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BY THE WAY.

IT is rather more than a year ago since we recorded in these columns the sale of a considerable portion of the Dodge estate in the Georgian bay district to Merrill, Ring & Fordney, of Saginaw, Mich. It will be remembered that the purchase embraced a sawmill, 12,000,000 feet of logs, and 500,000,000 feet of pine. The sum paid was stated to have been \$750,000. Subsequently the American purchasers sold part of the timber, but held 350,000,000 feet, and a late report from Saginaw says that they have now sold this to the Holland-Emery Lumber Company, of East Tawas, the consideration being announced at \$700,000. The expectation is that the timber will be taken to the Holland-Emery mill at East Tawas, though it is probable that the local mill will be utilized for part of cut.

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Two views of the log duty were brought out in the interview with Hon. Finance Minister Foster and his associates when in the city a few weeks ago. Those concerned in the carrying trade by water were represented by Capt. W. Hall, F. B. Cumberland, J. T. Matthews, Capt. Sylvester, A. M. Smith and W. Keighley, who entered a protest against the free exportation of logs as tending to seriously affect the shipping interests of the country. They pointed out that the effect upon their interests of there being no export duty on logs is shown by the fact that whereas last year only 175,000,000 feet of lumber was exported in logs, there is in sight already 455,000,000 feet for export this year, which may be called the third year of the absence of the export duty. When this lumber was cut in Canada the vessels of the United States had an equal right with Canadians to carry it, and did carry a large share. But now when the logs are towed across and cut in Michigan, Canadian vessels lose the possibility of carrying any part of it. The absence of an export duty, they declared, points to a continual increase of the exports of logs, and eventually the closing of all the large mills in Canada except for home requirements. Mr. A. H. Campbell, of the Muskoka Mill and Lumber Company, asked that the government do nothing in regard to the re-imposition of the duty until the lumber manufacturers have had time to discuss the question.

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Interest in lumbering at this time of the year centres to no small extent in the work of the drives. Just what trade conditions may be at a later period depends to some extent on the ease with which the lumber comes forward the early part of the season. It looks just now as though there would be few, if any, logs tied up this summer, and any that did not come down last year will be brought forward this season with the new cut. All over these conditions seem to prevail, for heavy rains and large freshets have been universal. In the Ottawa district the danger is from a too great abundance of water rather than too little. In the northern districts plenty of water is not wanting, and encouraging reports are reaching us regarding the drives in New Brunswick. It is believed that all of the logs in that district will come out. On the St. John river it is estimated that over 30,000,000 feet of logs are already in the Douglas boom above Fredericton. R. A. Estey, of Fredericton, who has a large drive on the Tobique, has expressed the opinion that every log on that tributary of the St. John would be got out. Logs are running freely at Grand Falls and coming out of all the tributaries farther up. All the small streams tributary to the Nashwaak are pouring Gibson's logs into the main stream. The St. John river is several feet higher than at any time last season. All the streams tributary to the lakes in Queen's

county, the outlet of which is the St. John river, will be cleared of their drives without difficulty. On the St. Croix, on the Maine border, one drive is running into the booms and those on other small tributaries of that river are well along. In Albert county the drive of C. and I. Prescott is all out into the main stream. On some of the streams men are being discharged, as the high water enables the logs to be got out with much smaller crews.

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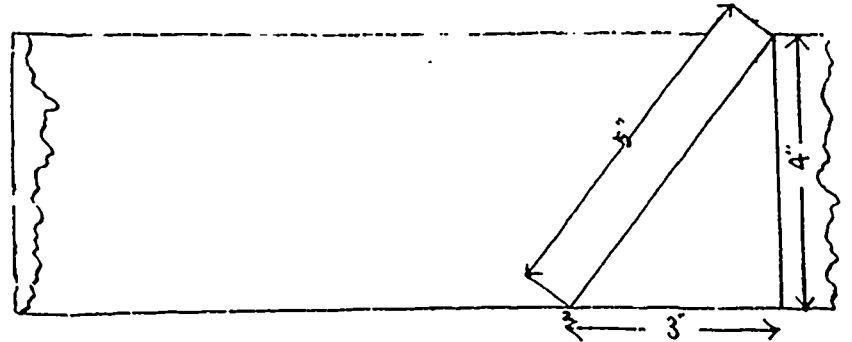
In last month's LUMBERMAN the remark was made by Mr. C. H. Clark, of Barre, that owing to the steady advance in the price of northern pine, yellow pine was being used in the eastern States for various purposes in building operations where white pine had hitherto held the field against all competitors. In a report from Boston, before us at this writing, we are told that a growing demand exists in that market for southern pine. The Northwestern Lumberman, under the caption of "High Priced Lumber," discusses this question, remarking that in these days of comparatively high prices for northern pine in the west, we hear much about the abandonment of contemplated building enterprises on that account. Our contemporary does not think there is very much in this objection, for the reason that in the house of the present day where brick, stone and labor are the heaviest items of expenditure, an additional price for the lumber that is required, does not to an appreciable extent affect the price of the contract. But if the difficulty has to be surmounted it is pointed out that there is still plenty of cheap lumber. For joists and scantling there is hemlock, and when hemlock will not give satisfaction for girders and heavy joists, yellow pine can be procured at prices not too high to be employed in first class structures. Whilst, however, other woods may for certain uses, be made to take the place of white pine on the ground of cheapness, it is to be remembered that the better article in any line of commerce will always more than hold its own. When competition reaches its keenest and depression is at its worst it is the lower values that suffer most. The silver dollar may depreciate, but the gold dollar never. The case is put this way by the Northwestern Lumberman: "We should not overlook the fact that the recent advance in prices for northern pine has been scored in the midst of increasing competition from southern lumber, which is sold as cheaply as before the advance in northern pine values. This is an important fact, and conclusively shows that the soft pine of the north holds a unique place among the lumber woods that nothing is apparently able to dislodge. White pine manufacturers and dealers can safely invite any competition with full assurance that their lumber will sell freely as long as any remains."

OUR SENTIMENTS, TOO.

HERE is some advice tendered by Hunt's Merchants' Magazine. "According to the character or extent of your business, set aside a liberal percentage for advertising, and do not hesitate. Keep yours self unceasingly before the public; and it matters not what business of utility you may be engaged in, for, if intelligently and industriously pursued, a fortune will be the result."

A HANDY RULE.

THE rule often called "the 6, 8 and 10 rule," says a writer in The Tradesman, is not nearly so well known as it should be, as this would often get men out of scrapes that now bother them. For example, we are out at the lumber pile and want to cut a piece six feet long and have the ends square. We have only the ordinary two foot rule with us, no try square or carpenter's square, and how shall we get the ends square. If we had one square we could measure down each side an equal distance, but as neither end is square we shall have to use our "6, 8 and 10 rule." We begin by measuring along the straight edge of the board and (supposing it to be a board not exceeding twelve inches) lay off six inches, marking each point, making one point where we wish to cut. Now, measuring across the board, we lay off eight inches and make an "arc," by swinging the rule from the first point. For the final mark we take ten inches on the rule, and placing one end on the second point we marked, swing it until "ten inches" crosses the arc swing. A line drawn through the first and third points will be at right angles to the edge of the board. In other words, we form a triangle with a base six inches; a height of eight inches and a hypotenuse of ten inches, which makes a right angled triangle. The cut will show this plainly. It will be seen that it is marked 3, 4 and 5 inches in the



A HANDY RULE.

cut instead of 6, 8 and 10, but it is the same proportion and may be 12, 16, 20 inches or feet, according to requirements. Start with the point marked one and lay off two just three inches from it. Again, using point 1, lay off point 3, which is just 4 inches from it, and from point 2 measure where the line will cut point 3, when just 5 inches long. Then draw through 1 and 3 and you have the line at right angles to the edge of the board. It may be interesting to note that this valuable rule, which is really that a "right angled triangle can be formed by having the sides in the proportion of 3, 4 and 5") was discovered and published by the Greek philosopher Pythagorus several thousand years ago.

THE ENGINE ROOM.

IT has been said that the moisture from steam will cause whitewash to flake off, and where it falls on the working parts of machinery it will act as will so much emery. As to painting of floors, it had been my practice for a number of years to have the floor of my engine room given a coat of paint twice yearly. The place would look sleek and bright for a few weeks, and then begin to show uneven wear. Parts of machinery moved on the floor would leave their tracks, and the use of soda for washing the boards would cause shading not at all artistic. Planed tongue and grooved lumber without paint may be washed once a week with potash or lye water, and will soon bleach out, and will always present a good appearance.