

THE MATTER-OF-FACT VIEW.

THE Boston Manufacturers' Gazette advances some very practical views touching the question of forest management, taking the middle ground between the sentimental and the material question of forest preservation. As our New England contemporary remarks, "the sturdy lumberman who owns one hundred acres of timber growth, and whose business in life is to convert the same into logs and wood, must needs study the practical side of the forestry question. He has but little appreciation of the poetic side of the tree, its foliage and scenic effect. He must be approached, if he is to be converted from the error of his ways, by practical arguments in favor of a more modern, rational and intelligent management of his property."

The lumberman or timber-land owner has the undoubted legal right to destroy every stick of timber in his woods, if he so please, but convince him that it is for his interest to cut only the matured and full-grown timber, and leave the young trees to grow, and he may be converted to the Old-World science of forestry. If all a man's capital be invested in timber lands, and he cannot sell the land, he may be compelled to realize on the stumpage and convert the growth into cash.

The Gazette reasons thus: That while the owner of mature trees in the forest loses money in permitting them to stand after their growth has ceased, the lumberman is also unwise who makes a clean cut of his forest growth, when the young and immature trees left to nature will pay him far greater profits than if destroyed at the same time the mature specimens are marketed.

The lumberman may cut fitly to one hundred ripe trees from an acre and still leave twice as many immature trees growing for future cullings.

In either the æsthetic or the practical view, it is the part of common sense to simultaneously thin out and preserve—to harvest the lumber crop under proper conditions and at the proper times. The lumberman does not always realize the future value of his forest trees. He works for the future alone. Capitalists, and those who are willing and able to wait, should be induced to invest in forest lands from a financial standpoint, with the expectation of large profits in the crop, and with the prospect of advancing values as the supply diminishes.

SAFEGUARDS FOR WORKING ELECTRICIANS.

THE announcements that a means has been invented of rendering any wire charged with electricity instantly dead opens up the question recently discussed

in an English electrical journal of the better protection against accidents from heavy currents of workmen in electric light and power stations. It is suggested, among other improvements, that the insulation resistance of the rubber gloves and boots worn by men engaged in high pressure works should be periodically tested. Rubber gloves and boots are subject to wear and tear, and however good the insulation may be when new, it rapidly deteriorates. It is stated that gutta-percha molded boots, with no irons in them, are more reliable than rubber boots, as they retain their insulating properties much longer. It is suggested that all high pressure bars, switches and fuses shall be boxed in, so that the opening of the box would cut off the current and render it impossible for it to be turned on while the box was open. Again, manufacturers are compelled to securely fence in all belts, wheels and other machinery, and high pressure terminals, bars or switches should be placed under similar restrictions. What is wanted is a simple signal to indicate to the most ignorant workman when a bar, or terminal or switch is charged and so warn him off. Such a device would excellently well supplement the use of the newly-invented electric "cut-off" in increasing the safety of workmen in electric light stations.

DIFFERENT WOODS COMPARED.

IN a lecture recently delivered before the Railway Institute, New South Wales, on the values of different timbers used for railway purposes, it was stated that timber, when perfectly dry, lost about one-third of its weight and shrunk in breadth in drying, as follows:

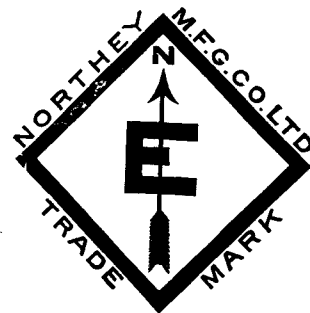
English Oak	1-12
Riga fir	1-32
Dantzie	1-38
Elm	1-24
Yellow pine	1-38
Pitch pine	1-40

In the comparisons, English oak was taken as the standard of measure of the qualities of strength, stiffness, and toughness, and the following table presented as a result of the experiments:

Variety.	W't cu. ft.	Strength.	Stiffness.	Toughness.
British oak	45 to 58 lbs.	100	100	100
Baltic Riga oak	43 to 54 lbs.	108	93	125
American oak	37 to 47 lbs.	86	114	117
Dantzie Oak	42 to 53 lbs.	107	117	99
Elm	35 to 46 lbs.	32	78	86
Pine or fir	26 to 42 lbs.	80	114	58
Poplar	33 lbs.	86	66	112
Mahogany	35 to 53 lbs.	96	93	99
Tamarac	32 to 40 lbs.	102	80	130
Walnut	50 lbs.	90	70	110

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