

## LIGHTING SAW-MILLS BY ELECTRICITY

The rapidity with which the electric light has advanced from the experimental to the practical stage is something remarkable, even in the present wonderful age. It has long been known to scientists that what is termed the voltaic arc, which is simply a continuous electric spark, afforded a light but little inferior to sunlight; but it is only within a few years that any attempt has been made to turn the fact to practical account. In the last half dozen years or so, electricians have spent a vast amount of time in studying the principles of electric lighting, and in experimenting with appliances for the successful and economical application of these principles in practice. That the time and money so employed have not been wasted, is evidenced by what has already been accomplished. We find now several different styles of light in use, and several more that have been tested by their inventors with very flattering results. The electric light, in fact, has passed the experimental part of its career, and appears now as something that has stood the test of use without failure.

The *Lumberman* pointed out to mill owners some months ago the possibilities of electricity as a means of illuminating saw-mills, planing-mills, furniture factories, and all woodworking shops that are, either all or part of the time, compelled to run at night. The lack of a good light has been a serious obstacle in the way of night running in all kinds of mills and factories, and particularly in those that from the nature of the material operated upon are liable to damage by fire. Gas and oil have both been used, and in many cases the result has been the destruction of the mill by fire. And when no accidents have occurred the light obtained has invariably been found to be of poor quality, rendering it impossible for employees to accomplish anywhere near what they would in daylight. Indeed, the inferiority of the best light hitherto obtainable, and the risk inseparable from its use, have led many manufacturers to prefer the alternative of doing less work to that of attempting to operate their mills or factories with such a dangerous and ineffectual means of illumination. We have been told by a good many saw-mill men that they would gladly run their mills night and day if they could find some way of lighting them without increasing the danger of fire, and in such a way that effective work could be done.

It seems to us that in electricity mill men of all kinds will find exactly the light they have been looking for. It is unquestionably the best light that has ever been invented, as far as its illumination power goes, and there is certainly no doubt about its superiority in point of safety. Besides, it is really the cheapest of all known methods of lighting large areas. The principal item is the first cost of the machines and the power; these once bought, there is nothing to do but to keep the engine running and supply the lamps with carbons, the latter forming even for a considerable number of lights, but a nominal item of expense. The cost of producing the light, after the electric machine and its motive power are obtained, would hardly amount to anything for the operator of a mill or factory. In all woodworking shops, at any rate, the means of producing power is so cheap that it practically cuts no figure, so that by adopting the electric light the expense of making the mill as bright as day is reduced to an exceedingly small sum. The wear and tear of the machines used, and of the lamps, we understand, is very slight, so that there is no lack of economy on this score. With electricity, all fear of fire, resulting from the lighting of a mill, would be groundless. The light is not a flame, but a spark, and as it develops no appreciable amount of heat it cannot set fire to anything; while any accident that disturbs the position of the light puts it out at once.

We do not well see how anything in the way of a light more perfectly adapted to the use of saw-mills, and all sorts of mills, in fact, could be devised. It is maintained altogether by power, which is an indispensable adjunct to every manufacturing establishment, and can in most cases be applied to an electrical machine at a very small cost. When the apparatus and lamps are once in position, the light is produced steadily and with but little expense and trouble.

It is always ready when it is wanted, is lighted instantaneously by the mere shifting of a belt, and involves in its maintenance scarcely any extra trouble or expense. It emits no smoke or disagreeable fumes, is perfectly clean, and what is most important, is entirely free from danger, which cannot be truthfully said of any other means of turning darkness into light that is known to the world. It seems to possess all the advantages that any one could ask for, and so few and such unimportant disadvantages that they are hardly worth considering.

It is probably known to most of the *Lumberman's* readers that there are several kinds of electric light that have been perfected, though only one has yet been sold to any considerable extent. This one has been adopted by most of those who have already tried this sort of light, mainly, we suppose, because it has, until lately, been the only one of which the sale has been vigorously pushed. The principle in all machines is the same. They all use dynamic electricity and carbon lamps, and so far are all alike; the difference in the systems is in the machines for generating the current, and in the devices for feeding the carbons in the lamps, by which various degrees of steadiness and perfection are produced in the light. It is important in selecting a machine that these differences should be understood and appreciated, lest one become prejudiced against the light because of faults that exist simply in the mechanism, or the manner of utilizing the current.—*North-western Lumberman*.

## TIMBER NEWS.

During the week ending 11th June, 1881, the undermentioned timber passed through the slides mentioned:—

## DES JOACHIMS SLIDE.

| Owners.        | Cords. | Pieces. |
|----------------|--------|---------|
| Bell & Hickey  | 113    | 3,350   |
| Booth & Gordon | 4      | 70      |
|                | 117    | 3,420   |

## COULONGE SLIDES.

| Owners.       | Cords. | Pieces. | Saw Logs. |
|---------------|--------|---------|-----------|
| Alex. Fraser  | 114    | 2,782   | 7,215     |
| Gillies Bros. | 88     | 2,769   | 66,374    |
|               | 202    | 5,551   | 73,589    |

## CALUMET SLIDES.

| Rafts. | Owners.            | Cords. | Pieces. |
|--------|--------------------|--------|---------|
| 1      | McCool & Sunstrum. | 87     | 2,171   |
| 1      | J. O. Latour.      | 97     | 2,099   |
| 1      | Gillies Bros.      | 89     | 2,558   |
| 1      | A. Fraser          | 114    | 2,782   |
| 2      | McCoshen & Fraser. | 230    | 5,600   |
| 6      |                    | 610    | 17,310  |

## CHATS SLIDE.

| Rafts. | Owners.            | Cords. |
|--------|--------------------|--------|
| 1      | McCool & Sunstrum. | 87     |
| 1      | Hillard & Dickson  | 100    |
| 2      |                    | 193    |

## GATINEAU, FROM 10TH TO 15TH INST.

| Owners.             | Saw Logs. | Ry Ties. |
|---------------------|-----------|----------|
| G. B. Hall & Co.    | 19,702    |          |
| W. C. Edwards & Co. | 8,400     |          |
| Hamilton Bros.      | 2,371     |          |
| Gilmour & Co.       | 3,002     |          |
| H. Harris           |           | 3,367    |
|                     | 33,975    | 3,367    |

## PORT HOPE.

The following is a statement of lumber, etc., shipped from Port Hope for the periods named, as obtained from the books of the Harbour Master, viz:—

## LUMBER.

|                                    |                |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| April.....                         | 3,007,276 feet |
| May.....                           | 8,518,175 "    |
| June, (to the 10th inclusive)..... | 6,363,632 "    |
| Total.....                         | 18,584,083 "   |

## SHINGLES.

|                                    |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| April.....                         | 10,256,000 |
| May.....                           | 2,712,773  |
| June, (to the 10th inclusive)..... | 12,968,750 |

## SHINGLE BOLTS.

|            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| April..... | 60 cords. |
| May.....   | 198 "     |
| June.....  | 278 "     |

## WOOD.

|                                    |           |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| April.....                         | 88 cords. |
| May.....                           | 108 "     |
| June, (to the 10th inclusive)..... | 278 "     |
| Total.....                         | 88 "      |

## THE OUTLOOK FOR LUMBER.

Mr. Van Schaick, of the extensive lumber firm of Audington, Wells & Van Schaick, expresses the following opinion of the condition and prospects of the market. He is as well qualified to speak on the subject as any man in the country:—

"Seriously, to me the lumber market has all the elements of strength rather than weakness, and it has fully met the expectations held since January by many engaged in it. I would beg to suggest for your consideration the following elements of strength: First, a demand fully equal to that anticipated early in the season. With the fact that no switching of cars has been done for about two weeks past, the output from city yards by rail from January 1 to May 18 is but 143,594 feet less than during the same time last year, and all will admit that the city consumption has been greatly in excess for the same time. Second, that with largely increased receipts by rail over last year from January 1 to May 18 there remained at that date a deficiency in receipts of lumber of 22,352,000 feet as compared with 1880. Third, that it was generally admitted at the lunch given by Vice-President Martin, that the receipts of this year would be greatly in excess of last year, and might reach a total of 1,800,000,000 feet. As the count now stands, to receive an amount equal to last year only, there must arrive 1,360,000,000 feet. To receive this you have 182 business days including December 15, and arithmetic will show that each business day the receipts must be 7,500,000 feet to equal last year's receipts. Anything above this would be a surplus over last year.

"Every lumberman can form his own estimate as to what the excess will be, but in my judgment the excess in sales for 1881 will fully equal the excess of receipts over 1880 from this time forward. It is unnecessary to enlarge by stating that lake freights, wages and all expenses are likely to add fully \$1 per thousand to the cost of manufacture over last year. No exact amount can be arrived at; still, this will be an important factor in the current market value of the year. An opinion formed and a position taken on the value of a commodity so largely produced and consumed as lumber, should be backed by arguments and facts, as care should be taken not to mislead dealers and consumers by opinions based on personal interests. My impression now is that since the rate of interest began to decline in western centers a few years since, all business men who have taken the bear side on the value of any commodity have been disappointed in results, and that it is extremely dangerous in the present prosperous condition of the country to sell any commodity at a low price in regular business that the seller must immediately replace.

The stock of logs cut during the past winter is not excessive at any point, nor beyond the ability of the owners to carry easily. Money is abundant at an exceedingly low rate of interest compared with former years, the general business is prosperous in all departments, and the indications point to a steady and large consumption of lumber. Demand and supply will probably adjust prices to the satisfaction of manufacturer, dealer and consumer."—*Lumberman's Gazette*.

We have received No. 10, Vol. 1, of THE CANADA LUMBERMAN, a 16 page semi-monthly paper hitherto published in Toronto by Mr. Alexander Begg, but which has just been purchased by Messrs. Toker & Carnegie, proprietors of the Peterborough Review, to whom we are indebted for the copy before us, and whom we wish every success in their new venture. THE CANADA LUMBERMAN will be a trade organ, absolutely non-political, and will not only contain those accurate statistics which are necessary to the trade as a basis of intelligent operations, but will afford a medium through which the lumbermen of the Dominion may explain their wants and wishes or exchange ideas on subjects of interest to them. It is beautifully printed with new type on heavy white paper, contains a large amount of reading and is only \$2 a year in advance.—*Peterborough Gazette*.

The circulation of the CANADA LUMBERMAN is over 2,000 copies. Advertisers should note this

## MR. MOORE REPLIED TO.

To the Editor of The Canada Lumberman:

DEAR SIR,—Having noticed in the last issue of THE CANADA LUMBERMAN a communication from W. Moore, in which he complains of the treatment received by the so-called, small mill-men, at the hands of Toronto planing mill men, I am pleased to observe, however, that he does not include retail men proper, in his denunciations. I would ask Mr. Moore if small mill-men are not somewhat in fault in this matter? Mr. Moore evidently included amongst the number. To the writer's own knowledge, it is generally the custom of small mill-men to come to Toronto with their lumber with the express intention of making all they can of it, and therefore cast the retailer, or middlemen, to one side, and seek out the saw and door factories, thinking that by disposing of their lumber to the consumers they will realize the outside figure for their lumber, or in other words, get the profits that should go to the middleman, and in this expectation they are often deceived, and many will say, rightly served. Now, although I wish it to be distinctly understood that it is not my purpose to attempt to defend the factory men, as I don't not they are well able to defend themselves, still I think Mr. Moore will hardly deny that it is extremely difficult to convince many small mill-men as to what constitutes a mill cull, and more difficult still, as to what is really clear lumber, and as to what is well manufactured or the reverse, most difficult of all. Their knowledge in this respect is often exceedingly deficient, and considerable difficulty is often experienced by the purchaser in getting a satisfactory settlement in consequence. There is still another fault made by small mill-men, and that is in the handling and piling their lumber. Many lumbermen can testify that it is quite exceptional to find clear, bright and properly piled lumber at small mills, but frequently so damaged by sap-staining as to be unfit for market, and so depreciated in value nearly one-half. Now, I will agree with Mr. Moore, that in this respect matters might be improved to the advantage of seller and buyer, by establishing a depot under proper management, as such evils as that I have referred to above might be remedied under the influence exerted by an efficient manager, and I conceive that is about the only advantage that would be gained by the combination advocated by Mr. Moore, as he must be well aware that there are plenty of reliable dealers here to whom he could consign his lumber, and save his travelling expenses, and realize all the market would afford; and if Mr. Moore has clear, properly manufactured lumber at present, to dispose of, he can net \$28.00 per M., which is not a bad figure, even for small mill-men.

Truly yours,  
H.C.

Toronto, June 16, 1881.

## ENCOURAGING.

The receipt of such letters as the following, we need scarcely say, is most encouraging to the publishers of THE CANADA LUMBERMAN. We have already received not a few of this kind, but there is room for more:

FORT FRANCES, N.W.T., June 6th, 1881.

Messrs. Toker & Co., Peterborough.

GENTLEMEN,—Enclosed, please find the sum of \$2.00, for one year's subscription to THE CANADA LUMBERMAN. I have received two copies of your paper, and find that it contains a great deal of very useful information to lumbermen.

Yours truly,  
S. H. FOWLER.

COLLINGWOOD, June 18, 1881.

Messrs. Toker & Co.,

DEAR SIRS,—Having accidentally seen THE CANADA LUMBERMAN newspaper published by you, and being somewhat in that line of business, I am quite pleased with the amount of information to be found in your periodical and having reference to that line of business, and would desire to become a subscriber. Please send me a copy on receipt, and consider me a subscriber for a year.

Yours truly,  
DAVID FLEMING.

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