

WOOD FLOUR.

An extract from a recent issue of the Chicago *Times* inclines one to the belief that American inventive genius, which has overcome many obstacles in reducing nature's forest growth to meet the requirements of the human race, has at last succeeded in utilizing these products for the very deceptive and discreditable purpose of adulterating the staff of life. The *Times* says the making of wood flour, which is similar to wood pulp, is the chief industry in the Catskill Mountains, New York, and it bids fair to demoralize the forests. It was first manufactured in the Catskills about nine years ago, and now over 20 mills are in full blast. Any soft wood tree—poplar is the favorite—is felled and drawn to the mill. The bark and boughs are removed and the trunk put in a machine. It is nothing but a lead-pencil sharpener on a larger scale, with four or more knives instead of one. On starting the machine the pencil-sharpener revolves with great swiftness, and in a few minutes converts the log into a hundred miles of fine, clean shaving. These are ground and bolted exactly as in a flour mill. The product is a fine, yellowish white flour, similar in appearance to a very well ground corn meal. It possesses a slight woody smell, and is almost tasteless. It is put in large bags, and then is dispatched, unmarked, to the buyer. The inclination to believe that this product is used for other purposes than paper making comes principally from reading the last sentence, which says it is dispatched "unmarked" to the buyer. If it is used only for legitimate purposes, why not brand it as every other product is branded. Sugar is adulterated with white clay, coffee also with the same material, and why not suspect that this product of the Catskills is used to mix with genuine flour as an adulteration. The *Times* should dispatch corps of reporters on an investigating tour to the Catskills with instructions to probe this matter to the bottom. Perhaps it may unearth the fact that one or more of the presidential candidates are stockholders in the gigantic scheme. Let no guilty man escape—*Lumberman's Gazette*.

THE NUTMEG TREE.

This is a native of the East Indies, but has been introduced and cultivated in the West Indies and in other warm countries; it forms a medium sized tree and is grown in orchards; a nutmeg plantation and a peach orchard closely resemble each other.

Nutmeg culture was at one time confined to the Banda Islands, and strong efforts were made to monopolize the production, a scheme which failed, it is stated, on account of birds carrying the seeds and dropping them beyond the assigned limits, and thus spreading the tree over the whole islands of the Malayan Archipelago, from the Moluccas to New Guinea.

The tree is cultivated to a limited extent in Jamaica, where it succeeds best in a deep, rich, friable soil, which is drained. Undulating ground is preferred in order to assist the running off all superfluous water, as around its roots, although in order to thrive well it requires an atmosphere of the most humid kind. Young plants are readily raised from fresh seeds. The fruit requires nine months of tropical weather to mature.

The correspondent of the New York *Sun* has received a letter from Leonard Henkle, inventor and electrician, of Rochester, saying that although the action of the New York Legislature in favour of the National Park compels him to abandon Prospect Park and the American side of Niagara for electric lighting purposes, he has nevertheless negotiated for the purchase of land on the Canada side of the river and for power from the great Horseshoe Fall for carrying out his original plan. That plan contemplated the lighting of sixty-five American and Canadian cities, connected by means of underground cables with electric lights generated at Niagara. The plans are all drawn for ten hydraulic engines of 200,000 horse power each, and gigantic machinery. That Henkle himself means business is attested by the fact that he will soon open an office on the Canada side of the river, and endeavour to complete arrangements with capitalists, whom he expects to furnish \$22,000,000 for the undertaking.

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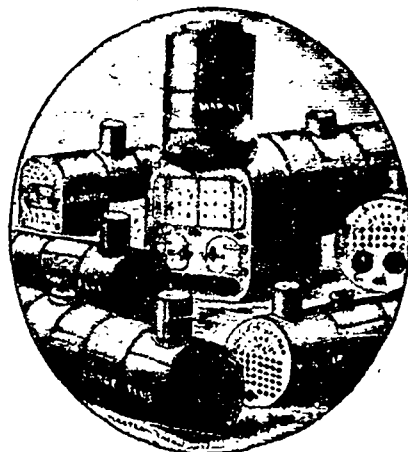
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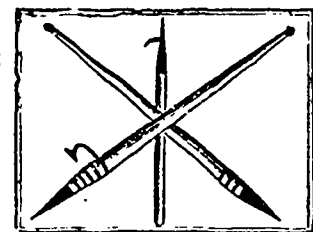
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