

Canadian Woodworker

A MONTHLY JOURNAL
FOR ALL CLASSES OF WOODWORKERS

Vol. 1

TORONTO, JULY, 1908

No. 5

CANADIAN WOODWORKER

A Monthly Journal for all classes of
Woodworkers.

Subscription: Canada, United States and Great Britain, \$1.00 per year; Foreign, \$1.25, payable in advance. Advertising rates on application.
SAMPLE COPIES FREE ON REQUEST.

BIGGAR-WILSON, Ltd., Publishers

Offices: 73-80 Confederation Life Building, Toronto, Ont.
Telephone, Main 6377.

Canadian Woodworker is published by the first of the month. All changes for advertisements, news items and other matter must be in hand by the 15th of the preceding month. Cuts should be sent by mail, not by express.

Practical men are invited to send to the Editor signed articles or paragraphs upon any subject of interest to their fellow woodworkers.

FUTURE GROWTH OF WOODWORKING INDUSTRY.

One strong prop of the woodworking industry at present and an augury for its constantly increasing importance for the future lies in the fact that so much of the carpenter work on residences and other structures which formerly was done by hand right on the premises is now done by machinery in the planing mill. In large buildings, where there is a great quantity of such work to be done, woodworking machines are now sometimes installed on the spot so as to do it with greater quickness and efficiency. The whole sash and door and other carpentry work for a whole row of houses is now not infrequently ordered complete from one mill, the only thing remaining to be done in its permanent location being its setting up.

Joists and studding are not only cut to exact lengths, but rafters are cut and the gains in studs are cut in the mill. On every side we find work being done at the mill which formerly was considered impractical. One thing that has helped in this more than anything else, probably, is the more general use of blue-prints and detailed plans and specifications in house-building. In the early days only mansions and buildings of like kind were carefully planned by architects, whereas to-day many of the simplest cottages, and the majority of the better class of dwellings, are all carefully planned and specified by an architect, so that these plans and specifications can be taken to the planing mill and practically every piece of lumber entering into the work be cut to the exact size and shape desired. Some planing mills have added special machines for work of this kind, and make quite a feature of it. If the practice continues to grow, as is sure to be the case, it certainly behooves every planing mill man to make a stud of it and prepare to keep up with the procession.

Canada presents such strong advantages for the carrying on of all branches of woodworking that the above feature in construction work is bound to become a great factor in its advancement as a manufacturing nation. Not only have our woodworkers the opportunity to meet the demands from a rapidly increasing population, but owing to its possession of great stores of wood becoming constantly more valuable as those of other countries dwindle, it will have a chance to make up many articles of wood for export to less favored nations. There are a multitude of opportunities presented in the woodworking industry which at present are but dimly realized by us in Canada, who are more than usually blessed by nature with the wherewithal to make use of them.

THE MACHINE AS AN AID TO ART.

A machine of any sort, but especially in the furniture or other woodworking line, is often regarded as an enemy to art, besides being a kind of "bad spirit," taking work out of the hands of men and putting it into the clutches of unfeeling iron and steel. Prof. Herkomer, the well-known artist, lecturing at the London Institution recently, took issue with these opinions. He took the ground that a good and expensive design should be reproduced by machinery rather than that people should be content with cheap and inferior work done by hand. Machinery, by the reduplication of what was best in statuary and carving, could bring the highest art closer to the masses of the people, and make it not only a means of pleasure, but an elevating and ennobling force.

Another of the allegations brought against the machine was that limitless repetition of any one article must take from its value. Such repetition was supposed to be contrary to art; but in order to grant that, they must assume that rarity was an art quality; and that Prof. Herkomer does not believe. Rarity played a great part in the commercial value of an article, but it was a source of the greatest danger to the proper valuation of art as art. The beauty of an article lay not in its rarity, but in the design, the workmanship, and in the material used.

At present the cheap article supplied to the masses fails mostly in design. The possibilities of the machine for producing artistic things have hardly been touched. We want the best for the masses, and the word "art" may not be misapplied to the wonderful productions of machinery.