



A CITIZEN of Ottawa, who foresees litigation from the farmers in the neighborhood of the Capital whose live stock are excluded from their usual watering places by the sawdust, suggests that lumbermen might use their sawdust and other mill refuse to their great gain by employing it to smelt our rich iron ores instead of having to pay heavily for throwing it into the river in the shape of damages and costs to Antoine Ratte and these aroused farmers.

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A gentleman just returned from Lake Joseph says that, from present appearances, the hemlocks will be almost annihilated within a few years. Last year an insect appeared which destroyed the foliage of the trees on the shores and islands in the north and centre of the lake. This year the trees have not leaved out again. Many thousands of them are dead and present a pitiable appearance. Among the islands which have been devastated are Chief, Governor's, Elsinor, Laurie, Clareview, Badgerow, Cameron's, and nearly all the islands to the northward. It does not appear that anything can be done to stop the destruction. It would be worth while for the Local Government to send up an entomologist to ascertain the extent of the injury and the probable duration of the visitation, as, if the insect is not checked, the loss will mount into millions.

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There is a deal of truth in Robt. Grimshaw's argument that the man who keeps his engine nice and clean also keeps it in good order. Says he: "The man who goes over and round about his engine every day; whose eyes rest upon every square inch of its surface, and whose hand touches every square inch, can keep it in order better than he who simply squirts oil in or at the oil holes when he happens to think of it, or has his attention called to the necessity of oil by the squeak. A hot place is readily detected by him who goes often all over his engine, and can be better attended to if discovered when a trifle warm, than if allowed to get hotter and hotter until it squeals, or until the bearing seizes. It is the same way with steam leaks and trifling tracks; the man who goes all over his engine once or more every day knows of them before they get serious, and attends to them at once. Leaks are incompatible with brightness. Brightness must be had, hence leaks must be stopped at once when they are discovered."

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These are blunt but sensible words from "Job," a writer, who hits off many good things in the Lumber World: "Look out for that class of workmen who may be named 'slambang' men, the men who never lay a tool or piece of stock down, but throw it down. Such men may be safe enough to work in powder and dynamite factories, but they are a costly nuisance in a wood-working shop, where fine and easily marred materials are used, and where most of the tools are keen-edged, delicate and complicated. What a lot of damage such men can do! The other day, in a large organ factory, I saw one of the 'slambang' men throw down a large chisel. It landed on a pile of delicate and costly veneers, rolled off and fell edge foremost on some bits of iron. Result: Two of the pieces of veneer were split, and one or two others marred. The chisel's edge was damaged. Fortunately for the establishment and unfortunately for Mr. Slambang, the foreman saw the incident—it was not an accident—and he sat down and figured up the damage, made a record of the incident, and sent it to the office. The proprietor happened to be in a not wholly amiable mood. He summoned the 'slambang,' and a scene followed. The end of it was a vacancy in the force. Should workmen be fined for incidents of this kind? Why not? If it be against express orders to throw fine tools around, why should not damages caused by throwing them around be paid

by the workman who throws them? What is there in the relation between employer and employee that makes it the duty of the employer to stand the damages inflicted in this way by this class of men? If I, either carelessly or deliberately, smash a \$5 tool, why should my carelessness cost my employer \$5? Mr. Employer, what think you?"

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A correspondent of the Scientific American tells the following interesting story: "In Guilford, Vt., are two beech trees that have grown into one. About twenty years ago I cut the top from one and made a slit in the other. I then united the two trees. It proved a successful graft, and when I saw them last fall they were about eight inches through at the base, distance apart about three feet, place of union about seven feet from the ground. Near this tree on the bank of a small stream stood a willow. I trimmed it, cut off the top, bent it over the stream and planted the top of the tree in the opposite bank. It rooted and in the summer the stream flows under a beautiful green arch. Another has its branches bent down and planted in a circle about its base. Another was twisted about an old fence rail, and as the rail has decayed, the tree resembles a giant cork screw. Another tied in a knot has grown so large that it would be no easy matter to untie it. On this same farm is an apple tree whose fruit is a union of the golden sweet and greening, or, in other words, the same apple is part sweet and part sour. It was produced by grafting the buds of a golden sweet and greening into another tree, and the singular part of it is the sweet part is covered with the yellow skin of the golden sweet, while the sour part, like an Irishman, sticks to its green."

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A resident of the Pacific Coast, Col. G. H. Megquier, of Anacortes, Washington territory, has invented a new method of packing shingles that promises to revolutionize the time-honored square bundle of shingles apparently everybody has been satisfied with up to this time. Mr. Megquier's method of packing is to place twenty-one rows of shingles on end with the butts down, thus bringing all the butts together. A two inch strip is then run along on each side, top and bottom, and firmly bound with the usual wire strip, making a bundle 47½ inches long, by about ten at the thick end and about four at the small. The cost of wire strips would be about 2½ or 3 cents more than by the old method, but the great saving would come in from the greater number that could be packed in a day, at least 10,000 to each packer. Another saving would be in the increased capacity of the dry houses. Then in the matter of shipping, a further saving is effected, as at least 20,000 more shingles can be loaded in a car, and in the case of a cargo the capacity of a ship is increased by 1,000,000 up, a point of no small importance in water shipments. Altogether Mr. Megquier's improved bundle seems to fill the bill for the most economical, most compact and handiest bundle of shingles that has yet been introduced. Patents have been applied for, and the new shingle bundle will be subjected to the test of practical experience which, if successful, will insure its use all over the Coast.

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The people of the Georgian Bay district are feeling keenly the effects of the free export of logs to the United States. Doubtless it is true that with them the question is more local than general. This circumstance does not, however, lessen the injury that they believe is being done to that part of the country which to them is home. A writer in a recent number of the Manitoulin Expositor, published in Little Current, expresses himself in vigorous fashion, thus: "Last year 175,000,000 feet of lumber was exported in logs, and this year there is to be 455,000,000 feet taken over to the States, showing that the annual shipment is increasing. This may look well, but how does it affect our country? In the first place, if these logs had to be manufactured in this country we would hear the busy hum of sawmills all along the shores of the Georgian Bay, see thousands of men busily engaged in these mills, see the little towns and villages in a prosperous condition, and everybody enjoying life. Again, the fact of logs being towed across the lakes materially affects the shipping and the work to be done by Canadian vessels. This means a

heavy loss to vessel owners in our country. As it is now, our mills are to a great extent shut down, and standing there rotting, men are complaining of hard times and no work, the merchants in the towns have great difficulty in getting a living, and on the whole the country is dead. No wonder that there is such an exodus from our country of the best of Canada's sons. Canada's forests are fat now, and if this state of affairs exists much longer instead of using the flesh we will have to pick dry bones. By all means put on the duty and save our pine."

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Ex Mayor James Dollar, of Bracebridge, Ont., one of the best known lumbermen of that district has decided to remove to San Rafael, Cal. Mr. Dollar has endeared himself to the people of the locality not only because of his enterprise as a business man, and likewise as a citizen, but for his many sterling qualities as a man ever interested in the individual welfare of the people. Mr. Dollar made one of the best chief magistrates that had occupied the mayor's chair in that thriving northern town. Mr. Dollar was re-elected at the last municipal contest but he resigned some time ago owing to the fact that he had intended removing to San Rafael, Cal. "I spent most of the winter there," he said "and it is now about a month since I returned home the last time. Now I am going there for good." "You find a difference in the climate there, don't you?" "Oh, yes. Snow is unknown and the season is two or three months ahead of ours. When I left there haying was in progress, the grapes were fully formed and the grain was almost ripe enough to cut." "What about Bracebridge? Is it on the down grade that you are leaving?" "No. Bracebridge will hold its own always. It has all the modern improvements for a first-class town. I am interested in the lumbering business in California and can do better living right there than so far away here." It will be remembered that in August last Mr. Dollar lost a brother, John Melville Dollar, also a resident at one time of Bracebridge, but who for some years before his death had been engaged in lumber in San Rafael, Cal., where he died. Mr. James Dollar goes to the same place.

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The owner of a combined saw and grist mill explains the continued and steady demand for lumber even at times when other staple commodities are depressed in this way: "Any conditions that will reduce the consumption of cotton goods - the actual wearing of them out - for a given time has no effect upon the actual consumption in future. In other words, because a man may be short of shirts this year does not imply that he will have to buy a double supply or wear out twice as many next year. And so it is with breadstuffs. Because a famine prevails this year is no sign that one who has been on short rations can consume more than the normal amount next year. He said, in his section where corn is high priced and scarce, the people economized by giving their stock more grass, their chickens less dough, and their dogs less bread. And so on through the list of necessities until it comes to lumber. He claims that it requires every year a constantly increasing supply of lumber to keep on repairs and build new structures. Conditions may be such that the necessary repairs and new buildings cannot be made at once, but they will have to be made later on. What cannot be done in this line one year must be done next year or later, and the deficiency must be made up some time. In this respect, he says, lumber has the advantage over all the other necessary products. Again, he claims that lumber is not held in such large stocks for long time and consequently the old stocks on hand do not effect trade and prices to near the extent that is felt in grain, sugar, cotton and tobacco. Who ever heard of any concern selling futures on lumber or trying to corner the lumber market." The gist of his argument is that lumber is the safest of all personal property to handle. His ideas are original, to say the least, and, we are inclined to think, very sound in the main. It is very comforting to think that any deficiency in the consumption of lumber one season will serve to make it increase the next.

VANCOUVER SAW MILL, VANCOUVER, B.C. Your paper affords much pleasant and profitable reading.