

NEWS NOTES.

—The building in Calgary during last season aggregates \$270,000, largely in residences.

—The season's cut in McGill's mill, Peneanguishene, amounted to 3,000,000 feet. They ran from 15th April to 14th November.

—September showed a fire waste of over \$8,000,000 in the United States and Canada. Lumber interests contributed something like \$1,000,000 to the total.

—At Tay Creek, N. B., an elm tree was recently blown down which was four feet in diameter, and measured 36 feet to the first limb. The trunk contained 4,000 feet board measure.

—Messrs. Miller & Woodman are building what is said to be the largest shingle mill in New Brunswick. It will be 165 feet long and 80 feet wide, and there will be 20 shingle machines in it.

—Messrs. J. R. Booth & Co. have completed laying the side tracks through their new piling grounds on the line of the extension of the Canada Atlantic Railway and the grounds are now ready for use as soon as the extension is completed.

—Alexander White, aged 19, son of Mrs. A. White, of Alice, while engaged in raising a scoop bearer on a building in Smith's shanty, Pettewawa, was instantly killed. The bearer slipped, striking him on the side of the head. He lived for about half an hour, bleeding to death, and never spoke.

—A saw mill at Rochesterville, a suburb of Ottawa, owned by Mr. A. G. Jones, and many thousand feet of lumber, the property of Mr. J. R. Booth, have been destroyed by fire. The loss on the mills and building, with planed lumber, will amount to \$8,000. There is insurance, but only to a third of the amount. The loss on the lumber will be heavy.

—An extensive fire has taken place in the saw mills belonging to Messrs. Hurdman & Co., at Ottawa. Both mills were completely destroyed. Eddy's mill had a narrow escape. No idea can be formed of how the fire originated. The loss is put at \$75,000, with an insurance of about \$35,000. The burned buildings were not of great value, the chief loss arising from the valuable machinery they contained.

—An occasional correspondent from Madawaska, N. B., writes: The rush for the woods has started in full blast. There will be more extensive operations in long and short lumber this season than usual. Men are scarce. Oats, hay, and beef run in price about the same as last year. G. V. Hammond is making things lively in his parish just now. Mr. Ward has started his new steam mill and it works like a charm. He is erecting a track above Grand Falls bridge to the mill, in order to better facilitate the moving of lumber.

—In fitting up mills and workshops, one of the most important items to be considered is the belting, and upon this portion of the plant depends, to a great extent, the satisfactory working of the machinery, for if the belting is good all will run smooth and evenly. We hear that Messrs. Robin & Sadler, of Montreal and Toronto, are to supply the entire outfit of leather belting for the immense flour mill at Keewatin, now being completed by the contractors, E. P. Allis & Co. of Milwaukee, who have without doubt, placed their belting order in good hands for execution.

—A large colored map, 6 feet by 9, showing the canals of Canada and the connecting and competing canals of the United States, as well as the Canadian water power, will shortly be issued by the Department of Inland Revenue. The main map is planned on a scale of three miles to the inch, there being shown in addition an enlarged map of each canal. Tables and other smaller maps in the main map also show canals proposed as well as defunct, profiles, lockages, and tables of comparative sizes of locks. The map was designed by Mr. F. K. Blatch, of the Department, who has been engaged on the work for three years.

—The following revised estimate of the amount of lumber cut by different lumber firms at the Chaudiere during the past season, furnished by the *Mail* correspondent, which is about fifteen per cent. less than the cut of 1886, the latter, however, being the largest turned out at the Chaudiere for twenty years previous: —Bronson & Weston, 65,000,000; J. R. Booth, 70,000,000; E. B. Eddy Manufacturing Company, 69,000,000; Perley & Pattee, 70,000,000; Hurdman & Co., 56,000,000; Grier & Co., 35,000,000. Although the cut this season is almost up to the cuts of former seasons, the disadvantages in the shortness of the log cut during last winter have had the effect of leaving most of the firms without a customary reserve fund of logs to begin work next summer, and should the supply of logs secured this winter be not up to the standard there will undoubtedly be a considerable shortness felt next summer. The lumbermen are, however, very confident of the coming season being a prosperous one, and have placed unusually large gangs of men in the woods, with the intention of

European Financial Statistics.

Americans will see in the following financial tables some powerful reasons why European producers emigrate from Europe by hundreds of thousands annually. Enormous governmental expenditures and national debts make the burdens of taxation unendurable and force the citizens of European countries to seek work and homes in other lands where wars are fewer and taxes lighter. Here is the showing from official records:

	Annual Expenditure.	Army and Navy.	Interest on National Debt.	National Debt.
Austro-Hungary	\$97,337,071	\$13,867,743	\$23,066,909	\$523,908,381
Belgium	12,652,396	1,964,716	4,146,502	84,677,042
Denmark	2,734,432	924,701	567,431	10,841,755
France	147,417,415	34,201,118	50,697,092	1,435,011,000
German Empire	34,530,775	22,660,123	915,175	28,407,000
German States	94,917,042		14,246,565	352,727,179
Great Britain	92,223,884	39,388,594	23,449,078	748,282,411
Greece	3,521,919	1,252,496	919,915	19,419,792
Holland	10,911,970	2,589,684	2,782,440	58,545,242
Italy	68,009,166	12,704,934	21,213,147	449,262,600
Norway	2,392,621	447,252	261,751	5,953,866
Portugal	8,470,731	1,512,234	3,208,353	115,354,000
Roumania	5,399,780	1,130,110	1,987,215	25,960,805
Russia	130,792,309	36,839,353	38,946,774	586,323,803
Serbia	1,839,825	648,451	463,353	8,851,000
Spain	36,637,954	8,013,404	9,522,857	254,425,140
Sweden	4,712,777	1,404,125	590,020	13,720,058
Switzerland	2,102,100	682,013	74,710	1,425,539
Turkey	12,594,213	5,623,911	1,006,437	104,897,217
Tot. of all Europe	\$770,008,447	\$166,944,502	\$198,072,394	\$4,810,422,260

Is Steam the Best for Power?

The conversion of water into steam absorbs such a large amount of latent heat that many persons have endeavored to obtain some substitute which produces a vapor by absorption of less heat. Such attempts, to obtain economy of fuel, are not likely to be successful, not on account of mechanical defect, but because of the inherent physical properties of the vapors produced.

The mechanical value of the expansive force of different vapors, depends upon the bulks produced from equal bulks of different liquids, and although water absorbs in its conversion into steam a greater amount of latent heat than any other liquid, the amount of vapor produced, bulk for bulk, is greater than it is with other liquids. There still might be some gain were it not that for the equal volumes of these vapors, experiments have shown that the latent heat is very nearly equal.

There would, therefore, be no economy in using other liquids in place of water, even if they cost no more. On the contrary, there are reasons to expect that there would be a loss. The engine would take a definite volume, and hence a definite amount of latent heat, to keep it running in either case. In addition there would be to charge up against any other liquid the increased volume necessarily pumped into the boiler, against the boiler pressure, to keep up this definite volume of vapor. Were it not for the fact that this great difference in volume, between water and steam, is of immense importance in the economy of power, then there would be no economy in using steam over pumping cold air into the boiler and using hot air to run the engine.—*Journal of Progress.*

THE WESTERN STATES.

Special Correspondence to THE LUMBERMAN:

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 1, 1887.

Under favorable weather conditions the lumber interests of the Middle and Western States was equal in all respects to the anticipations during the month just ended.

Prices all through the section of country I write from have been firmly maintained. No change of importance either way is looked for until spring. Col. Philip Gruner & Bros' Lumber Co. will increase their rafting business next season to 14,000,000 feet. The total receipts of white pine in raft this season has reached 209,000,000 feet. The hardwood trade is falling off some.

FRANK R. BIGNEY.

TAKE time to do repairs thoroughly. It will pay in the long run, although it will seem almost time wasted now.

London, Eng.

Nov. 19th. —There was a rather full room on Wednesday, at Messrs. Simson & Mason's sale, considering the limited quantity of unreserved goods to be submitted, which certainly seems to indicate more disposition on the merchants' side to acquire stock. The close of the season without any heavy increase to the stocks is evidently having a healthy influence on the trade here. The big rise in freights, coupled with the appearance of an early closing of the shipping ports, makes any heavy consignments now very unlikely.

There has been nothing in the state of the market here to induce speculation, although, if tonnage had been plentiful,

season. There is a marked absence of Swedish deals from the sales lately. We do not know whether we may take this as an indication of any scarcity; but it, anyhow, is pretty plain proof that those who are stocked have no occasion to go to the sales to realize. Beyond a few odd lots here and there, the moderate quantity of Gulf red deals was a noticeable feature.

Spruce went low, but the 3rd pine was a bit better treated: 9 to 10 ft. planks at £8 10s was certainly low, but sellers could hardly complain of some 13 feet that realized 20s better.

The shipment, per "Jarlen," from Quebec, consisting of 24 lots of pine and spruce of the lower qualities, sold fairly well, being old stock. The four lots of unsorted Miramichi spruce, ex "Finland," offered without reserve, luckily enabled the auctioneer to dispose of five succeeding lots that had a holding price upon them.

The expected reaction which long before this period would in the ordinary fluctuations of trade have supervened on the severe depression from which the wood market has suffered seems as far off as ever. We are not alluding merely to a recovery of the market in respect to certain goods, which may have been only moderately traded in, with a consequent decline in the importation which has sunk below the demand, but in a general uprising in the demand for building timber throughout the country; not some large works here and nothing doing in another direction, but universal activity all over the kingdom. Such a return to prosperity of the building trade as would make itself felt on all and every description of imported timber. Before we can hope for such a happy result we shall have to witness a revival of the staple industries of England.

We do not notice any particular alteration in the dock deliveries except that flooring keeps active.

The importation is gradually thinning off and the cargoes at the tail end of the season are at present far short of the average quantity. *Timber Trades Journal.*

Liverpool, Eng.

Nov. 17th. —The better feeling still prevails, and the general impression seems to be that there are good times in store for the timber trade. We are not too sanguine, but sincerely hope it may be so; up town and on 'change there is a still stronger tone and many articles of produce have gone up considerably. Outward freights are better, and homeward freights from many places much improved; there is a good demand for shipping, and some of the large shipbuilders here, on the Clyde, and elsewhere, have recently received good orders. All these things help trade and are encouraging.

The arrivals have been few, there being only eight vessels, three of which are steamers with pine deals and boards from Montreal, two cargoes of spruce deals from Lower ports, one with mining timber to Garston, and two or three parcels of ash, maple, oak, teak, etc.

There have been several transactions in timber during the week. A parcel of common pine, per Narwhal, was sold at 18d., and some of better quality but smaller averaged 19½d.; a parcel of elm, per Abana, at 20d., and the oak, per same vessel, large and of good quality, to the Midland Railway Co. at 3/- A parcel of Halifax birch has been placed at 16d., and I understand, this price was paid some little time since for the St. John's wood now landing.

The cargoes of spruce deals, per Volkora and MacLeod, now discharging, are, I believe, still unsold, and the importers are asking high prices for them.

Low-Priced Boilers.

Low-priced boilers are not generally the cheapest that can be bought, although there is an almost universal opinion that they are. On the contrary they are, in the majority of cases, the dearest that can be bought. First-class boilers at the present time do not command an excessive price, no fancy profits are made on them, nor have been made for some years past. What then does it avail a man to buy a boiler for say \$500, get an article made of the poorest material that can be worked, put together in the sloughest possible manner, generally be stopped several times during the first year to have repairs made which never ought to have been needed, and would not have been required had the boiler been made properly, when by paying \$200 more in the beginning he would have avoided all trouble, actually have expended less money at the close of the first year and probably have run his business uninterrupted. It is needless to say that some manufacturers always buy the very best of everything they can get to do their work with. Such men always have the best of boilers and engines, they are cared for in the best possible manner, and it is generally noticed that they are, as a general rule, more prosperous than their slipshod brethren who are always after