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sound as a nut, the knots being small, red, and tight as a cork in a bottle. He thinks that in the process of time this spruce will become a valuable resource in the lumber supply of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories. There is nothing to hinder the safe and easy rafting of logs from any point on the lake to Selkirk or Winnipeg, or any other point where mills may be erected, because of the remarkable absence of winds and rough seas, such as make rafting on the great lakes so hazardous.

So far as Mr. Mundy's observation extended, the shores of Lake Winnipeg are mostly low and marshy, and covered with a thick growth of tamarac and poplar. The region will be a paradise for the wood pulp men whenever the Canadian Northwest has 15,000,000 inhabitants, and wood pulp becomes an object of local demand. Little good spruce is to be seen on the west shore of the lake until the Fisher river region was reached, and there is little or no pine anywhere in that country.—*Northwestern Lumberman.*

WATER-WHEEL STEPS.

In reply to "Subscriber," query 47, the question, what is the best material for steps, is one that cannot be perfectly answered on account of the large variety of wheels with steps so different in size, compared with the weight and revolutions of the various wheels. The material put into one wheel might prove or seem to be the best, while the same put in another would prove to be bad.

There are various kinds of wood used, such as maple, oak, hickory, lignum vitae, and others, quite plentifully, but which is the best is yet to be found out. Unless these woods are all tried under the same wheel and with the water in the same condition, there will be no telling which is the best. If the inquirer has trouble in this line he will do well to state the size of the wheel, the fall of water and the number of revolutions of wheel per minute, as well as the diameter of steps; then I think that he will be

on the way out of his trouble, that is, if he is troubled with his wheel steps; and the nature of his wheel or wheels must also be known. If all the foregoing data were given, almost any good millwright would be able to inform the inquirer about the size of the steps to use under the wheels.

If the right size of step is applied to the stress put on the step, any of the above varieties of timber mentioned will prove good. In my long experience in the line of wheel steps, the trouble was not so much in the kind of wood used as in the form of the step and its side compared with the stress upon it. Having used all kinds of wood for this purpose, I find the second growth of rock maple to be the best, although others might find it only second best.—*J. W. Truax in American Miller.*

DEATH OF MR. JAMES BENEDICT.

Many of our readers will regret to learn of the death of Mr. James Benedict, of the firm of James Benedict & Son, which occurred last Saturday at his residence in Albany, N. Y., at the advanced age of eighty years and four months. This event reminds us that the pioneer lumbermen of the country are fast passing away. The firm of James Benedict & Son is well known to the lumber trade of Canada and the United States. It has done business in Canada with nearly all the lumbermen of the Bay of Quinte district and other sections of Ontario, including among other well known names in the trade, Mr. Sanford Baker, who for many years owned Baker's Island Mills, Mr. Stinson (deceased), Mr. F. Walbridge, Rev. Henry Osborne, who built and operated the mills now owned by Gillis Bros. at Braeside, Messrs. Thompson and Miller of Longford, the late J. C. Miller, of Parry Sound, H. McLachlan, of Arnprior, the late W. A. Scott of Peterborough, &c. The firm commenced doing business with H. B. Rathbun, Esq., in 1856 and the business relations then established have continued uninterrupted for 29 years. The closest commercial

intercourse had endeared the deceased gentleman to many connected with the business founded by Mr. Rathbun, and from all of whom he had succeeded in winning the greatest respect and confidence.

Mr. Benedict, who was of English parentage, was born at Danbury, Conn., and had for the past thirty-one years resided in Albany. He commenced his lumbering operations in a mill which he himself erected on a small stream on his father's farm. He afterwards transferred his operations to Ulster Co., N. Y., where for some 13 years he handled the bulk of the lumber manufactured in that country. In 1854 he went to Albany where he established the house of J. Benedict & Son, which for 3 years has been so signally prosperous. In 1856 he was also largely engaged in the tannery business in Sullivan Co., N. Y., erecting what at that time was considered the model tannery of the State. Mr. Benedict was the first lumberman to introduce the delivery of hemlock building timber to the retail lumber yards of New York city. Spruce and pine had before that been exclusively used. He supplied a large amount of timber used in the first construction of the Hudson River Railway and the old New York and Erie Railway. He also furnished the timber used in the construction of the dams on the Croton River which supplies the city of New York with water, and the timber used in the construction of the old water reservoirs of the same city.

Mr. Benedict was an excellent business man, being endowed with great energy and sterling integrity. His business operations were large and conducted on the most conservative principles. For many years previous to his death his failing health compelled him to relinquish his active business pursuits and live a life of comparative retirement. He was a member of the Baptist church, but generous in his aid to churches of all denominations and ever modest and unassuming in his good works as in all his business operations.

At a meeting of the Board of Lumber Dealers, of Albany held at the District Chapel, on August 17th, 1885, the following memorial was unanimously adopted:

Again are we called together to take proper action in reference to the death of one of our oldest and most prominent members, Mr. James Benedict, the senior partner of J. Benedict & Son, a firm which has been recognized as the largest dealers in the district, and one of the charter members of our organization. His long business experience, his commercial capacity, his uncompromising honesty, and his mature judgment, have made him prominent in our trade, and we would do well if all would emulate his virtues and be prepared, as he was, for the great change which, sooner or later, awaits us.

On motion, the board resolved to send his funeral as an organization, and at this memorial be published in the daily papers, and that a copy be transmitted to the family of the deceased.

WM. N. FASSET, Secretary. HENRY PATTON, Vice President.

On the occasion of his funeral the lumbermen of the city of Albany closed their offices out of respect to his memory. His remains were interred in a beautiful plot which he had purchased in the Rural Cemetery of Albany. He leaves a wife and one son, Ezra G. Benedict, who is also widely known in lumber manufacturing circles.—*Decorative Tribune.*

Advice to Mothers.

Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain and cutting teeth? If so, send at once and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers, there is no mistake about it. It cures dysentery and diarrhoea, regulates the stomach and bowels, cures wind, colic, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething is pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female nurses and physicians in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price 25 cents a bottle.