If you have a saw mill in connection with your plant and you use the slabs as fuel, they can be dried easier or quicker if plled with the round or bark side down. Moisture follows the grain of the wood and drains out at once when piled this way. A gum slab piled round side down will rot out in a short time, even under cover, as the moisture is retuined in the slab, the ends drying and closing the pores of the wood. On the other hand, when firing slabs under a boiler, they should be placed on the fire with the round side down, as they burn better in this position and offer less resistance to the flamos.

Pitch-pine was introduced into France about the year 1869, and did not guin popularity so rapidly in that country as in England. Now, however, enormous quantities of this timber are used in France, and, owing to increased demand, the price for this wood is rising proportionately. The resin in pitch-pune is prevented from oozing out by smoking the trees immediately after felling, which hardens the resin and causes it to crystallize in the woody fibres.

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DECEMBER, 1904

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