

sides this small economy he had instituted a tremendous saving in his fuel expenditures. B continued to pile up his sawdust, and in order to get rid of it he undertook to burn it, but on more than one occasion his plant narrowly escaped destruction by sparks blown from the dust pile.

Both mills were sawing pine exclusively, and as a matter of course the "slabs" accumulated rapidly, until around each mill there was a large pile of this stuff, representing so many dollars of idle capital going to ruin. A glanced at the growing heap one day and berated himself to remedy this leakage. How could he best utilize this surplus raw material? He used some of it as fuel along with the sawdust, and found that he could get a better heat, and therefore more steam by judiciously adding the two than by burning each separate, but this only called for an atom of that immense pile of outside boards. What should he do with the remainder? He did not ask himself the question long, his habitual perusal of his trade papers had whetted his ideas, and he quickly realized that the best way to put this idle material to profitable use, was to buy a lath machine and hire an extra man or two to operate it. He did so, and soon he was shipping laths away in car load lots, and making a very snug profit out of them, too. B allowed this object lesson to pass unheeded and he continued to pile his slabs higher and higher, where negroes in the neighborhood had frequent access to them after nightfall.

A had arranged a plan to utilize his sawdust, was no longer troubled by an increasing pile of slabs, but still there was a quantity of refuse material too good to dump into his furnace. He thought awhile on that line and he soon found a market for the "kindling wood," and henceforth broken laths and bits of board were dumped into the dry house and made as ignitable as tinder, after which they went to a small swing saw and were cut into eight-inch length, after which they were tied into little round bundles about a foot in diameter. These were laid out flat, standing the sticks on end, and a boy with a mop applied a thin coat of cheap rosin to the exposed ends, from a huge pot standing over a slow-burning fire near by. None of the work of preparing these kindling blocks for market was done by a man; boys were intrusted with the work and the proprietor himself superintended it. There was another thorough system and method about A's mill. He gave the signal himself, and all hands turned to or knocked off when he did.

Experience had taught him that it was the best sort of economy to be regular about all things. At B's mill the sawyer had rules, but being an employe himself did not enforce them as strictly as the proprietor would have done if he had been there in actual touch with the work, and rules not enforced were often worse than no rules at all, and in that way very much valuable time was lost that represented so many dollars and cents wasted. Is it necessary to draw the parallel any farther. I think not. Any intelligent, common-sense man acquainted with the saw-mill business in the remotest degree cannot fail to see where such a parallel ultimately leads to, indeed it may hardly be termed a parallel any longer; one of the knives is short and straight, the other early diverges and where it terminates is not in sight.

In conclusion it is safe to lay down this general proposition, that the man who extracts the most gratifying results from the saw-mill business, is he who watches steadfastly after the small economies around his mill, for if he is a business man enough to do that, he is apt to be ambitious to push his business instead of allowing it to push him.

MAHOGANY.

The weight of a cubic foot of mahogany varies from 35 to 53 pounds. As compared with oak, which is called 100 per cent. the strength of mahogany is 67 to 97, its stiffness is from 73 to 93, and its toughness from 61 to 99 per cent. The Government engineer of Honduras estimates the total value of the trees in that country, such as are regarded fit to be cut, at \$200,000,000, while the smaller trees, not ready to cut, are also worth a large amount

OUR CROWN LANDS.

THE annual report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, which is now to hand, is a volume of more interest than the majority of Government returns, containing as it does a comprehensive statement of the management of the Province's great stores of wealth. It shows that the total collections of the Department were \$1,113,052 and the total disbursements \$290,953. The area of clergy lands sold during the year was 780 acres, aggregating in value \$1,219.76. The amount collected on account of these and former sales was \$6,037.88. The area of Crown Lands sold during the year was 50,045 acres, aggregating in value \$79,847.39. The collections on account of these and sales of former years amounted to \$74,031.78. The area of common school lands sold during the year was 220 acres, aggregating in value \$766.50. The collections amounted to \$11,758.24. The number of acres of grammar school lands sold during the year was 534, aggregating in value \$367. The collections were \$1,538.27. Under "Railways Aid Act" of 1887 certain lands were set apart to be sold for the purpose of forming a fund to recoup the province in respect of moneys expended in aiding railways—of these lands 9,406 acres were sold, aggregating in value \$18,577.20. The collections were \$11,562.56.

The total collections from woods and forests for the year amounted to \$916,155.67, which includes \$135,479.53, on account of bonuses, leaving the revenue from timber dues, ground rent, etc., to be \$780,676.14.



HON. A. S. HARDY, MINISTER OF CROWN LANDS.

The revenue from woods and forests is somewhat below the estimate, which is accounted for by the collapse in the square and waney board timber trade, there being very little demand for this class of timber during the past year. The report goes on to say this reduction of the import duty upon sawn lumber going into the United States from \$2 to \$1 per thousand feet board measure came too late in the year to have very much effect on last season's business, although there was a stiffening towards the close of the year, due, no doubt, to the reduction in question. The quantity of timber being got out this year is very small, and there is also a reduction in the output of logs. It is reasonable, therefore, to expect for the coming season a fair business at remunerative prices, and that the reduction of the American import duty will enlarge our market to some extent—more particularly for the coarser grades of lumber.

In order to enable those owning mills in the northwest part of the province to obtain supplies of timber, in harmony with the policy prevailing in other parts, it was determined to hold a sale of a limited area of timber berths as soon as the necessary surveys and explorations could be completed. The sale was held on the first of October last and there was a large attendance. Four hundred and eighty-five miles were offered, all of which, except 18½ miles, were in the territory west of Thunder Bay. Three hundred and forty-three and three-quarter miles were knocked down on the day of sale, for \$321,956.25, and thirty-three

miles were sold subsequently at the upset price, realizing \$24,300, making a total mileage sold of 376¼, realizing \$346,256.25, or an average of \$919.06 per mile bonus for the mere right to obtain license. There has been paid on account \$110,729.53, leaving outstanding \$235,526.72.

The work done during the year on colonization roads was as follows: Miles of new road constructed, 180; miles of road repaired, 400; bridges erected, 30; bridges repaired, 12. The work done was carefully inspected and reported to be of a satisfactory and substantial character. The total expenditure was \$127,577.60, of which certain items amounting to \$2,770.20 were refunded, leaving the net departmental expenditure to be \$124,807.40.

A SERMON IN A SENTENCE.

WE pay that man six dollars a day, said the proprietor of a small shop recently to us, for the reason that he is the best man on that kind of work, and we think ourselves very fortunate to get him. When we heard this we could not but wish that some who think the world is too full, and there is no demand for skilled labor any more, could have heard it also. There never was a time, there never will be a time, until the end of all things is at hand, when skilled labor will not be in demand. There is always an overplus of mediocrity, and half-hearted men who work for six o'clock have only themselves to blame when they are unable to keep jobs. Not many months since we were talking with a very intelligent man who was posted, so to speak, on all things outside of his business. He was a machinist, and when we broached some topics connected with his trade he shut up like a steel trap; that was the one thing he took no interest in, and it is almost needless to say he had no position in it; he was a general utility man, fit only to hew wood and draw water, and it is fair to presume, so lax was he in all matters incident to his business, that he spilled most of the water and made more chips than firewood. This man, when asked if he took a trade paper, said promptly that he did not. "Why should I? if I was the best workman in the world the boss would only get the benefit of it; I would not get any more." Argument with a man like that is impossible, and we said nothing; but it is a curious fact that the superintendent of this very works said, as we were going over it: "I want a man for foreman of one of these shops; and would you believe it, there is not one out of the whole 600 that I would trust. I never saw such a lot of men in my life; they don't care for anything. There isn't a single mechanical paper taken by one of them, and yet they are a fair average."

Now the caption of this article and the commencement explains the situation as regards advancement in life for those who wish to get on. It is for young men that we write, not for those who have run their race. If you expect more than a bare living—and an uncertain one at that—you must be able to do some one thing better than the mass can do it. No matter if it is only chopping wood—whatever it is, do that one thing better than nine out of ten can, and you will be in constant demand. All men can not be foremen, that is certain; but to be a foreman implies that you can do something else better still if you will cultivate the same qualities.

One of the most difficult things is to convince young men that they are not known for what they are; that they can be good workmen and bad workmen and the world will not take cognizance of either fact. Assuredly it will; every man is known to his immediate associates for exactly what he is. He is under their notice all the while, and they do not fail to see his daily walk and carriage; this being the fact, it is easy to get a good or bad reputation. If a young man has his way to make let him cultivate all things that are lovely and of good report. Be assiduous at his trade, do the best he can, and take counsel of his superiors. If he shows that he is in earnest, everyone will lend him a hand.

Talking about striking a tender chord, soliloquized the tramp at the wood pile; this is one of the toughest cords I ever struck.