

A BIG STICK.

A correspondent writing from Mt. Sterling, Ala., to the *Browton Banner*, says: I read, a few days since in the *Star* (copied from an exchange) of a large stick of timber manufactured by the Etheridge Bros., and delivered to the Mobile market. It was got out octagonal and is a large piece of timber, but I hauled a piece for Gaines & Slater at Tusahoma in Choctaw county last week that was 45 inches in the centre of the log, 85 feet long. These parties were young in the business and made this piece square edged and by the two-thirds rule measured 30 inches; it had four straight lines, nicely squared and worked; it had one knot which was sound and only measured one inch in diameter. Now, if this stick had been got out in octagonal shape it would have measured 40 inches in diameter. It was the finest piece of timber I ever saw, perfectly sound, straight, and of good heart, it would take the premium at the World's Exposition at New Orleans if exhibited. I would not be afraid to risk \$100 that it will be the finest piece of wood that ever went to the Mobile market, or perhaps to any other market in the United States.

STRAIN ON BAND SAW BLADES.

A well-known band saw manufacturer of Rochester, N. Y., Mr. F. H. Clement, writes as follows to the *American Journal of Appliances*: I have made some experiments on the strain of band saw blades, and while I do not consider that they are exhaustive, I think they pretty nearly represent the average practice. Of course there is a wide difference in the ideas of operators about the necessary amount of tension on the blade, and my figures are based on my own judgment. The strain was weighed on an ordinary platform scale, by means of a lever and suitable fulcrums. For a 3-16-inch blade, No. 21 gauge, running 3,500 to 4,000 feet per minute in ordinary sawing, the strain was 151 pounds. For 1-inch blade, No. 21 gauge, same conditions, 214 pounds. For 1-inch blade, No. 20 gauge, same conditions, 358 pounds. These figures are the actual tension on the blade, the weight of the wheel and its bearing and the friction on the ways being first deducted. On a heavier machine of my make for splitting or re-sawing, a 2 1/2 blade No. 20 gauge, running 5,500 feet per minute, cutting 19 inches wide, has usually from 1,100 pound, to 1,300 pound tension including the weight of wheel and bearing and the friction on the ways.

HOW TO SAW LOGS.

The springing and warping of timber and lumber are said to be greatly, if not entirely, due to sawing done at the mill in which the work is done by commencing at one side of the log and working towards the other. To avoid the evil it is only necessary to saw off a slab or plank alternately from each side. If this is so, it would seem to be an easy matter and should be done. By a little management, measurements and calculations made with reference to the principal end of each log the sawed pieces might be turned out so as to be precisely symmetrical with respect to the axis of the rough log. For instance saw off the first slab, then turn and remove the next of exactly the same size the two slabs being remainders after laying out the desired thickness on the butt end from the centre, making due allowance for the kerf or cut of the saw. If there is anything in all this it is worthy the attention of architects, builders, and lumbermen.—*Builders and Manufacturers' Journal*.

The loss to growing timber, fencing and cordwood, caused by the forest fires, which for two weeks raged along both sides of the Chesapeake bay in Maryland and Virginia, is estimated at \$100,000. Rains extinguished the flames on October 23rd, after burning over 5,000 acres of land.

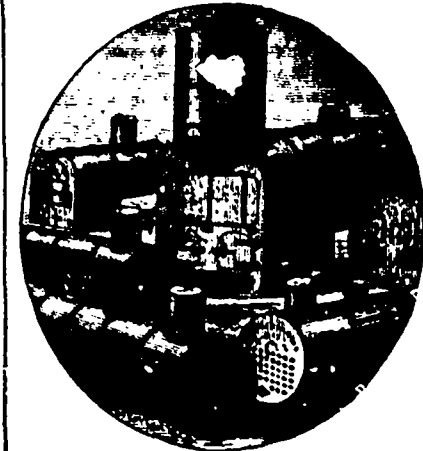
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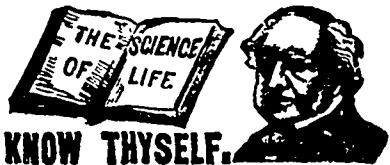
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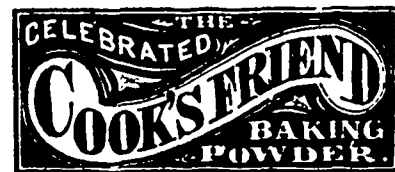
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