

John, £6 17s 6d, and ox Strathmore, from West Bay, £6 18s 9d per standards. Pine deals from Bathurst, ex Canada, have been sold at auction at £8 10s for 15 inches and upwards, but most of the parcel was withdrawn. Richibucto have been sold at £7 per standard, c. i. f., and Dalhousie 1sts at £8 15s, 2nd at £5 12s 6d to £7, and 3rds at £5 7s 6d to £6 10s per standard. Quebec pine deals—1st and 2nd quality are scarce and 3rds are not so readily sold, having come forward more freely; 4th quality have been sold at £7 per standard. The late sales have been at auction of 2nds at £14 15s and 3rds at £9 per standard c. i. f., and 3rd Bright at £11 2s 6d for 12 inches and upwards, and £8 15s to £9 12s 6d for 11 inches and under. Red pine deals have been sold at £8 10s to £9 per standard. Quebec staves are dull of sale and stocks of all kinds are excessive. Palings are in good demand, and spruce have been sold at 42s 6d for 45x3x3 inch, and at 97s 6d for 4 to 6 feet 3x1, and pine palings realized 115s for 4 to 6 foot x1x1 inch. Laths are but seldom inquired for.

READY MADE HOUSES AGAIN.

The *Northwestern Lumberman* says if there is an industry of especial consequence which is not prosecuted in the great enterprising state of Maine it is yet to be heard from. In the matter of ready-made houses the down-easters are abreast with the times. The Kennebec Framing Company is the name of a corporation in this line of business, at Fairfield, which is called the largest in existence, but pride may have got the better of judgment in the estimate of size. Regarding the enterprise the *Bangor Mining and Industrial Journal* has the following: "Dwelling houses are made like boots and shoes, in any quantity or of any size or style, and for any market in the wide world. Not long since this firm received a single order for 50 houses for Cape May, to be delivered speedily and in complete finish. These houses were not to be sheds, nor shanties, but regularly ordered dwellings, and they were made accordingly, and so delivered, and contain hundreds of occupants at this moment. An order will be received for a \$10,000 hotel, or an ornate French roof cottage for a fine country estate, and these are as easily and expeditiously furnished as an ordinary boarding-house for a country village or a barn for a ranch in Kansas or Colorado. It is not to be supposed that only a coarse, rough frame is thus sent out, to be trimmed into shape on the spot where it is delivered. On the contrary, the house is complete when it leaves the factory, and as ready to go together as is a musket when it leaves the armory in Springfield; all the parts being found, even to the knobs for the doors, and the screens and shades for the doors and windows, according to specifications. Great trains of freight cars stand waiting about, and are freighted almost daily here. The refuse trimmings and edgcuttings of the lumber are carted off to a neighboring pulp mill, and there speedily turned into material for paper, or other products. Machinery for almost every conceivable use in connection with wood is at hand, and house materials, of any kind, or size, or shape, seem to drop out like meal from a hopper. In a recent instance, where a large building was furnished for a southern order, the parts were thus made, and when put together in the city where the building is now standing its length was found to vary not the eighth of an inch from the original specifications, although its length on the front numbered hundreds of feet. Every inch of this building, from the sill to the last shingle, was sent ready prepared from the factory, and 'set up' as readily and almost as quickly as a nail case."

THE WOOD-LOT IN WINTER.

A few acres in trees is one of the most valuable of a farmer's possessions; yet no part of the farm is so mistreated, if not utterly neglected. Aside from the fuel the wood-lot affords, it is both a great saving and a great convenience to have a stick of ash, oak, or hickory on hand, to repair a breakdown, or to build some kind of a rack or other appliance. As a general thing such timber as one needs is cut off, without any reference to what is left. By a proper selection in cutting, and the encouragement of the young growth, the wood-lot will not only continue to

give a supply indefinitely, but even increase in value. A beginning, and often the whole, of the improvement of the wood-lot, is usually to send a man or two to "brush it", or clean away the underbrush. This is a great mistake. The average laborer will cut down everything; fine young trees, five or six years old, go into the heap with young poplars, and the soft underbrush. The first point in the management of the wood-lot is to provide for its continuance, and generally there are young trees in abundance, ready to grow on as soon as given a chance. In the bracing winter mornings one can find no more genial and profitable exercise than in the wood-lot. Hardwood and useful young trees should not have to struggle with a mass of useless brush, and a judicious clearing up may well be the first step. In timber, we need a clean, straight, gradually tapering and thoroughly sound trunk. In the dense forest nature provides this. The trees are so crowded that they grow only at the upper branches. The lower branches, while young, are starved out and perish, the wound soon healing over and out of sight. In our open wood-lots, the trees have often large heads and the growth that should be forming the trunk is scattered over a great number of useless branches. Only general rules can be given in pruning neglected timber-trees; the naked trunk, according to age, should be from one-third to one-half the whole height of the tree; hence some of the lower branches may need to be cut away. All the branches are to be so shortened in or cut back as to give the head an oval or egg-shaped outline. Many sometimes remove half of the head, but good effects will be seen in a few years. In removing branches, leave no projecting stub on the timber, and cover all large wounds with coal-tar. Whatsoever works in this manner thoughtfully can not go far astray.—Ex.

TIMBER FOR HUBS.

The *Hub* gives the following advice regarding the getting out and preparing of timber for wagon hubs: "Cut the hub timber in months when the sap is down and the bark is tight. Cut the ordinary butt lengths, say four or five feet; remove the outer bark or rind, from the center of the sticks, leaving a covering of rough bark at the extreme ends. Sticks prepared in this manner should be cross-piled under dry sheds, where there is a good circulation of air. After drying in this manner for nine months or one year, according to sizes, the sticks can then be sawed into hub-blocks, which have each end dipped into an elastic cement, made by melting resin to which is added sufficient grease to temper it. A hole should also be bored through the heart of each block. Prepared in this manner they will soon finish reasoning, or they can be forced in heated rooms, without danger from checking. Steaming the blocks to hasten the seasoning is practiced to a considerable extent, and, many claim, without injury to the fiber of the wood; but we do not recommend it, as some of the substance is dissolved by this process, and as the hub plays such an important part in the wheel it is necessary to preserve all the natural qualities of the timber."

The Big Raft.

The *Lumberman's Gazette* says the big raft towed from St. John, N. B., to New York, of which the particulars were given last week, contained more timber than we estimated. It consisted mainly of piling and contained 3,300,000 feet. It was therefore entitled to more respect than was paid to it. Some 75 tons of chains were used in binding the timbers together. A good saving in the cost of transportation was made, but the risk will probably stand in the way of the experiment being often repeated.

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