



CONTINUING the discussion on the British Columbia shingle situation, to which considerable attention was given in last month's LUMBERMAN, Mr. J. G. Scott, manager of the Pacific Coast Lumber Co., New Westminster, says: "As to our ability to compete in future with Puget Sound mills, we anticipate that some of the Ontario buyers of red cedar shingles may be induced to try some of their cheap shingles, but we do not think many of the deals will go beyond one car, as the Ontario people know too well what shingles should be. The Washington people cannot afford to sell a good well-made shingle any cheaper than we can, and the B. C. mills are not holding their own on present prices. They have no legitimate advantages over the B. C. makers. They have not as good freight rates to Ontario points, and their timber is much inferior in quality to the B. C. cedar. The average shingles of Washington are not worth within fifty cents per M of the average B. C. article, as anyone will testify who has seen the two makes. Washington and Oregon are suffering much worse from over production than B. C. In those two states there are about four hundred shingle mills, nearly all built within the past three or four years, many being built by parties without means: result, over one half the mills are either idle, run by receivers or run on a plan of co-operation between mill-owners and crews, in a great many cases the money being found by the middle man or dealer or the wholesale grocer taking the product of the mill and furnishing the necessities of life in exchange. Probably a more rotten state of affairs never existed before in the history of shingle making, almost everywhere the quality of the goods turned out being made a secondary consideration—big day's cut first—hence these cheap, nondescript shingles which are fast ruining the trade. We certainly anticipate that the removal of the duty will enable us to do a trade of the better class with parts of the United States, but on account of the state of affairs in Puget Sound it may take us some little time to get our goods introduced and gain the confidence of the only class of buyers we want to get in line with, namely, those who want a good article in shingles and will pay a legitimate price for them."

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A few weeks ago Mr. John Donogh, of the lumber firm of Donogh & Oliver, returned from a visit of about two months in Great Britain. "My trip was chiefly on pleasure," said Mr. Donogh. "It was my first trip across the Atlantic, and of course I had the usual experience, perhaps no worse than other people get it when they endeavor to navigate the briny deep, but it was bad enough while it lasted. Our firm do not do, as perhaps you know, any lumber business with the United Kingdom, but I made the acquaintance of several firms in Edinburgh, Glasgow and London with the aim of ascertaining their methods of business and how business was moving. We have been catching it pretty dull in Canada, but I am free to confess that the lumber trade seems as badly in the dumps in the mother land as it does here. In all cases the one story was told me of dull markets, little stuff selling, and prices far from satisfactory. A good deal of the dullness is attributed to labor troubles, of which Great Britain has had her full share during the past few years. These have not all been in connection with the lumber or related trades, but all branches of business are to-day so interwoven one with the other that a disturbance of any volume with any of them affects commerce generally."

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Mr. H. R. Herriman, a well-known lumber operator in the district centering around Little Current, Ont., draws a gloomy picture of the lumber situation in that region. His letter is dated August 5th, written before word would have reached him of the final passing of the free lumber measure in the United States Senate. Mr. Herriman

says:—"Lumbering is very dull here at present. All the mills are closed for the season. The large quantities of logs taken out at the Whitefish River by J. W. Howry & Sons and J. & T. Charlton have all been sent to the American mills for manufacture; the last raft disappeared a few days ago and with it disappeared many days of honest labor that our men are justly entitled to. This great injury to our country has been going on for years from many points along these shores—how long is it to continue? Is it to go on until our last pine tree is felled? There are millions and millions of feet yet standing in this section of the province and many thousands of dollars must be spent in its manufacture and is it possible that the influential men of our nation are going to stand back and permit this great loss to continue? Is it possible that we must be forced to put our money into the pockets of the storekeepers and tradesmen on the other side of the line? If this thing must be then our lake-port towns and villages will all be like this one at present—dead—and the failures of our wholesale men will not be lessened any."

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The supply of lumber on this continent, either in Canada or the United States, is not so great that lumbermen can afford to discard any part of their product, that can by any possibility be turned to commercial uses. In fact the trend of business is towards an utilization by every possible means of the waste products of the mill. This was not always so. Even the younger men of the trade can tell of the time when the refuse and culls were consigned to the fire box with rare wastefulness as the best way of getting rid of them. We are still forced, however, to draw the line at knotty lumber, for who wants anything that is so great an eyesore? But why this objection to knotty lumber? Is it only a whim? This is a question which Mr. H. B. Wetzell endeavors to answer in a recent number of the Tradesman. It is his opinion that the objection to knotty lumber arises largely out of prejudice. Nature has placed the knots in large parts of our lumber and it is suggested that the Great Architect knew just what he was doing when he so created our timbers. Mr. Wetzell admits that lumber should be as free as possible from knots, worm holes, splits, checks, decayed or dotty wood, wind shake and other natural defects in most places where wood is used in agricultural implements and where strength is required. But clear lumber is quite generally used—and the user pays the piper—where knotty lumber would for all practical purposes answer as well. Clear lumber must be used according to present fashion for interior finish of buildings. But why? In many parts of Europe knotty lumber is used where the lumber will be the most readily seen, and there, to use the words of a lumber dealer of Glasgow, it is considered much prettier than if the wood was all clear. The knots relieve the monotony and give the surface tone and artistic effect. The interior of some of the largest and most magnificent dwellings of the wealthiest classes are finished with both soft and hard wood in their natural colors or free from paint. Throughout France, Germany, Russia and all the continental European countries, we are told, the same idea prevails. Hundreds of millions of lumber are annually destroyed or allowed to be wasted or destroyed on this continent of small and knotty trees and portions of trees cut which are not utilized, because the lumber would be too knotty to satisfy an arbitrary and false taste when it reached the hands of consumers. With this record, in a day when economy in lumber is becoming a necessity, Mr. Wetzell wells asks the question, may we not in this country economize and at the same time improve our tastes by utilizing knotty lumber?

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"There was a clause in the United States tariff bill, as just passed, which was an amendment in the Senate, that shows how closely our neighbors have watched every detail of this tariff measure," remarked a prominent Canadian lumberman to me a few days ago. "I refer," said he, "to the clause in the bill that makes the distinction that finished lumber when imported from any country which levies an export duty or imposes discriminating stumpage dues, shall be subject to the duties existing prior to the passage of the act. This particular clause, of course, is leveled at the Ontario government, or at

least at those politicians in the local legislature, who have hinted at the government increasing the stumpage dues or placing other restrictions upon the sale of lumber in this province."

GANG EDGER SAWS.

GANG edger saws are not given the attention they should have, remarks a writer in the Southern Lumberman. This may be said of every saw about the mill, but the log and edger saws are the most important saws in use. A good edger can no more make good lumber with poor saws than an engine move without sufficient steam. The question stands between the solid and inserted tooth, and diversified opinions exist. Some mill men would not have a solid saw as a gift. Others are just of that opinion as to the inserted tooth. My experience has led me to adopt the solid saw under all circumstances where a modern machine is used, so that the saws can be easily changed.

The solid saw is the cheapest in every particular, and will do better work, it kept up as it ought to be. Filers generally prefer inserted tooth, as they have less to do—when the mill man's pocket is not in consideration. This is very nice for the saw maker.

Edger saws can be very easily kept up. From 15 to 25 minutes' time will put a set of saws in order by the following method, provided there are plenty of teeth in the saw—say 2½ inches from point to point in a new saw. File the front of the teeth square. This can be quickly and economically done with a mounted emery wheel. The saw can also be kept in perfect joint by observing the dullest teeth and grinding them more. The back of the tooth is filed to a slight bevel, using a short spring set, occasionally swaging a little to keep the points the full width of the saw. A bent monkey wrench will not run in any saw, much less an edger saw. The hammer set is the best. By its use a concave set can be run directly under the corner, and the saw will do nice work and will not produce friction.

A full-swage tooth is much more trouble to keep up, and if any other than a pressure swage is used, the teeth are liable to sprawl off from rebound, especially in the use of the up-set swage. Where a full swage is used there is much more work to be done and the saws wear 25 per cent faster.

I know it is a prevailing plan among filers to give their edger saws a lick and a promise. I have done that myself, and, by experience, found out that I was losing time and giving the edger men much unnecessary worry. It is a bad practice to run edger saws too long. The saws are liable to be sprung by heating when an unexpected tough or thick piece comes over. When saws are fitted up with a good set, and not run too long they can be sharpened on the emery grinder in a very few minutes, and then are ready for another good run. But if run too long, they must be set and more likely swaged a little, owing to the corners being so round. This cannot be done on a dull tooth without first grinding it, which makes a lot of unnecessary work. Besides this, the saws cannot be kept in anything like perfect joint.

A poor workman grumbles at his tools. It is astonishing what work can be got out of an edger with the saws in good trim and in line. I have seen machines used over ten years doing better work than the latest improved machines. I have never yet seen the man or machine that could control a dull saw. I once saw a \$600 edger thrown out because it would not make good lumber. The cause was defects in the saws and collars. The latter had worn so as to allow the saws to lead, which they were striving to do. A new machine was put in of another make, because a new one, with new inserted-tooth saws, was seen doing fine work.

Inserted-tooth saws, with teeth at three cents each, and new ones required quite often, are a matter of expense, and the filer will find that the task of resawing them is much more than to swage solid teeth. As stated above, I prefer the spring set tooth, with a little swaging to keep the point full width; good, satisfactory work can be done and the output of the mill increased. Teeth for spring-set should be from 2 to 3½ inches apart. Spring-set teeth too far apart will tear out at the bottom, making rounding, instead of square, sharp edges. I do not advocate a thin edger saw.