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Messrs. GILMOUR & Co. have settled with the Insurance Co., and set a gang of men at work rebuilding the mill. They have purchased a large lot of square timber from Mr. Buck to be used in the construction. They have placed a couple of gang saws and slab saws in the cedar mill, which is running night and day, turning out over eighty thousand feet in 24 hours.

GREAT preparations are being made at Rosseau to accommodate summer tourists. The Rosseau House is being repainted in first-class style. The proprietor of the Montreal House is making an addition to his house which will accommodate 150 guests. The work on the latter is being done under the supervision of Mr. M. Curtin, (formerly of Peterborough), Mr. R. S. Macey, of Barrie, being the contractor, and Messrs. Kennedy and McVittie of the same place the architects. It is expected to be ready for the reception of guests by the 1st of July.

Sometime since the use of sawdust in mortar was recommended as superior even to hair for the prevention of cracking and falling off under the action of storms and frosts. A gentleman whose house is on the seashore, and necessarily exposed to long storms, says that mortar mixed with sawdust is the most durable he has ever used. The sawdust was first thoroughly dried and sifted through an ordinary grain sieve, to remove the larger particles. The mortar was made by mixing one part of cement, two of lime and two of sawdust with five of sand, the sawdust being first well mixed with the cement and sand.

A CURIOUS and interesting explanation of the absence of trees on the great western prairies was given at the meeting of the Academy of National Sciences by Mr. Thomas Meehan. Numberless theories have been advanced by the students in natural history why the great feeding grounds of the buffalo should be without such vegetation, the principle on which is supported by distinguished authors being that of climatic influences. Mr. Meehan's theory is that the absence of trees is due to artificial causes altogether. Taught by their necessities, the early Indians made it a practice annually to fire the high grass of the prairies, which had the effect of making the growth more luxuriant and consequently more inviting to the vast herds of buffalo, on which the aborigines depended chiefly for sustenance. It has been conclusively settled that no vegetation, save the hardy prairie grass, will appear on ground over which fire has swept, until another season, so that the yearly prairie fires extended the area of the plateau until they became almost measureless. Mr. Meehan cited several instances where trees have grown when the firing has been discontinued.

If we may judge by our American exchanges, Lumbermen's Associations would seem to be the order of the day in all the lumbering districts on the other side of the line, and that every important district either has or soon will have its association. The object of these associations, it, of course, to secure the harmonious action of those operating in particular districts and on particular streams on matters common to them all. If they prove beneficial to the trade in the neighboring states, there would seem to be no reason why they should not prove equally beneficial to and worthy of the consideration of those engaged in the trade in Canada.

THE *Northwestern Lumberman* gives an instance which brings into prominence the advantage of handling dry rather than green material. It gives as an instance of how one dealer made money while another lost, the following:— "Dry lath at Chicago prices, \$3.25, with freight added, cost in a certain place \$6.50 per thousand. They were sold at \$6.60, leaving a margin to the man who bought at regular prices of only ten cents per thousand. The new competitor was not satisfied with this state of things, so he cast about for a more pleasant market to buy in and found it in Oshkosh. It is well known that, according to Chicago ideas of weights, dry lath weigh 500 pounds to the thousand pieces, and it was on this basis that the cost reached \$6.50 in our western village. In Oshkosh, however, our close buyer found those who sold him the lath at \$1.50, and guaranteed the weight to be only 400 pounds, which resulted to him in the neat little profit of \$1.50 per thousand." Evidently the less water the manufacturer ships out of his yard the better for all concerned, unless it be for the railway companies who loose freight upon its transport.

AN Austrian inventor has lately brought out a new kind of wire belting, which is said to work very satisfactorily. The wire is wound on spindles, the diameter of which is as small as practicable, and is obtained, therefore, in the form of a long spiral spring. The main point to be observed in using those wire coils is to give them dimensions proportioned to the power to be transmitted, so that while flexible, they do not suffer undue elongation when in use. Practical trials have proved that the proper proportion between tenacity and elasticity of these coiled wire strings is obtained when the spindle around which it has been wound, has a diameter equal to that of the wire. The two ends of a string or coil are hooked together, and each coil (the number varying according to the power transmitted) is laid in a groove on the pulleys. This method of transmission is reported to be cheap and effective. Another method of using wire for transmitting power has lately been patented by a man in Hartford, Conn. He

makes a belt by weaving wire and cotton together to form a web, the warp being of wire and the weft of cotton. A double fabric is made, between which, or inside which, a number of single heavier wires are inclosed to take the tensile strain of the belt.

At a meeting of the Chicago lumber dealers, held on the 11th June, it was decided by a vote of 21 ayes to 17 nays, to adhere to the existing price list until their next regular meeting to be held on the 27th June. The minority were in favor of an immediate advance, but the feeling of the majority seemed to be that before the list price was advanced they should cease cutting below it, as most of them had been doing, and it was stated that a strict adherence to the quotations of the existing list would be a *bona fide* advance of from fifty cents to a dollar per thousand all round. One thing is quite clear, that all attempts to break the Chicago market this spring have proved ineffectual, and that those who have attempted to do so by cutting prices are the only sufferers. The mill men are too strongly entrenched just now to be compelled to sell at any price the dealers choose to name, and as a consequence the latter have had to come to the terms of the former instead of the former to those of the latter. In fact the present state of stocks is all in favour of holding rather than of pushing sales owing to its wanting seasoning.

BUSINESS in the vicinity of Epping, N.H., according to a correspondent who writes from that point, continues remarkably good. The mills are in active operation, and are turning out large quantities of lumber. The supply of stock of last year's manufacture is entirely gone, and the mill men are shipping green and partly dry lumber to market to meet the demand, which is unusual for them to do. Prices are well sustained, and there is no immediate prospect of an unfavorable change in them. Hemlock for frames is scarce, and the Maine and northern New Hampshire mills are full of order for both hemlock and spruce timber. Large quantities of yellow pine timber is used in that and other parts of New England, especially for bridges and large buildings, to which purposes it is especially adapted.

In repairing old boilers the mistake is often made of using for the patch thicker metal than that of which the boiler is made. A moment's reflection ought to show the absurdity of putting a five sixteenths or three-eighths patch on an old one-quarter inch boiler shell, yet it is not so rare an occurrence as one would imagine. A piece of new iron three-sixteenths of an inch thick, will, in most cases, be found stronger than a portion of a one-quarter inch old plate needing repairs.

HOW THINGS LOOK OUT WEST.

One of the *attaches* of the *Real Estate Record* has just returned from a flying visit to the West. In view of the interest which attaches to the crop question, a statement of what he saw and heard may be of some value to those who have interests in the stock and grain markets. Winter wheat is undoubtedly very seriously damaged in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and probably further West. At the best it cannot be more than a two-thirds crop. There is time enough for it to turn out somewhat better than the present promise, but heavy western grain men fear the worst and are bulls on the price of winter wheat.

The spring wheat crop, so far, looks fairly well. It promises an average yield, and the weather lately has been highly favorable. The return per acre will be about equal to last year. Still, it is too early to speak with any certainty about spring wheat. In view of the exceptional weather we are having all this year, the worst is to be feared.

The corn crop has been delayed in its planting several weeks and in many cases had to be replanted. The acreage will be large, but if we have a cool, wet summer, the crop will fall far behind that of last year.

All through the West it was noticeable that business activity was very great. There is a building mania under way, and in every city and town the number of new buildings is something extraordinary. All the railways seem to have as much traffic as they can handle. There was, however, cutting of rates on east bound passenger fares and freight. At any of the hotels, tickets from Chicago to New York could be bought for \$15. There is a great deal of stock operating in the New York market on the part of operators in the Western cities. Just at present the Western operators are bulls on grain and bears on railway stocks. A great part of the immense short interest in Wall street is on Western orders. It is Europe and the East that are buying, the West is selling stocks.

Money is very abundant all through the West. At Rockford, Illinois, where only five years since money loaned at 8 and 10 per cent., now the banks find great difficulty in getting it. At Newark, Ohio, farmers were reluctant to pay more than 5 per cent. for mortgages. In fact, there was a plethora of money everywhere. There was an expectation of an advance in prices, labor was increasing its demands, and hence all materials involving labor, are regarded cheap at present figures. The expectation was that the coming fall months would show a boom in merchandize and other commodities, including land and grain.—*New York Real Estate Record.*

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