

NOTABLE ENGLISH OAKS.

THE last number of the "Transactions of the Royal Scottish Aborigicultural Society," gives a description of a number of famous English Oaks, the most notable among which are the "Cowthorpe" Oak, whose age has been variously estimated at from fifteen to eighteen centuries. It stands about three miles from Wetherby, in the West Riding of the County of York. In 1829 Dr. Jessup measured it, and gave its dimensions as follows: Circumference at ground 60 feet, at three feet from ground 45 feet, height 45 feet, extent of principal limb 50 feet, greatest circumference of principal limb 8 feet.

The "Royal Oak" at Boscobel House, in the ancient forest of Brewood, Staffordshire, celebrated in history for having given shelter to Charles II, after the battle of Worcester, on September 6, 1651.

The Earl of Bradford, in a letter dated Weston Park, May 6, 1878, tells the story as follows: "On one occasion when the king was out with one or two of the Penedrills, sounds were heard of horses' feet not very far off. There was not much time for consideration, but his attendants thought he might not be able to get back to his hiding place in the house quietly, or perhaps thought that, even if he did, he might be discovered there, recommended him to go into a thick part of the wood, where they helped him into an Oak tree, and implored him on no account to come down until they returned to him and told him all was safe. They then went as if to their work or ordinary occupation. The troopers of Parliament fell in with them, and made all sorts of enquiries about the house and its inmates, and its neighborhood, and ultimately rode on without discovering how near they were to the king. The Penedrills returned in due time and conducted the king to the house. A pension was bestowed by the English government on this family, which is continued down to the present date, one of the descendants, now a resident of St. John, New Brunswick, being in receipt of it, as the writer is informed. This tree is in a field near the garden of Boscobel House, is surrounded by an iron palisading. It has a circumference at 4 feet up of 12 feet 3 inches.

The "Parliament Oak," in Clipstone Park, Notts, is so called from an informal parliament having been held under it by King John in 1212. Another parliament is said to have been held here in 1290 by Edward I.

This tree stands in a nook by the side of the highway leading from Edwinstowe to Mansfield. It has a circumference at three feet up of 28 feet 6 inches, but is only a living ruin.

William the Conqueror's Oak—beyond the fact that this tree has been associated with the Norman's name from time immemorial, its history is unknown. The main stem has long been decayed, and is supported with props. It is situated in Windsor Park, and has a circumference of 37 feet 5 feet up.

In Ampthill Park, Bedfordshire, stand the two Ampthill Oaks. They are nearly of the same girth, a little over 35 feet at three feet up. On one of the two trees

a short poem of eighteen lines is fastened. The first two of these are as follows:

"Majestic tree, whose wrinkled form has stood
Age after age the patriarch of the wood."

This provoked the following retort from Lord Wensleydale:

"I'll bet a thousand pounds—and time will show it—
That this stout tree survives the feeble poet."

"Queen Elizabeth's Oak" stands in Hatfield Park, Hertfordshire. On the morning or afternoon of November 17, 1558, for Mary died between 4 and 5 a.m., Elizabeth was sitting under this tree, when a deputation arrived from the council to apprise her of her sister's demise, and to offer her their homage. She fell on her knees and exclaimed: "*Domino factum est illud, et est mirabile in oculis nostris.*" "It is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes."

Mr. Smith, of Romsey, Hants, the writer of the article referred to, says that he has no measurements of this tree. His paper is full of information, and its reading will amply repay those who wish information on the subject of British Oaks. EDWARD JACK.

Fredericton, N.B.

AN OLD PICTURE.

THERE are times when a dream delicious

Steals into a musing hour,
Like a face with love capricious
That peeps from a woodland bower;
And one dear scene comes changeless;
A wooded hill and a river;
A deep, cool bend, where the lilies end,
And the elm-tree shadows quiver.

And I lie on the brink there, dreaming
That the life I live is a dream;
That the real is but the seeming,
And the true is the sun-flecked stream.
Beneath me, the perch and the bream sail past
In the dim, cool depths of the river,
The struggling fly breaks the mirrored sky,
And the elm-tree shadows quiver.

There are voices of children away on the hill;
There are bees thro' the flag-flowers humming;
The lighter-man call to the lock, and the mill
On the farther side is drumming.
And I sink to sleep in my dream of a dream,
In the grass by the brink of a river,
Where the voices blend and the lilies end
And the elm-tree shadows quiver.

Like a gift from the past is the kindly dream,
For the sorrow and passion and pain
Are adrift like the leaves on the breast of the stream,
And the child-life comes again,
O, the sweet, sweet pain of a joy that died—
Of a pain that is joy forever!
O, the life that died in the stormy tide,
That was once my sun-flecked river.

JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY.

—H. P. Morse & Co., of Vancouver intend soon to put in additional machinery. At present both mill and sash and door factory are running to their full capacity, the former turning out 75,000 feet per day which is expected to increase shortly to 100,000 feet. Not counting those employed in the lumber camps this firm have now 115 men on the pay roll.

BRITISH COLUMBIA RED CEDAR.

THE annual report of the Vancouver, B. C. Board of Trade furnishes some valuable particulars relative to the trade of that progressive province. The following remarks concerning the red cedar of the province, which comes next in importance to the Douglas fir, will be found of more than usual interest to the lumber trade. "For inside finish the British Columbia cedar is unequalled in color and beauty of grain, and some handsome and striking effects can be produced by the use of this wood. To-day some of the most palatial residences of Canada and the eastern states are finished in British Columbia red cedar, and with excellent effect. It is susceptible of a high polish, which, apart from its rare and beautiful grain, makes it all the more valuable for panel work and ceiling. It is durable beyond belief, and is exceptionally easy to work. In common uses it is manufactured into doors, sashes and shingles, and an extensive market has been found in the Northwest Territories and the eastern provinces for these lines, and the demand is constantly growing. Shingles cut from red cedar are absolutely free from knots and they neither curl, warp nor split, and dampness has little perceptible effect on them. For the same reason the wood is particularly adapted to the manufacture of sash and doors. Fort Nesqually built in 1841, was covered with split cedar shingles which are still sound. Roofs laid thirty years ago in Westminster, and for many years covered with moss, have never leaked and appear little the worse for wear. The red cedar has always been in great favor with the Indians, who hollow their canoes out of the wood, because it is so light, splits so true and works easily. The early inhabitants of Queen Charlotte Islands built their houses from red cedar, they being able even with the rude tools then in use among them to split the logs to any thickness required. It is an invaluable timber for the many purposes mentioned, and it is bound to extend until it is found on every market on the continent.

TRADE NOTES.

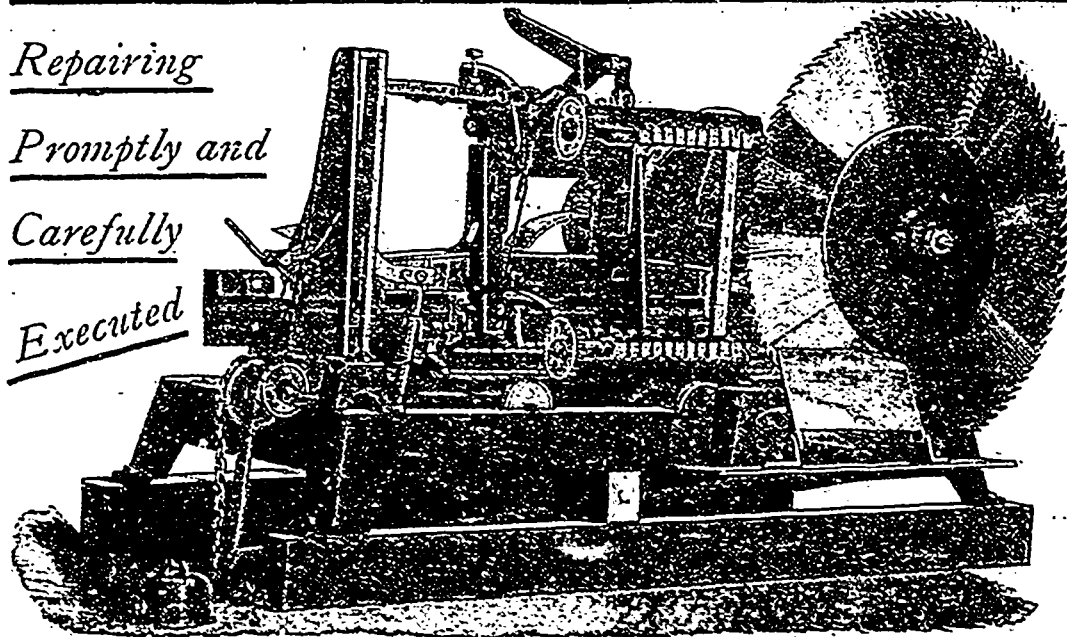
A manufacturer writing to an exchange says: "Manufacturers are fast coming to the conclusion that to use any other than a split pulley is one of the things of the past, as changes in machinery, and locations of the same, are so frequent, even in the best regulated factories, that the annoyance and expense of changing a solid rim pulley, by taking down shafting, removing couplings, etc., is so great that most manufacturers prefer to burst them off with a sledge hammer and replace them with properly made split pulleys, or pulleys made in halves. It is, however, so recently that good and well-made split pulleys could be obtained that many have put up with the inconveniences of solid rim pulleys rather than with that "wandering Jew," the cumbersome iron split pulley. But now that a good, light and durable wood split pulley has been introduced, and has been thoroughly tried by many of the representative concerns of the country, and found not wanting in any of the requisites of an ideal split pulley, it would be folly to use any other." In this connection we have pleasure in drawing attention to the advertisement of the Dodge Wood Split Pulley Co. of this city.

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