

the blocks on their narrowest ends, as it was found that the ice kept better for long voyages packed in this manner. But in this case the Commissioners decided not to grant a patent, this being merely a discovery in contradistinction to an invention.

At present sawdust is exclusively used for the packing of ice; and it is a remarkable circumstance connected with this trade, that many waste substances, such as sawdust, shavings and rice chaff, which formerly it was an object to get rid of, are now useful and necessary adjuncts for the development of trade; and from being almost valueless have become articles for which, in Boston alone, there is annually expended about \$25,000. It is usual for shippers of ice to pay the expense of loading and discharging their cargoes, so that the freight money comes to the ship-owner clear of any deductions.

The average cost of ice in Boston, free on board, in 1857 was \$2 per ton; but of course the price varies in different years according to the yield of the crop, and the difficulty and expense of securing it; but the expense in shipping it is in a great measure determined by the fittings required in vessels going on voyages of longer or shorter duration, and the season at which the shipments are made.

Boston is the only town from which shipments of ice are made to any extent to foreign countries. The shipments from New York are comparatively trifling, but this is in conse-