

The Way They Do It.

A correspondent of the Grank Fork Plain-dealer attempts to elucidate the method pursued by the alleged pine rings of Minnesota to squeeze out rival bidders at an auction sale of standing pine:

"The only way to bid safely at a pine land sale is to procure estimates, which will cost \$10 and upwards per 40 acres. When the day of sale arrives—which may or may not be put off from time to time if too many bidders are on hand (this has been done in the past before)—the bidding commences. This ring, that is in possession of estimates covering all the land to be offered, appoints one or more men to bid for it. This ring may, and probably will, embrace capital to the extent of \$5,000,000. If no opposition is made the land is bid off at from \$1.25 to \$2 per acre; but if opposed by a bidder the lands are run up and unloaded on the outsider at a high price, or they are bid out of his reach. Thus one of his estimates is disposed of; and so on until his list is exhausted. As soon as bidders are out of the way the price drops to \$1.25 or \$2, the latter being the highest price the government has ever secured at former sales. After the sale is closed the excess paid to drive off outsiders is divided *pro rata* over all the lands purchased by the ring. Under this system the individual is contending against amassed capital, with the usual result."

The Men for the Woods.

The Northwestern Lumberman says:—Every man does not stop to think how the lumber industry would be crippled if immigration to our country were to stop. If loggers and saw mill operators were to hang out the sign, "No foreigners need apply," all instead of few of the families who settle in the new West would be obliged to live in dug-outs. American boys can keep cooks, go to college, and live off the old man, but not many of them are inclined to pile lumber or endure the rigor of camp life. It would be a sight worth witnessing to see them lay off their silk suspenders and swing the axe or pull the cross-cut. They look upon the foreigners in flannel shirts and big boots who seek the jobbers as very ordinary cattle; but these same foreign gentlemen are prepared without special training to go into the woods and make themselves useful to the world. Their muscle is equal to the task of swinging a four pound axe from daylight to dark, and it is fortunate that a swear in a foreign tongue makes the mule as lively as though it were hurled at him in the purest English.

A California Tree.

There was recently felled in Sonoma County, California, a tree which cut up as follows. The Petaluma Argus says that the details can be relied upon. The standing height of the tree was 347 feet, and its diameter near the ground 14 feet. In falling, the top was broken off 200 feet distant from the stump, and up to the point of breaking the tree was perfectly sound. From the tree saw-logs were cut of the following lengths and diameters: 1st, 14 feet long, 9 feet diameter; 2d, 12 feet long, 8 feet diameter; 3d, 12 feet long, 7 feet 7 inches diameter; 4th, 14 feet long, 7 feet 7 inches diameter; 5th, 16 feet long, 7 feet diameter; 6th, 16 feet long, 7 feet 10 inches diameter; 7th, 16 feet long, 6 feet 6 inches diameter; 8th, 16 feet long, 6 feet 4 inches diameter; 9th, 16 feet long, 6 feet 3 inches diameter; 10th, 18 feet long, 6 feet diameter; 11th, 12 feet long, 5 feet 10 inches diameter; 12th, 18 feet long, 5 feet 6 inches diameter. It will thus be seen that 180 feet of this remarkable tree was converted into saw logs.

JAMES VICK.—From the appearance of Vick's Floral Guide, which is on our desk, we should judge that the young Vicks are "chips of the old block," as the Floral Guide with its lithographed cover is handsome enough for the parlor table. It is printed on the best of paper, has three colored plates of Flowers and Vegetables, and full of useful information. Those who send 10 cents for it cannot be disappointed, as the plates alone are worth the amount. Address, in past years, JAMES VICK, Rochester, N. Y.

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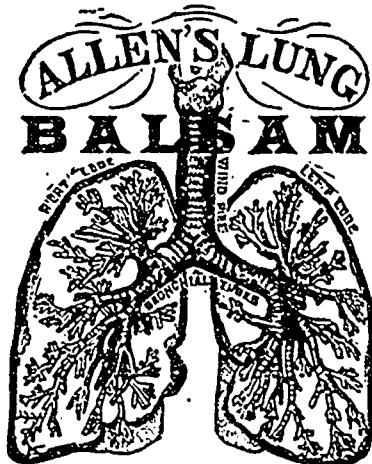
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