WILL NOT RECEDE.

The current opinion in this neck-o'-woods is, that the men who are deferring their purchases of lumber for a more convenient season, or are expecting more advantageous figures later in the season, will, in the vernacular of the street, "get left." It may be put down as an almost absolute certainty that prices are not going to recede, and those who wait for such conditions in the trade, will have some dearly bought experience before the close of the season, that they are doing business with less profit than if they had purchased earlier. "The early bird catches the worm," will be a pretty safe motto for the retailer as well as the wholesaler at the distributing centre to adopt in securing stock for the season's operations. The reasons for the faith that is in us as regards the maintenance of prices, if not an advance, are that the logging season has been a very disadvantageous one. Too much snow or an insufficiency of it have been the ruling features of operations in the woods, and the strong probability is that it will be no better until the final break-up and cessation of operations in the pineries, and the log crop is destined to be insufficient for the full mill capacity on the Saginaw river, which has been decreased to the extent of about 75,000,000 feet by the destruction of mill property by fire. Added to this fact is another, that the stock of lumber and available logs at the close of operations last season was about 200,000,000 feet short as compared with the close of the season of 1884. This will leave a comparative shortage of 275,000,000 feet or thereabouts. This immense shortage must inevitably have a perceptible effect in stiffening prices which leaves any prospect of a decline very improbable to say the least. It will be observed therefore, that there is very little danger of the purchaser getting left through hasty action in securing stock for the coming season's business, but a very strong probability that delay may result seriously disadvantageous.—*Lumberman's Gazette.*

SOMETHING KNEW IN FANCY VENEERS.

The New York correspondent of the *Cabinet-maker* says: A continuous and perfect strip of veneer from ⅝ inch to 30 inches in width and 300 or more long is an accomplished fact. E. Katz is the gentleman to whom the trade is indebted for the perfection of the idea. After much trouble and expense Mr. Katz has at last hit upon the necessary machinery, which he has now in running order, and is in a position to turn out a large quantity. The advantages rightly claimed for these veneers are numerous and we will mention a few of them. The veneer being stripped in "rolls" instead of "flitches" takes up less room and is more easily handled. The time and labor ordinarily required in piecing, patching and cutting of corners, etc., is saved, it being only necessary to take a strip of any desired width and cut any length required, the saving is the point alone being considerable. The figure of these veneers is equal, if not superior, to that of other veneers, When laid on, the absence of all piecing and patching is evident in the unformity and unmarried beauty of figuring. To the experienced the many advantages of this mode of cutting will at once be evident that we do not doubt that there will be a great and increasing demand for these veneers as they become more widely known.

WHO MADE THE FIRST BARREL?

Few inventions have had a wider or more varied usefulness than the barrel; few give such promise of perpetuity. Unique in principle, simple, yet singularly perfect in plan and structure, the barrel is little less than a stroke of genius. Who set up the first one? Who first conceived the happy thought of making a vessel tight and strong out of strips of wood bound together with hoops. And when and where did he live?

No history of inventions; none of the encyclopedias in our great libraries; no historian of human progress, so far as we know, gives any information on the subject, unless we accept the Roman author, Pliny, who mistakenly attributes the invention to the Gauls who inhabited the banks of the Po. We say mistakenly, since there is the best of good reason for believing that the barrel was in use long before the Gauls took possession of their Italian home, perhaps long before the Gauls existed as a people.

The monuments of Egypt furnish proof of the early use of hooped vessels, though no date is given for their invention. In one of the inscriptions copied by Wilkinson may be seen two slaves emptying grain from a wooden vessel made with hoops, while a scribe keeps tally, and a sweeper stands by with a broom to sweep up the scattered kernels. Close by an unfortunate is undergoing punishment by bastinado for short measure, perhaps, or, as Mr. Wilkinson suggests, for petty theft. The measure is barrel shaped, and precisely like the *kayl* of modern Egypt. It would hold, apparently, about a peck. Unfortunately, the age of this inscription is not indicated. Measures of that sort would seem to have been in common use very early in Egypt, though not for the storing of liquids, for which purpose skin and earthen vessels were employed.

At first thought, Egypt would be the last place to look for the invention of hooped vessels its arid climate making it specially unsuited for their employment. Possibly, however, that may have been the compelling cause of their invention.

Throughout the East the bamboo is largely used for making hollow vessels, a section of the stem through a node securing a solid bottom, and one between the nodes an open mouth for a natural tub or bucket. In well wooded regions nothing would be more natural than the employment of hollow tree trunks for the same purpose, or sections of tree stems hollowed out bp fire or otherwise. In drying such vessels would split and spoil, and it would require no great genius to repair them by means of withes or wooden bands, the primitive form of the hoops.

If the users of such natural barrels should migrate to a more barren reason where timber was scarcer, economy of lumber would be likely to suggest the building of barrels from pieces artificially split, in short the use of staves, by means of which the primitive cooper would be able to make several barrels out of a block that would suffice for a single dug-out.

But this is speculation merely. It is enough to know that the cooper's art, like the potter's, is one of extreme antiquity. We had no suspicion of its age until we undertook to tell who made the first one.—*Scientific American.*

FLOUR AND FEED MILL.

A reliable and durable mill for the durable purpose of making flour and grinding feed is almost indispensable on large farms and to stock men, and can very often be run very profitably in connection with a saw mill. The "Union" flour and feed mill, manufactured by the Freeport Machine Co., of Freeport, Ill., meets the requirements in every respect. We present a cut of the mill and a description taken from the company's circular:—

This mill combines a principle with which coarse and fine meal, graham flour, chop, etc., can be ground more rapidly, and with much less power than with other mills, for the reason that we use annular cast steel rings in connection with best French buhr stones. The hard steel grinding rings are placed close to the centre, and are so arranged and adjusted as to crush the grains at or near the centre of the grinder, and to do it with much less power because of this, as it will be observed that the grain is first broken by the hard steel rings, and afterwards, by continual pressure, ground fine by the buhr stones, thereby reducing the frequent necessity of dressing the buhr stones, as is the case in other mills, hence the great value to planters, farmers, millers and users of our combined steel and buhr stone mill, which we can positively recommend to do better work and more of it, with less power than any other mill known. The 12 inch "Union" weighs 500 pounds, and when packed for export 650 pounds (and measurement 28 cubic feet); the driving pulley is eight in diameter, 5½ inch face, for 5 inch belt; 6 to 12 horse power is required to run the 12 inch "Union." The 16 inch "Union" net weight is 350 pounds; driving pulley 9 inches in diameter, 6½ inch face for six inch belt; requires six to fifteen horse power. Our "Union" mills have adjustable feed, and should 800 to 1,200 revolutions per minute. Just the mill for those having steam, water, tread or horse power. We believe our "Union" mills are indispensable to planters, farmers, diarymen and stock raisers. We furnish mills with or without a shaking bolt, and of a size sufficient to bolt as fast as the meal is ground, which works to perfection.

The 12 inch "Union" has 12 inch best French buhrs, and will grind from twelve to thirty bushels of meal per hour; the 16-inch "Union" mill will grind from 25 to 60 bushels per hour, depending upon the speed given.

CHARCOAL MAKING.

Kilns or ovens for reducing wood to charcoal are generally made of brick, and are of two kinds, the conical and the retangular. Charcoal is sometimes produced in open air pits, covered with earth. Our average New England forests will produce from 1500 to 2000 bushels of charcoal per acre, in addition to some spruce and hard-wood logs. It is estimated that after the first cutting, provided young trees are preserved thrifty woodlands will yield a crop sufficient to produce 1500 bushels to the acre every twenty or twenty-five years. Hence every acre well wooded land has a large and positive money value, even after one crop is removed. Whatever may be realized from the forests produces of an acre to-day, we may rest assured that in twenty-five or forty years the same amount of wood or timber will fetch more that the present selling price. The yield of charcoal varies but is usually thirty-five to forty-five per cent. of volume of the wood, and from eighteen to twenty-five per cent. by the ordinary methods, when the wood has been exposed two or three months in the open air after cutting. Well-made charcoal retains the form and structure of the wood, is brittle, somewhat cracked and very sonorous. If not burned enough, it is not black nor in the fracture bright One cord of wood yields about forty bushels of charcoal. Common kilns for burning 1200 bushels at one time cost about $400 each, where bricks can be obtained at reasonable prices. About 160 bushels of charcoal required to produce one ton of pig iron from the ore. A block of land measuring from 25,000 to 30,000 acres if well cared for, will permanently supply wood sufficient to manufacture all the charcoal needed for a common-sized blast furnace, say 3000 to 4000 tons per year —[*Ex.*

THE ONE-STAVE BARREL.

From the *Journal*, of Detroit, Mich., is taken the following concerning the one stave barrel:

"On the west side of the river Rouge, about three miles beyond the western limits of Detroit, on a site embracing between fifteen and twenty acres of land, the Anchor Manufacturing Company has built and is erecting several buildings for the manufacture of barrels by a new process. Hugh Mattulath is at the institution, and associated with him as stockholders, are Alanson Sheley, A. R. and W. F. Linn, A. S. Brooks, the Chandler Brothers, Peltier & Belanger, George W. Moore, Chas. E. Qottrell and William P. Fuller. The company has a paid up capital of $500,000. The establishment is now turning out 6,000 barrels per day, and will soon be making twice that number. While the size and shape of this barrel are the same as the ordinary one, the body of the barrel consists of a single sheet of timber held by hoops. The timber used is elm, which is cheap and abundant. Canada is the main base of supplies, and timber hunters sent there have already arranged for a year's supply for this establishment. The logs will be rafted over during the season of navigation, and brought by rail in the winter time. The logs are taken from the boom or yard into the saw mill, and cut into two barrel lengths. Thence they go into a steam chest, where they remain until thoroughly steamed. In this condition the log is converted into thin sheets, or veneering, used in the body of the barrel. By a special process, a two-foot log becomes rolls of wooden sheeting in a minute's time. There remains upon the mandrel an eight inch core, which is utilized in making barrel heads. The sheets go next to a sanding machine, by which both sides are made perfectly smooth. After passing through a cutting and grooving machine, they are so cut by a *goring machine* as to adapt them to the shape of a barrel. Thence they go to the drying-house. The latter is a building 50x400 feet, heated by steam. From the dry house they go to the sizing saws, where they are cut the desired length, when they are ready for the cooper shop or for shipment. They are shipped in bundles and in the 'knock-down' to be put up at their point of destination. Three thousand of them can be stored and forwarded in an ordinary box car The headings are shipped in barrels. The factory is full of the finest machinery, and not a little of it is the product of Mr. Mattulluth's ingenuity"

NOTICE.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Indian Supplies," will be received at this office up to noon on TUESDAY, 20th APRIL, 1886, *for the delivery of Indian Supplies* during the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1887, consisting of Flour, Bacon, Beef, Groceries, Ammunition, Twine Oxen, Cows, Bulls, Agricultural Implements, Tools, &c. duty paid, at various points in Manitoba and the North West Territories.

Forms of tender, giving full particulars relative to the supplies required, dates of delivery, &c, may be had by applying to the undersigned, or to the Indian Commissioner at Regina, or to the Indian Office, Winnipeg.

Parties may tender for each description of goods (or for any portion of each discription of goods) separately or for all the goods called for in the Schedules.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted Cheque in favor of the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs on a Canadian Bank for at least five per cent of the amount of the tenders for Manitoba and the North-West Territories, which will be forfeited if the party tendering declines to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or if he fails to complete the work contracted for. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned.

Tenderers must make up in the Money columns in the Schedule the total money value of the goods they offer to supply, or their tender will not be entertained.

Each tender must in addition to the signature of the tenderer be signed by two sureties acceptable to to the Department, for the proper performance of the contract.

In all cases where transportation may be only partial by rail, contractors must make proper arrangements for supplies to be forwarded at once from railway stations to their destination in the Government Warehouse at the point of delivery.

The lowest, or any tender, not necessarily accepted.

L. VANKOUGHNET,
Deputy of the Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs.

Department of Indian Affairs.
Ottawa, 3rd March, 1886. 445