

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters are invited from our readers on matters of practical and timely interest to the lumber trades. To secure insertion all communications must be accompanied with name and address of writer, not necessarily for publication. The publisher will not hold himself responsible for opinions of correspondents.

CARELESS METHODS OF LUMBERING.

To the Editor of the CANADA LUMBERMAN:

SIR,—Some excellent advice is contained in an article published in your February issue under the heading "Stacking Lumber," and I would heartily recommend our hardwood manufacturers to peruse it carefully and then sit down and figure up how much good hard cash they have lost on their last season's stock by failing to give this particular branch of their business proper attention. I have no hesitation in saying that there are few mill men who could not count up any lost dollars, directly attributable to careless piling or stacking.

The prevailing custom of putting up 12, 14, and 16 foot boards and planks in the same pile is bad, and is undoubtedly a source of great loss, for reasons which must be obvious to everyone who knows anything about lumber. I have seen soft and rock elm, piled in this way and 25% to 50% of the 14 and 16 foot length had to be thrown out, as common, on account of warped and twisted ends, which would otherwise have passed as 1st and 2nd. By piling each length separately this trouble would be overcome, and with no small gain to the manufacturer, as it will be seen that he loses by the other method not only the difference between the price of common and 1st and 2nd on what has been thrown out but is also at the expense of repiling it, which is a considerable item on a large stock of lumber.

"A penny saved is a penny gained"—and pennies are a panacea for hard times.

BOARD RULE.

FORESTRY A PRACTICAL QUESTION.

To the Editor of the CANADA LUMBERMAN:

SIR,—It is not an easy matter to awaken in the breast of the average lumberman an interest in the study of forestry. There are some notable exceptions, I am glad to say, as in the case of Hon. J. K. Ward, Mr. William Little and a few others. But the great mass of lumbermen are interested in cutting down the products of the forest, rather than giving any concern to filling up the immense gaps, they are making in this product every year. How seriously the question touches every thoughtful man is indicated by the attention that is being given to the subject of late in the leading magazines and reviews of the country. In a late number of Blackwood there was published an exhaustive article on this question, and the Century has been running a series of articles on the subject. The time has gone by when the matter can be laughed out of court. This policy has in the past been the usual stock rejoinder of those who would tell us that the country was so rich in forest products that no one need talk nonsense about the denuding of the forests. This was the story in Michigan until within the past few years. Now the most utilitarian of lumbermen are prepared to admit that that once great pine state is practically out of the running as a lumber state to-day; and that many believe what they say, they are making heavy investments in Canada, Wisconsin and Duluth, and from these places stocking their Michigan mills, which they can no longer stock from supplies at their doors.

Where reform, perhaps, should commence is with our own government. The disposition of the crown lands of the country is under their control. The Ontario government deserves much credit for setting aside certain timber lands for a forestry park, and the system of fire rangers adopted has commended itself to all who have studied this question. This, however, is only a method of preservation. What is needed is the adoption of a system of reforestation, so that future generations will be left in possession of some of the rich timber resources that to-day are the pride of the present generation. The local legislature is now in session and I doubt if members could spend their time to better advantage than to consider a measure modelled along the lines which are here suggested.

Dr. Dawson, of Montreal, in a lecture, recently, sounded a note of warning on this matter, which may

fitly be quoted here: "Our forests are no doubt in a critical state. We still have more timber than any other country, but for that very reason we need to be careful not to give away too much to those who are not in want of it, or to waste it at home. The time has come for planting and scientific forestry, and attention to these matters might enable us to supply the world for centuries and leave abundance for ourselves. Our little export of twenty-six millions of dollars worth might, with proper management, represent only the annual increase of our forests."

CANADIAN LUMBERMAN.

SPANISH RIVER, ONT., Feb. 20, 1895.

INJURY TO BOILERS BY GREASE.

It has often been observed that small quantities of grease in combination with deposits lead to boiler accidents. This compound gets deposited on the plates, and the most violent water circulation is sometimes insufficient to remove it. The plates, in consequence, get overheated and accidents result. The introduction of grease inside the boiler should be avoided, especially where the water from the condenser is used for feeding the boiler, by the use of a sufficiently large feed-water filter. The Berlin Boiler Inspection Society had the following case brought under its notice: Two single-flued boilers, 4 feet 8 inches diameter, 23 feet long, flues 18 to 22 inches diameter, pressure 12 atmospheres, were used to generate steam for a 150 horse-power engine with surface condenser. The installation had only been at work since July, 1893. A considerable portion of the flue of the left boiler had collapsed. This could not be attributed to shortness of water. On examination it was found that nearly all over the boiler a fatty brown slime had been deposited, which, being placed on a red-hot iron, burst into flame. The feed-water pump got its water from a large open tank over which a small filter was placed. The condensed water was led to this filter in order to have the grease removed. Unfortunately, the arrangements were so bad that a considerable portion of the grease found its way into the boiler. A similar case was recorded by Mr. Abel at the last meeting of the Markisch Society for Testing and Inspecting Steam Boilers. Four boilers, the feed water of which was heated by the exhaust steam from a Westinghouse engine, after being in use about six weeks, were so damaged that one boiler had to be completely removed, the other three had to receive extensive repairs. An examination showed that the flues were covered with a deposit of fatty slime. An analysis of this showed that about 52 per cent. of it consisted of mineral oils and paraffine, and 27 per cent. of animal fat. It is strongly advised, therefore, that feed water shall always be filtered so as to remove any oils or grease.—Scientific American.

TRADE NOTES.

Messrs. Cassidy, Bonner & Co., of Montreal, have secured the contract order for the 18" double belt for Montreal Steam Laundry and about two thousand feet of other sizes, which has to be nearly all water-proof. They make a speciality of water-proof belting.

Mr. A. G. Sinclair, the late president of the New York Emery Co., has connected himself with the Tanite Co., of Stroudsburg, Pa., and solicits for that company the trade which in former times he controlled as salesman for the Ashland Mills, and later for the New York Emery Co., and the American Emery Mills. As Mr. Sinclair is one of the oldest salesman in the emery trade, and also a practical manufacturer of emery, he knows something as to the intrinsic quality of that article and also as to the needs of the trade. Having learned what Tanite Mills emery is by several years competition with it, he now offers it with confidence, and asks equal confidence from old customers and friends.

The peculiar properties of Tanite, which fit it for a base in emery wheel manufacture, have been applied by the Tanite Co., of Stroudsburg, Pa., U. S. A., to the production of solid emery whetstones. The result has been a great practical success, though the prejudice of the trade and the novelty of the article have conspired to make the demand irregular and scattering. That this state of the trade is not due to the quality of the artificial whetstone is evidenced by the fact that in quarters where it has once been introduced the demand is regular. The Tanite whetstone is adapted to the mill pick, the carpenter's and stone cutter's chisel, the bit of the moulding mill and the axe of the woodman.

VIEWS AND INTERVIEWS.

Liquid Fuel. From investigations made and published by Dr. C. O. Weber, it appears that in the use of liquid fuel

Russia is in advance of all other countries, but then only the heavy petroleum residues, astatki, are used for boilers, railway engines and similar purposes astatki, on combustion, producing 11,000 cal., as against 8,000 cal. obtained from first-class steam coal. In this respect, therefore, 62 pounds of astatki are equal to 100 pounds of coal. By working side by side two boilers of the same type, firing the one with coal and the other with astatki, it is found that one pound of coal evaporates eight pounds of water, and one pound of astatki thirteen pounds of water; and in regard to the important point, the volume of air passing into the furnace and the quantity of water evaporated, it appears that for 1,000 cubic feet of air consumed, coal evaporated 1.5 and astatki 1.5 pounds of water; consequently, besides a smaller weight of fuel an item of considerable importance in the case of marine boilers, allowing their volume to be materially reduced without lessening their steam producing capacity.

Opinion varies as to who was the inventor of the circular saw. Some certain claims in this particular, Mr. C. A. Dunham writes a contemporary as follows: "Allow me to say that the circular saw was invented in America in about the year 1770, by a comb maker by the name of Hartshorn, who used a common hand saw to saw out the horn between the teeth, thus forming one of those old-fashion horn combs. Finally, thinking it a rather slow process, he took what used to be called a 'Bungtown copper,' filed it down thinner, drilled a hole through its center, then squared the whole and cut the teeth in its outer edge, placed it upon a mandrel true and permanent, then put it into his lathe, and with the flat horn laying upon a wooden rest he sawed out his combs. From the copper he shortly cut up his back saw and converted it into circular saws. This man Hartshorn lived and died in Mansfield, Connecticut. I have been well acquainted with his descendants. He also invented the screw and lip auger, also the bit, such as are used in the brace. He was asked why he did not put in his claim for compensation long afterward when we had a patent office. His reply was that if he had done anything that was a benefit to his fellow men they were welcome to it."

The Woods of Maderia.

Maderia possesses some valuable woods. Of native trees the till is the largest and handsomest. It has shining deep green leaves. The wood is brown, marked with dark veins, and susceptible of high polish. It is in demand for furniture, boxes, walking sticks and so on generally. Newly cut till has a disagreeable odor, and it can be used only when well seasoned. The vinhatico is a fine tree. The wood is red and much used for furniture. It is often called Maderia mahogany. The aderna grows to the height of sixty feet, and it is used for cast staves. The wood is white. Azevindo and pernado are closely allied trees and are species of holly. The wood is white and is used for inlaid work. They attain a height of fifteen to twenty feet. None of the foregoing trees are found elsewhere, except in the Canaries. The pao branco is a handsome tree, attaining a height of fifty feet. It has a hard, white wood, and is in much demand for keels of boats. It grows readily from the seed. It is not found elsewhere, except in the Canaries and Azores. The folhado is a fine tree, attaining a height of sixty feet. In summer it is full of white scented flowers. Its wood is tough and of light weight. It is of great interest to botanists, belonging to a genus of which all the species except this are American.

To test leather belting, says an exchange, cut out a small piece of the belt and place it in vinegar. If the leather has been perfectly tanned and is therefore of good quality, it will remain immersed in vinegar for several months without any other change than becoming a little darker in color. If it is not well impregnated with tannin the fibers will promptly swell, and after a short time be converted into a gelatinous mass.