EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE Board of General Appraisers at Washington have just rendered a decision in the important question of the valuation of wood pulp, by which is determined the amount of duty to be paid by Canadian manufacturers shipping to the United States. Heretofore the Government valuation has been $12 per ton, but at the suggestion of Treasury Agents Wood, of Detroit, and Stokes, of Plattsburg, N. Y., an appraisement was made, the decision being that the valuation should be placed at $11 at the point of manufacture.

The Mississippi Valley Lumberman's Association has announced an exposition of lumber grades to be held in Minneapolis this month. It is intended as a means by which manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers may inspect and become acquainted with the standard grades, and as such it should prove of great interest. There will be exhibited in a suitable building, provided for the purpose, from 75,000 to 100,000 feet of lumber. Canadian lumbermen will learn with surprise of the attention given to the question of grading by this association.

A STRONG argument in favor of holding firmly to prices is found in the published statement that the manufacturers of red cedar shingles have so reduced prices as to make their product unpopular in the eastern markets. Following the reduction in price, an attempt is said to have been made to produce the shingles at a less cost, and consequently the quality has deteriorated and the product become unpopular. Owing to the lack of anything like a standard grade or price, dealers also feel a delicacy about making purchases, lest their neighbors should undersell them. To retain the eastern trade the manufacturers of red cedar shingles must study the market more closely.

ONE of the essential features in the production of a first-class trade journal is that it should contain the views of those in whose interest it is published. When important questions are under consideration, readers naturally look for the opinion of others engaged in the same line of industry. During the past year the CANADA LUMBERMAN has received contributions from a number of its subscribers, to whom we are deeply grateful. In the year 1897 it is hoped that many more will assist in increasing the value of the LUMBERMAN by expressing their views on subjects relating to the lumber trade, as well as by seeking information through its columns. The publisher is always pleased to hear from subscribers. Let one of your New Year resolutions be that you will write more frequently to your trade paper.

MENTION was made in these columns a few months ago of the fact that the vessel in which Dr. Nansen attempted to discover the north pole was made of Douglas fir, and that it had been subjected to great pressure among the ice floes. Further corroboration of the strength of the vessel is given by Dr. Nansen, who states that when the pressure was at its height, her beams and timbers began to crack; she broke loose and was slowly lifted up out of the icy berth in which she had been fast frozen, but they were unable to find a single crack or a splinter displaced. This proves the immense strength and elasticity of the Douglas fir. In this connection we note that expert testimony before the Behring Sea Commission at Victoria, B. C., affirmed the fact that Douglas fir was far superior for purposes of shipbuilding to Oregon pine, the only article of lumber that is in any way to be compared to the product of British Columbia.

THE subject of business courtesy is one to which greater attention and study might profitably be given in this and other countries. The indifference and lack of courtesy shown to representatives of business houses by those holding responsible positions is often such as to cause astonishment, and the person who has sought an interview is made to feel that he is regarded as an intruder. An instance of this was recently brought to our notice. A representative of a European house called upon a prominent manufacturing firm in Ontario and was treated with such indifference as to be at a loss to understand the situation. He afterwards expressed the opinion, in which we entirely concur, that such an attitude was not only injurious to the particular industry with which the firm in question were identified, but to the country at large. Particularly in a young country such as Canada, the aim of every business man should be to establish our reputation as a courteous and hospitable people, always willing to extend the hand of friendship to visitors from abroad. Thus Canada will be looked upon as a desirable country in which to reside, and the increased population which is so necessary to our welfare will be attracted to us. It costs nothing to treat your fellow-beings civilly, and the results are invariably profitable.

ENGLISH TERMS AND MEASUREMENTS.

BELOW will be found some particulars regarding English terms and measurements as furnished to us by one thoroughly acquainted with the English trade which will assist our readers to a better understanding of the English market. In the article which we reproduced last month from the Tradesman there are said to be several inaccuracies.

Lumber in Great Britain is spoken of as timber, the only exception to this rule being in the case of hardwood lumber imported from the United States, which is spoken of as States lumber.

The term yellow pine in England is synonymous with the white pine of Canada, while the yellow pine of the Southern States is designated pitch pine.

Round timber in England has formerly been measured to find the cubical contents by the quarter girth by what is called the "Hoppus' system," in which the devisor is 144, but of late years it has been discovered that this devisor gives 27 per cent. less than the actual contents when used for measuring round timber. The Customs Find Timber Measuring Department now measure round timber by the quarter girth and use the 113 devisor, but if the timber is measured by calliper, or by the diameter, the devisor used is 183, which gives the true content.

Sawn timber, such as deals, battens and boards, or "lumber," as it is called in Canada, is imported by the St. Petersburg standard hundred. The standard St. Petersburg deal is 12 feet in length by 1½ x 11 inches. The standard contains 120 pieces, or 6 score to the hundred, which is equal to 1,980 feet of 1 inch boards. To this measurement every size and dimension has to be reduced. In London and Ireland, however, there is another standard which is used principally for retail transactions, and which is 120 pieces 12 feet by 3 x 9 inches, equal to 3,240 feet board measure.

Planed or dressed wood, such as flooring and matched boards, are imported by the St. Petersburg standard, but are re-sold in England by the square of 100 superficial feet.

Another measurement in England is the fathom, which is 6 feet cube, or 216 cubic feet. Lath wood, deal and batten ends, or as it is called in England, "firewood," is bought and sold by this measurement. Mouldings are sold by the 100 running feet.

Square timber is sold in the English market by the load of 50 cubic feet, equal to 600 feet inch board measure. The railway companies carry 50 cubic feet of fir timber to the ton, and 40 cubic feet of hardwood timber. Mahogany, cedar and furniture and fancy woods are sold in the log or in plank at per superficial foot of one inch thick. Hardwood boards or States lumber is now sold in considerable quantities to English merchants by the car load.

BAND VS. CIRCULAR.

A SHORT time ago I asked for a discussion on the difference between the saw kerf of a circular and that of the band saw, or the gain of the band over the circular in amount and profit, writes A. Blackmer in the Wood-Worker.

By allowing a difference of one-eighth of an inch between the circular and band—that is, calling the circular 1 5-16 inches for the board and kerf, and the band 1 3-16 inches for the same—I find that the band will make 21 boards out of the same timber that the circular will make 19 boards from, making a difference of 2-19 in favor of the band; 2-19 of a day's run of 60,000 feet makes 6,315 feet, which at a moderate estimate of $10 per thousand, is worth $63.15, so that if there were no other items to consider, the band would have paid for itself in a very short time.

However, there are several other points to consider. In the first place, when the band averages 50,000 a day it is doing well, and so the sawing of this extra 10,000 a day which would be necessary to make its day's work equal to the circular in amount, at $2.50 per thousand equals $25, which must be charged to the band, and when taken from the $63.15 that it now has credit for leaves a balance of $38.15.

As a further offset, when there is a change to be made from a circular to a band, is the expense of making this change, including the enlarging of the filing room and new outfit for the same, and interest on the investment.

To recapitulate: The difference in saw kerf on which these estimates are based is probably not far out of the way. It is probably in each case about a 32nd of an inch more than the majority carry, but that does not materially change the result. It costs much more to keep a supply of band saws on hand and keep them in order than circulars. Just how to estimate some of these things is a little difficult without a demonstration by an actual account being kept.