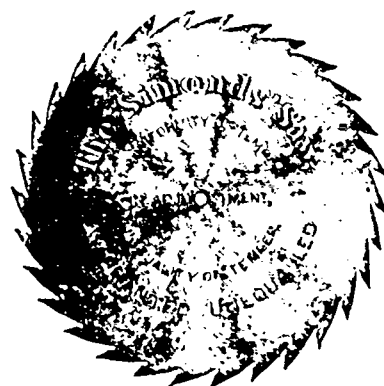


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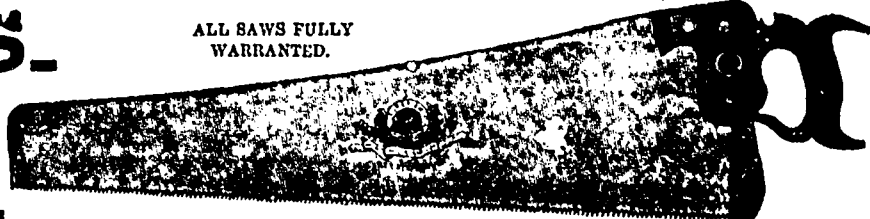
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CAUSE OF DECAY OF WOOD.

Professor P. H. Dudley, well known to railway and scientific men in connection with his discoveries made by aid of the dynagraph tar of his own invention, has been for some time investigating the cause of the rapid decay of wood. His methods of investigation have been mostly microscopic and chemical. Some time ago he discovered the fungi that caused the premature decay of most of the woods used in railroad structures, and followed their operations on the secular structure of the wood. By use of the photomicrograph views, he kept a graphic record of the appearance of decaying wood tissue. After patient search Mr. Dudley has discovered the spore that acts as the seed of fungus, and he expects soon to find a means of destroying this seed before it produces growth. Some of the wood-preserving processes in use do not destroy the fungus spores, and they go on germinating their ruin-making fruit. Any sure means of arresting the premature decay of wood will prove exceedingly valuable to railroad companies, since bridges and ties often fail with half their natural age, and in failing often bring about disastrous consequences.

ALBERTA DISTRICT.

The following is an extract received by a resident of Peterborough from Calgary, N.W.T.:-

"It is a beautiful country round Calgary in the Bow River Valley. It is very hilly with swift and odd mountain streams; there is beautiful natural grades on which they raise very fine cattle ranches; the beef beats any meat I ever tasted. The cattle are left out on the hills all winter because the snow never lies deep on the ground, and is often swept clear away or melted by the warm Chinook wind from the Pacific, but they cannot raise wheat here on account of July frosts.

"Calgary is a lively, pretty and neat little town which will some day become a considerable city. There is plenty of good timber on the mountains which is floated down the Bow River.

"As I sit in the tent I enjoy a magnificent view of the Rocky Mountains. It is worth going a long way to see their immense blue masses capped with dazzling snow. Our work will lie principally among the foot hills of these grand old Rockies, to Fort Michael and back to Calgary and so northeast to Edmonton.

Yours, &c.,
C. N. T."

CONTRADICTIONARY REPORTS.

THE news received by telegraph from Egypt, if it cannot always be relied upon, has at least the value of variety. First we are told that Gen. Gordon has been killed, and, following this, reports come of his dolage at Khartoum. Then, to give variety to the news, we are informed that the Mahdi has expired, and soon after we are informed of renewed activity among the rebels, and of active measures by the (supposed to be) dead False Prophet. But even that is not enough, and one despatch informs us that the Mahdi attempted to lead his followers across the Nile and that 3,000 were drowned, while at the same time the information is given that his followers are leaving him because he will do nothing. On the same day another despatch says that daily attacks are made upon Khar-

toum! People may complain a trifle of the unreliability of the despatches, but they cannot grumble for lack of variety, unless they claim that these contradictory reports are becoming monotonous.

Horses Drowned by Thieves.

WINSON, Dec. 9.—On Saturday night two horses were stolen from the stables of Daniel Marantette and Daniel Field, on the Grand Marais road, in Sandwich West. The horses were finally traced to the river near the ice-house, Sandwich. It is supposed that the thieves had a boat horse and intended to take the horses across the river. A tremendous gale was blowing on Saturday, and the river was unusually rough. It is evident that the parties did not succeed in getting the animals across owing to this fact, for yesterday both animals were found drowned and washed up on the beach near the breakwater at the Sandwich fish hatchery, about a mile below the village. Both the horses' heads were tied together with balts which belonged to the stables from which the animals were taken. They also had bridles on which belonged to the stables. The animals were valued at \$300.

Lynch Law.

MARYSVILLE, Mo., Dec. 9.—Chas. Stevens, a desperado known as "Omaha Charley," who killed Hubert Kramer on the 3rd inst., was this morning taken from the gaol by a mob of sixty masked men, who went to the gaol at two o'clock this morning, called up the sheriff and demanded that he deliver Stevens to them. The sheriff refused, and told the crowd he would fight to the last in defence of his prisoner. The mob then rushed for the door, and notwithstanding that the sheriff repeatedly fired into the crowd they forced an entrance, overpowered the sheriff, seized the murderer, and marched him under cover of a score of cocked revolvers to a railroad bridge, half a mile away, and hanged him. One of the mob was dangerously wounded by the sheriff.

Diphtheria in New York.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—Diphtheria, a scourge which never leaves this city, has taken a fresh start, and is raging fiercely. The habitual death rate of 50 per cent. of reported cases has been exceeded, and is at present 60 per cent. and over. Last week's deaths from diphtheria numbered 43 to 75 reported cases.

Broke Through the Ice.

ALMONTE, Dec. 11.—To-day, while one of our most prominent young men, Charles Shearn, Jr., was attempting to cross the river on the ice he broke through, and before assistance reached him became chilled and went down. The body was recovered in a few moments, but life was extinct.

"Hello!" we heard one man say to another the other day. "I didn't know you at first, why? you look ten years younger than when I saw you last." "I feel ten years younger," was the reply. "You know I used to be under the weather all the time and gave up expecting to be any better. The doctor said I had consumption. I was terribly weak, had night sweats, coughs, no appetite and lost flesh. I saw Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery advertised, and thought, it would do no harm if it did no good. It has cured me. I am a new man because I am a well one."

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