

IEWS AND INTERVIEWS

No. 3 pine lath has now become a standard commodity, bringing from \$1.50 to \$1.75 per thousand at the mill. A few years ago it was possible to buy No. 1 lath at these figures. No No. 3 lath was made, the material from which it is now manufactured being regarded as of no value and destroyed by the burner. This is but one instance of many economies that are now practised by the mill man, some of which have been forced upon him by the increased cost of timber.

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In connection with the campaign against the liquor traffic, we frequently hear of "prohibition that does not prohibit." An instance has come under my notice wherein this is true of the legislation passed by the Ontario Government to prohibit the exportation of logs from Canada to the United States. Mr. Joseph Walsh, of Parry Sound, is exclusively engaged in the business of selling logs for export, and, so far as I know, he has no competitor in this line of business. He purchases the logs from settlers on lands which are exempt from the recent government regulations. Two years ago he got together about 7,000,000 feet of pine, but last year could obtain only about 1,000,000 feet, the remainder, about 5,000,000 feet, being hemlock and spruce. The timber is floated to the Georgian Bay and put in booms. There the purchasers take charge of it and tow it to the mills on the other side.

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The saw mill man is often severely criticized for his business methods, and I am inclined to think that, in some instances at least, the criticism is justified. A gentleman engaged in the export lumber business with a very reliable firm told me that he finds the greatest difficulty in doing business on account of the neglect or unwillingness of mill men to answer letters addressed to them. He had on many occasions written for prices on stock advertised for sale without receiving a response. In his opinion, if the stock had been sold in the meantime, it would be but business courtesy to advise to that effect. He was sorry to say that he had less complaint to make in this respect about the United States lumbermen. It is true that the mill man as a rule is not fond of clerical duties; he prefers to be out about the mill, the yard, or the log pond. His neglect of matters of correspondence should not be regarded as a breach of business courtesy, or, at least, it is not intended in that light. At the same time, strict attention to the small details of a business is often responsible in a large degree for its success.

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"If there is one thing that the lumbermen desire more than another, it is a continuity of policy on the part of the Governments with respect to the regulations governing the cutting of timber." This remark was made with emphasis by a prominent timber limit owner. He contended that in no other business were there more uncertainties than in lumbering

operations. Too little or too much snow hampered work in the woods; the streams must retain a certain depth of water or the logs would be hung up. From the time the lumberman goes into the woods in the fall until midsummer he is in doubt as to what quantity of logs will reach his mill. These conditions are controlled by the Supreme Power and must be graciously accepted whether for loss or for gain, but controllable uncertainties should, in this gentleman's opinion, be minimized as far as possible. He referred to the changes made in the rate of stumpage dues and suggested that the Government should aim to devise some plan under which the charge would continue uniform. He did not oppose the increase to \$2 in the Ontario regulations, for, being a limit holder who got in on the ground floor, or in other words a holder of old limits on which the dues are only \$1, he found the value of his timber enhanced by the amount of the increased dues.

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Lumber shipped from British Columbia to the United States is now subjected to an extra duty of \$5.50 per thousand feet. The situation is thus explained by a correspondent: "According to the U.S. Tariff Act, 1897, Schedule D, paragraph 195, any individual U.S. Collector of Customs can add to the duties imposed by this act any export duty, tax or other charge imposed upon saw logs, shingle bolts, etc., by any country or independency. The British Columbia Government has indirectly imposed an export tax, by providing in a recent act that all logs and bolts shall pay a tax of about \$2.00 per M., but if manufactured in the province a rebate is granted reducing the royalty or tax to 50 cents per M. There are two or three mills in Washington near the boundary line that depended upon British Columbia for their supply of logs. These mills have been able to convince the Collector of Customs at Whatcomb that it is his duty to add the amount of the alleged export tax, making the duty on some grades of lumber \$7.50 per M. Our provincial government will probably have to change the Act if we want to ship any lumber into the States. Our mills are very short of orders and cannot even get enough cars from the C.P.R. to fill the few orders that come in. At the same time there is a large quantity of lumber going into the North-West and Manitoba from the Washington mills. A good deal of this lumber is sized dimension lumber and should be taxed 25 per cent., but owing to the laxity of our customs officers it is admitted free. In order to evade the tax, the Americans dress one side with a planer and the other with a fine saw."

THE CREOSOTING OF TIMBER.

The advantage of creosoting as a means of preserving timber has been recognized for some time, and in England in particular this method has been adopted quite largely by railway companies, engineers, and others. Among the pioneers in this business were English Bros., Limited, Wisbech and Peterborough, who have recently sent us an interesting catalogue. They point out that creosoting more than trebles the durability of

all exposed timber, and that the extra cost of the process is but from ten to twenty per cent. In the sheet piling of the river Nene the creosote wood piling driven in 1854-6 is still standing firm, while similar piling executed in 1890, only fourteen years ago, with the same class of timber, without creosoting, has seriously decayed, and has now to be replaced.

For the proper creosoting of timber special



FILLING CREOSOTING TANK.

plant and machinery are required; the wood must be closed in air-tight cylinders, and the air, having been exhausted, the creosote oil is admitted into the cylinder and forced into the pores of the wood at high pressure until an average of, say, 8 lbs. of oil has been absorbed per cubic foot of wood. Any stipulated quantity from six to twelve pounds per foot can be forced in, according to the specification and kind of timber, but, owing to the variation in the grain of different wood, one piece may, of course, absorb more or less oil than another, but the average will be reached, and all will be found impregnated with the spirit of the creosote, which completely sterilizes the wood, thus preserving from decay the sap wood as well as the heart.

It is desirable that wood should not be cut nor the face removed after creosoting if it can be avoided, as the heavier and more valuable part of the creosote oil will be nearest the surface. It is claimed that the mere superficial



CREOSOTING TANK READY FOR CLOSING.

coating of wood by dipping or steeping in creosote oil or applying it by a brush is of no use whatever as a preservative.

The two illustrations show the tank employed for creosoting timber.

The Canadian import duty on lubricating oils has been reduced from 5 cents to 2½ cents per gallon.

The Canadian import duty on pails and tubs of wood has been advanced from 20 to 25 per cent.