



It would seem that beech is likely to become a more popular wood in the near future. I learned the other day that Mr. J. S. Findlay, of Owen Sound, is building a new residence, and that he is using quarter-cut beech for the floor. In the same town, the North American Bent Chair Co. are using immense quantities of beech in the manufacture of their bent chairs. These chairs are all exported, many of them going to Australia. This company have recently rebuilt their factory burned some time ago, and I understand that it is their intention to build another extension almost as large as the existing building. When this is completed, their capacity will be considerably increased, and a still greater quantity of beech and other hardwood timber will be consumed. It may be a question ere long where to obtain the necessary supply.

Mr. Frank Southern, son of Mr. James W. Southern, timber merchant, Manchester, Eng., spent a couple of weeks of last month in Canada. While principally on pleasure bent, Mr. Southern improved the opportunity of acquainting himself more fully with timber conditions in Canada, from whence his firm import ready-made pine doors, finished pine flooring, white oak, etc., which in turn they supply to Manchester contractors. It will be remembered that the introduction of these ready-made products was at first strongly resisted both by the contractors and workmen of Manchester, Glasgow and other British towns, but the fact is now recognized that the better policy is to use them in preference to the more expensive goods made at home. In conversation with Mr. Southern, it was learned that his firm have imported from Wisconsin ten times as many of these manufactured doors as they have bought from Canadian manufacturers, on account of the slightly lower price at which the American article could be purchased. As Mr. Southern remarked, "even a penny greater profit on each door is a consideration where so large a quantity is handled." It is understood that a number of the American and Canadian manufacturers in this line have recently come to an agreement, under which prices will in future be regulated. Mr. Southern was asked as to the effect of the Manchester canal upon the trade of his city, and replied that it had been most gratifying. The tonnage has increased from 9,000 tons the first year the canal was opened to 150,000 tons last year. The effect is seen in the extensive building operations in progress to meet the requirements of a large increase in population.

EARLY in the month of August Mr. J. M. Macoun, superintendent of the Canadian forestry exhibit at the Paris Exposition, returned to Toronto from a visit of research to some of the saw mills and wood-working plants in Western Ontario, and it was only necessary to glance at

his countenance to know that his trip had been a success. He was very enthusiastic over the prospects of a creditable display of wood goods at Paris. To the writer he stated that what he had seen and learned on his trip was intensely interesting. All the mills and factories were busy with orders, many of them running night and day, and even then being unable to keep up with the demand. Notwithstanding this, he was accorded the utmost courtesy and given every assistance towards the preparation of his exhibit. While the display of forest products will include everything from the tree to the semi-finished product, it is Mr. Macoun's intention to give special attention to lines of wood goods which have only been exported during recent years, and for which there is an extensive market in European countries. These might be classed as specialties, and will include mangle rollers, table legs, chair stock, box shooks, butchers' skewers, hubs and spokes, cooperage stock, coffin boards, cigar boxes, basket material, excelsior, etc. The advantage of a larger trade in this class of timber products is that the money expended in working up the timber to a partially finished product will be given to Canadians. Notwithstanding the limited space at Mr. Macoun's disposal, he hopes to make an exhibit which will do justice to Canada as a timber producing country. The province of British Columbia has forwarded its portion of the exhibit, and the display from the Eastern provinces is well under way. In order that every timber product capable of being exported on a commercial basis may be represented, Mr. Macoun extends an invitation to all manufacturers to forward to him a sample of the article they wish to exhibit. He will probably leave for Paris about the first of November.

NATIONAL HARDWOOD INSPECTION RULES.

THE movement in the United States looking to the adoption of national rules for the inspection and grading of hardwood lumber is steadily gaining ground. On July 13th, the National Hardwood Lumber Association, formed with the above object in view, held its first annual meeting in Milwaukee, at which there were present representatives from nearly all the principal markets. The Inspection Committee presented a report recommending certain amendments and changes to the rules as already adopted by the association, and which have been published in the CANADA LUMBERMAN. These amendments, as adopted by the meeting, are as follows:

MILL CULLS.—The grade of mill culls must be 3 inches and wider, 4 feet and longer, and must contain at least 25 per cent. of clear cutting, not less than 3 inches wide and 2½ feet long, with the exception of basswood, elm and butternut, which may contain 25 per cent. of sound cuttings. This includes the following kinds of woods: Plain-sawed red oak and white oak, ash, birch, maple, basswood, elm and butternut.

ROCK ELM.—Firsts and seconds, 6 inches and wider, 10 feet and longer, not over 25 per cent. under 12 feet. 6-inch and 7-inch pieces will admit of one standard defect. 8-inch to 10-inch, two standard defects; 11-inch to 12-inch, three standard defects; 13-inch and over, four standard defects. Straight splits the width of the piece is no defect in this grade. Common must be four inches and wider, from 6 to 16 feet long, not to exceed 10 per cent. of 10-foot and 15 per cent. of 6-foot and 8-foot, and must work two-thirds clear in not more than three pieces. Culls must not exceed 50 per cent. of 10-foot, and must work 50 per cent. sound in not more than four pieces, and no cutting less than 2 feet.

ASH.—Common, 4 inches and wider, 8 feet and longer; 4-inch piece must have one face clear; pieces 5 inches and wider must be of sound character, and work three-fourths clear.

CHESTNUT. Add to the grade of firsts and seconds: "Wormholes are excluded from the grade of firsts and seconds."

COTTONWOOD.—Culls are 3 inches and over wide, from 6 feet to 16 feet long, and include all lumber not equal to common grade that will work one-half or more without waste. Common same as in inspection book.

HICKORY. Grades, firsts and seconds, common and cull; lengths, 6 feet to 16 feet; bright sap no defect. Firsts and seconds, 4 inches and up, 8 feet to 16 feet; Pieces 4 inches and 5 inches wide must be clear; pieces 6 inches and wider must be sound, and work 80 per cent. clear in not more than two pieces; no cutting to be less than 4 inches wide. The grade of firsts and seconds must contain at least 25 per cent. of firsts. Common must be 4 inches and up wide, 6 feet to 16 feet long, not over 20 per cent. less than 12 feet long, and must work two-thirds clear in not more than three pieces; no cutting to be less than 3 inches wide and 3 feet long. Culls are to include all lumber below the grade of common that will work at least one-half clear in four pieces; no cutting to be less than 3 inches wide and 2½ feet long.

PLAIN-SAWED RED OAK AND WHITE OAK. Common shall be 4 inches and wider, 8 feet and longer, not to exceed 20 per cent. 8-foot and 10-foot lengths; pieces 4 inches to 6 inches wide, 10 feet and longer, shall work ¾ clear in not over two pieces; 8 feet and 10 feet long shall work ¾ clear in not over two pieces. Pieces 6 inches and wider, 12 feet and longer, shall work ¾ clear in not to exceed three pieces; no cutting to be less than 3 feet long; bright sap no defect in this grade.

QUARTER-SAWED RED OAK AND WHITE OAK. Common shall be 4 inches and wider, 8 feet to 16 feet long; 4-inch and 5-inch to contain not over one standard defect; 6-inch and wider to cut at least 75 per cent. clear in not over two pieces; bright sap no defect in common grade. Clear quartered red oak and white oak strips, 1-inch and thicker; width, 2½-inch, 3-inch, 4-inch, and 5-inch; 8 feet to 16 feet long; the 2½-inch and 3-inch to have one face free of sap; the 4-inch and 5-inch may contain 1 inch bright sap. (Note.—All quartered oak must show figure on one side to eliminate the last sentence in note of inspection book, where the rule says: "The ray should show an angle of 45 degrees.")

MAHOGANY.—Grades: Firsts and seconds, common and cull, and shorts; firsts up to 18 feet, as per book; 18 feet to 20 feet, two standard defects. Seconds, 6 inches and wider; length, 18 to 20 feet; not more than 15 per cent. of 10-foot lengths; 5 per cent. under 10-foot lengths; pieces 6 inches wide must be clear; 7-inch to 9-inch, one standard defect; 10-inch to 12-inch wide may have two standard defects; 13-inch and wider, three standard defects; 18-foot to 20-foot may have one additional standard defect. Change the name of "X" to common grade, "O" grade to cull. Balance of the rules to conform to the rules in inspection book, except that the clause requiring 75 per cent. of firsts in the first and seconds be stricken out.

An oldtime Maine lumber operator says that the large amount of white birch of large size to be found in that state is due to the action of officials nearly seventy-five years ago. He says that in 1820 some French Canadians squatted on state land near the Penobscot river and defied all efforts to eject them. Finally, in 1825, two special constables were sent to the place from the land office in Augusta with instructions to make a clean job of the evictions. The constables, after turning the families out, set fire to their houses and haystacks. Twelve hours later the French village was a mass of ruins, and the biggest forest fire ever known in the state was sweeping north and burned more than fifty townships of virgin pine. Of this land about 5,000,000 acres came up to wild cherry and white birch saplings, and, after a struggle for supremacy, the latter prevailed, and that great territory is known as a birch country.