

GRADING OF PINE DEALS.

It will be remembered that the Timber Trade Federation some little time back took up the question of the change in the method of cutting pine deals. Considerable pressure was brought to bear upon shippers to revert to the old system, but without success. Ultimately, however, says the Timber Trades Journal, of London, Eng., it was arranged that the cutting which prevailed in the Ottawa

district towards the end of last year, and which was understood to be better than the mode of sorting which preceded it, should become the trade standard for quality, and contracts were generally entered into on this understanding. From what we can gather the new goods which have come to hand under these contracts do not appear, in all instances, to have come up to importers' anticipations, and in one instance which has come more

particularly under our notice the difference of opinion has been so acute as to lead to the intervention of the arbitrator. It is the third quality which buyers are more anxious to see improved, but as this forms the bulk of the pine production it is obviously a question of importance to the millmen and shippers. Much, indeed, might be said from the shippers' point of view on this subject, which is no doubt a complicated one, and shows the difficulty

met with in altering established trade practices. If we may hazard our own opinion, it is that the gap between the price of seconds and thirds is too large, and that the matter could be adjusted by improving the quality, while raising the prices for the various specifications of thirds.

The planing mill of John Hillock & Company, corner George and Queen streets, Toronto, was damaged by fire last week to the extent of \$3,000.

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