have said, eleven inches, but it was the mill's fortune that in ordering a double-spindle shaper one of the spindles was ordered made longer than the other, for