

It may not be out of place to mention a number of purposes to which the wood and bark of the tree are applied. Bread of birch bark from Lapland, made as long ago as 1867 shows one of the very many uses to which birch bark is or may be put. Shoes made of strips of bark, used by the peasants of Northern Sweden when at work in their distant meadow swamp; nut baskets in which they sell wild raspberries; and a specimen of the well known Alp horn from Switzerland, by no means exhaust the enumeration of articles illustrating birch bark at Kew. It is a valuable tanning agent, and an oil obtained from it is largely used in the preparation of Russian leather; indeed, it is to this oil that the peculiar fragrance of that article is due. Formerly the highlander used the outerlayers for lighting purposes, and, before the invention of paper, the inner ones for writing upon. The sap is convertible into wine, vinegar and spirit; when fresh it form an agreeable beverage, and an intoxicating liquor when fermented. The wood is esteemed for light turnery work, and is at the present time largely employed in the manufacture of spools or cotton-reels.—*Gardening Illustrated*.

WOOD-WORKING PATENTS.

The following list of patents relating to the wood-working interests, granted by the United States Patent Office, December 15th, 1885, is specially reported by Franklyn H. Hough, solicitor of American and Foreign patents, 925 F. Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

- 332,241—Lumber drier—O. A. Duke, Clanton, Ala.
 332,273—Saw guide—P. Miller, Norwich, Conn.
 332,365—Saw mill, hand—S. Stephens, Indianapolis, Ind.
 332,691—Saw mill, circular—H. Wright, New Lisbon, Ohio.
 332,611—Saw mill, portable—H. Wright, New Lisbon, Ohio.
 332,611—Saw sharpening machine—D. W. Johns, New Albany, Ind.
 332,291—Sawing machine, scroll—A. D. Goodell, Millers Falls, Mass.

PATENTS ISSUED DEC. 22.

- 332,817—Lathe attachment—W. Middleditch, Detroit, Mich.
 332,806—Lathe tool holder—C. H. Kelley, Somerville, Mass.
 333,016—Lathes, turning—O. Kromer, Sandusky, Ohio.
 332,991—Lumber drying Platen—N. S. Bouton, Hyde Park, Ill.
 332,864—Measure, lumber—E. N. Barber, Kent, Ohio.
 332,714—Saw mill, circular—R. B. Holt, Guthrie, Ky.
 333,092—Saws, device for filing and jointing circular—A. Winkler, Oneonta, N. Y.

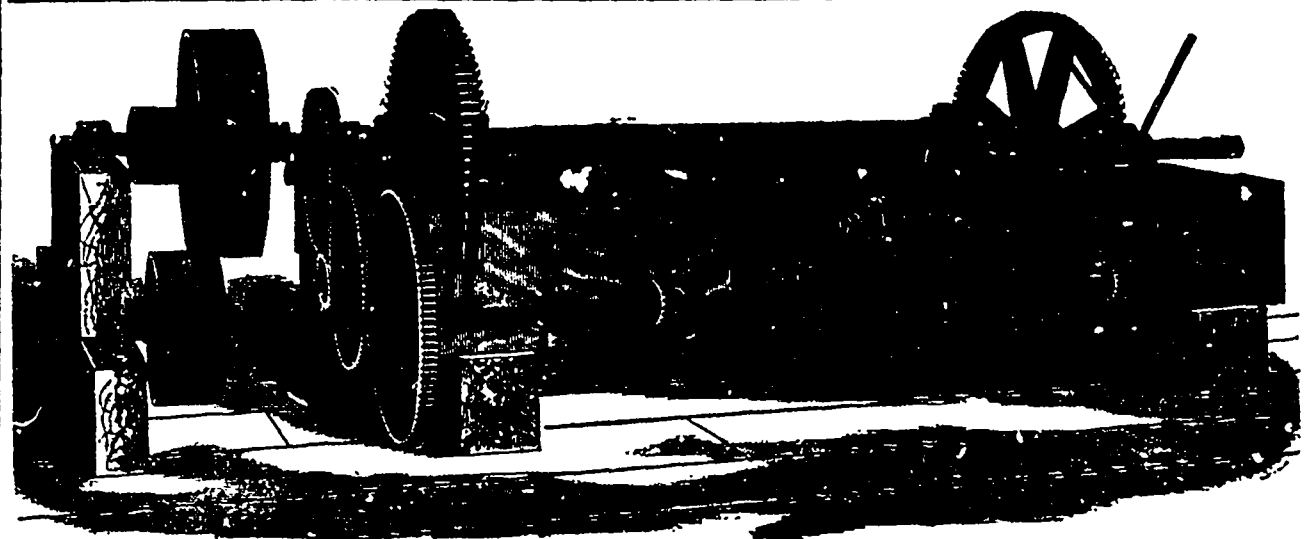
Shafting.

A firm which makes a speciality of the erection of shafting, states that its experience teaches that the loss of power due to improper conditions in the line shafting amounts to 50 per cent of the engine power employed, and that the defects most commonly found are as follows:—Shafting too light for the duty, crooked shafting, hangers too far apart, hanger bearings too short, pulleys too heavy and not properly balanced, hangers which are not adjustable and not self-adjusting and sometimes filled with spurious Babbitt metal, and improper proportion between two pulleys connected by the same belt.

Southwestern Lumber Pool.

In April last the railroads centreing in Chicago formed a pool on lumber, the provisions of which shut out the Kansas City markets and left the Nebraska markets open for competition. The arrangement was not so satisfactory to the Chicago road as was expected, for the Northwestern dealers floated their logs down the Mississippi to various points, where they were cut into lumber, and from these places the Burlington and Rock Island carried the lumber to market. It is estimated that Chicago lost 20 per cent of its Missouri lumber business by this arrangement.—*Lumber Trade Journal*.

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