

It's a trouble to get men, and they will have to be well used. When I was leaving the bosses were hiring men over again for the summer."

"What are they going to work all the year round in the lumber camps?"

"Yes; you see the season makes little difference, now they are using railroads for hauling logs. My, yes! they're laying down tramways through the bush, and will use locomotives in place of horses. The men don't want to live in the woods in summer time. They can do better at farm or town labor. The Canadians who are over there have just gone for the winter, and most of them will be back home when the snow goes. There's plenty to do in this country now; not as it used to be."

"Are there many Canadians in the Michigan wood?"

Oh, nearly all of 'em."—*London Free Press.*

WINNIPEG PROSPECTS.

The *Commercial* of March 20th, says:—In the prices of building material no great change is anticipated, but what alterations there are will certainly be in the direction of a lower price. Lumber will, it is expected, be lower than it was last year, owing to the increased production, and the improved facilities for bringing the out-put of the mills in our own country to market. The beginning of the Thunder Bay branch and the opening of lake navigation will allow the product of eastern lumber to be brought through our own territory, and save the round-about all-rail route via Chicago and St. Paul. Prices of American lumber are also tending downwards consequent upon the tremendous production in the Northern States. Lumbermen there are showing signs of alarm lest there be an over-production which may cause a big tumble in prices—so much so that at a recent convention of lumbermen in St. Paul, it was decided in another season to limit the production to a certain extent and thus ward off the possibility of a glut in the market, and a repetition of the stagnation in the trade which occurred a few years ago in the eastern parts of the continent.

BAND SAW MILLS.

The Indianapolis *Woodworker* says:—The growing scarcity of all the fine cabinet woods and consequent increased value, warn the manufacturer that he must convert his timber into boards at the very least possible expense of sawdust. Whilst the saving of lumber in the process of sawing is the principal economic argument in favor of the band saw, it is not the only one. The lumber manufactured by it is of more uniform thickness, and has a smoother surface, and consequently sustains less loss in planing. The width of the lumber is only limited by the size of the log. The annoying "offset" found on all wide boards sawed by the double circular is, of course, entirely absent. The saw being much thinner than the circular or maul, the power is proportionately less; the kerf being about one-fourth that of the circular, the power required to saw a given amount of lumber should be one-fourth.

A recent visit of a *Wood-Worker* representative to the band saw mill of Hoffman Bros., Fort Wayne, Ind., was well repaid by the very interesting exhibition of fine sawing witnessed. Band mills have already taken the place of circulars to a certain extent in the manufacture of the finer grades of lumber, and the probability is that the day is not far distant when they will come into common use. The mill referred to has wheels six feet diameter, with wooden rims, covered with India rubber. The upper wheel is carried on a steel shaft, hung on an adjustable frame, with attachments for controlling the saw within easy reach of the operator. The vertical adjustment of the upper wheel controls the tension of the saw, and is governed by a weighted lever resting upon a screw fulcrum, compensating for the expansion of the saw and maintaining uniform strain. The guides are of brass and steel, with hardened steel rollers to receive the back-thrust of the saw. The upper guide is hung upon two hollow stems, the whole being counterbalanced so as to be easily raised or lowered to suit the size of the log. The driving pulleys are 30-inch diameter, 12-inch face, the loose one babbitted and fitted with suitable oil cups. The feed works are models of simplicity

and efficiency, consisting of V-shaped friction cones and wheels, and capable of instantaneous change from slowest to fastest speed. The levers and appliances are so arranged that the head sawyer can, without leaving his position, start and stop the mill, control the tension and back-thrust of the saw, adjust the guides, and change the feed from slow to fast or forward and reverse.

It is necessary that the saws be made of the very best quality of steel, and that the exact temper required be perfectly uniform throughout. They must also be straight, true, and of same gauge over their entire length. To meet all these requirements demands great care and skill in the manufacture. The Hoffman Bros. have all their blades made in France, according to their own specifications and directions. The breakage on these French blades is inconsiderable, and in case one does break, it is but the work of half an hour to repair it when suitable apparatus is at hand.

The carriage is the ordinary side-cutting form, similar to those used on circular mills, and is mounted on axles and trucks which run on V-shaped track planed true. The saws have a patent set, by which the thickness of board may be fixed to the smallest fraction of an inch.

TORONTO NOTES.

The *Mail* says that it is probable that the supply of timber this season will be somewhat small, and will not, at any rate, exceed that of last year. The cost of production to those in the business will be considerably more, owing to the great amount of snow in the woods and the consequent increase in the cost of lumbering operations. In the Muskoka and northern lumbering districts the snow is said to be over five feet on the level, and a large portion of the time of the gangs is consumed in shovelling. Some of the timber merchants think that their stocks will cost \$1.50 per M. more than they did last year. On the other hand, there have been so far no inquiries for timber for the States as yet, a number of new stocks have been sold, and at prices quite up to those of last year, but they have been purchased by dealers here. As but few sales have been made for the States as yet, it would be premature to say whether last year's prices will be sustained or not. It is not hoped in any case that there will be an excess in quantity as compared with the stock of last year, but on the other hand the indications are that the demand will not be so great. Though the cost of production may be increased as compared with last season, dealers think that it does not follow that the prices will be increased or even sustained, as the demand will regulate that. The dealers are not unanimous in their opinions on these points, but will be able to speak with greater confidence in the spring. It is satisfactory to know, however, that there appears to be no great danger of a serious advance in prices.

ARTIFICIAL SEASONING OF LUMBER.

The advantages of seasoning lumber by artificial means are too well known and appreciated at the present time to require extended argument in favor of the system. It is a subject of more than ordinary interest to lumbermen just now, for the reason that the natural changes in the methods of doing business actually necessitate some quicker process of drying lumber than open air seasoning. Saw mill men, especially, whether sawing the white pine of the northwest or the yellow pine of the south, are beginning to more than ever realize the importance of the planing machine and the dry-kiln as factors in the successful prosecution of their business. Long shipments by rail can not be made profitable unless the product to be transported is first shorn of every pound of superfluous weight. Shavings, edgings and trimmings are more profitable as fuel than when added their extra weight to a consignment of lumber destined for a distant dealer, who will not pay as much for the rough as for the dressed material.

The same is equally true regarding the surplus moisture contained in green or half dried lumber. The shrewdest lumbermen in this country can not make it profitable to pay all the way from 18 to 20 cents per hundred pounds



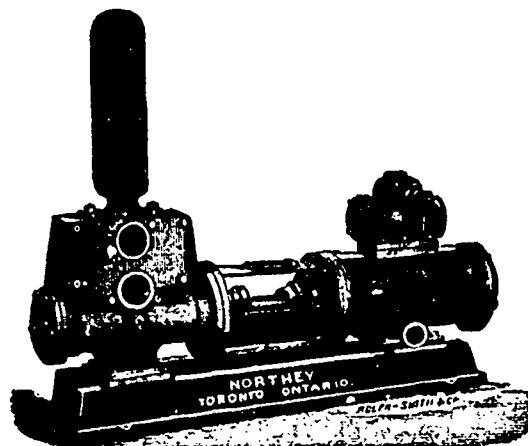
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on water, and every thousand feet of green white pine lumber, fresh from the saw, contains 2,000 pounds of moisture that a few days treatment in a dry-kiln will expel from it. In yellow pine and the various hardwoods the necessity for drying becomes greater in proportion to the difference in weight—Wood worker.

WELL AS EVER.—Lottie Howard writes from Buffalo, N.Y.—"My system became greatly debilitated through arduous professional duties; suffered from nausea, sick headache and biliousness. Tried Burdock Blood Bitters with the most beneficial effect. Am well as ever."

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