

AN AUSTRIAN SPECULATOR.

One of the most expert speculators in Vienna is a man named Heinrich Kuller. Over the years, however, they with brutal frankness call such men swindlers. Some of his late tricks are so good that even Jay Gould might take lessons from him. The Austrian speculator is fully up to Mr. Ward, on a smaller scale, however.

Not long since, Kuller appeared in the office of a wealthy lumber dealer who owned an immense lumber yard in the heart of the city. At this time there was a perfect mania for building houses in Vienna, and available lots commanded fancy prices.

"I want to buy the land you have got your lumber yard on. I want to put up a big hotel on it," said Kuller.

"I don't care to sell."

"But I have got to have it. It is the only suitable place in this part of the city. I'll give you half a million."

"I don't want to sell. I would not sell for a million."

"I will give you a million."

The lot was not worth a million, but as the merchant had his lumber on it, and was wealthy, he did not care to accept the offer.

"No, I would rather not."

"I'll give you a million and a quarter, and to show you that I am in earnest, I'll put up fifty thousand marks forfeit. I must have a big lot on which to put up my new hotel," said he placing that amount in thousand mark notes on the table.

The poor lumber dealer became nervous and excited. Great beads of perspiration stood on his brow. He asked for twenty-four hours to think about it. The trade was then concluded. The lumber was to be cleared away before two months. The fifty thousand marks forfeit were to be paid over at the end of a week. The lumber dealer was satisfied on that point. He knew Kuller had the money.

The lumber man then went to hunt for another lumber yard. Suitable vacant lots were extremely scarce. A land agent, however, who had heard that the lumber dealer was looking for a lot, offered him one for six hundred thousand marks, but only gave him the refusal of it for twenty-four hours. He said he could get that amount from another party. In his anxiety to sell the place to Kuller for a million and a quarter, the lumber merchant paid down six hundred thousand francs to the agent.

Next day Kuller notified the lumber dealer that he would pay over the fifty thousand marks forfeit as he was unable to raise the million and a quarter, the purchase money for his lot.

With the aid of a skilful agent, the speculator had sold to the lumber merchant for six hundred thousand marks a lot only worth four hundred marks, thereby profiting, after paying the fifty thousand marks forfeit, a cool 100,000 marks.

The lumber merchant has now two lots in his hands, and is also in possession of considerable experience.—*Siftings*.

RENDING WOOD

There is no machine that can divide a piece of wood into any number of parts by following the grain from one end of the stock to the other in all the curves and crooks that are found in rendering. For straight grained stock the saw answers every purpose with a great saving in lumber, time and labor, but there are places and requirements where the stock is to be rived out, that every part of the work may be of equal strength and like tenacity throughout. This rendering process, or the trade of the rail splitter, is one that requires the extremist skill on the part of the render. The lath splitter will seize a log of wood, however straight or crooked, and divide it in halves through its central line, guiding the crack and keeping the rend in the centre of the stock by the manner of applying the splitting force of the wedge.

The instant the split leaves the central line, or one half of the log or the other is weakened, the deflection is the greatest in the weakest place, and the result will be that if the rend were to continue the splitting would cleave to one side, and the halves be unequally divided; but the render is on the lookout for this, and can tell in an instant when the split leaves the central division how or winding the log may

be, and assists the weakening side by slightly bending the other till the divided work has been thickened and the rend continues on the centre. The halves are divided in like manner till the stock is divided into eighths by radial divisions, when the circular wedge-shaped section is ready to be divided crossways following the annular grain or fibre-ring that forms about the heart of the wood, and again the radial division applied till the log has been rived into the fineness required. The curve or bending flexure of the divisions by which the line of cleavage is directed is a principle that is brought about by the skill in handling the wedge, or whatever tool is used in splitting. If the knife is forced around to bring the spreading force with a larger leverage on one side than on the other, the strength of the shorter half will be better prepared to resist the action of bending than the other, and the work will have a tendency to cleave to the thickened side if the rend has not departed too far from its central course; if so the work will need assistance in the way of springing the stock into the position that will allow the split to rectify itself.

It is skill and practice in the correct principles of rending wood that brings the division of stock with the grain into equal parts to a success, and not chance cracks or good luck in splitting, or the placing the dividing edge or frow into the exact centre of cleavage. Why this splitting should be affected, or the course of the rend be changed in the slightest degree from the effect of bending the stock behind the work where the action is to be expected is a principle that must make use of the extension and distortion of the material it meets with in being deflected. If a beam is loaded at each end while it is supported in the middle, the upper layers will be extended while the lower fibres will be compressed; the tendency between every dividing line will be for one surface to slip upon the other, as may be observed in a built-up beam of thin boards before gluing, a tendency to crawl will be noticed from the support in the centre to places where the load is applied. This tendency to creep is sufficient to break the cohesion between the grains of wood. A piece of stock split for a few inches deep in two or more places sufficient to divide the stock into three or more equal parts, will, on being deflected, bring the shearing strain on every fiber in the stock; and since they have been weakened in the line of cleavage that has been made, the rend must continue at those places long before the remaining stock has been injured in the division of the grains, so by breaking the stock over a support, so as to cause the material to assume a sharp bend first to one side and then to the other, the line of division is conducted and forced through the stock and left in equal parts with the grain.—*Ex*

FILEL.

Considered in the abstract, there is more real science connected with the use of a file than in its manufacture, though all are willing to accord to the progressive makers the praise due the improvements of this very important workman's tool during the past few years. To properly use a file is apt to be considered a system of education beneath the dignity of the smart apprentice, in fact, it is rarely, if ever, that the apprentice is instructed in the use of the file at all, save to be able to draw the tool smoothly across the article to be filed, regardless of the care of the tool itself, indeed, we question very much if in a large shop there are many artisans who know how to preserve as well as use the file, the principal idea being to get a certain amount of work done, regardless of the wear, often needless, to a great degree, of the tool.

If we take the trouble to examine carefully the make up of a file, it would be noticed that it is among the impossibilities to so temper a bit of steel, that after the same has been subjected to the treatment necessary to make the rough edges or "teeth," the temper will be the same throughout, hence if we wear it more in one place than another, it will soon refuse to do even work. Again, in drawing the file, when the tool is pushed from the operator, a certain proportion of the hard tempered metal is turned toward the operator; now, if in backward

motion, the file is allowed to bear on the substance to be filed, it is crowded forward in proportion to the amount of force applied, hence only a few strokes are needed to break off the outer or keenest edge of the tooth, whereas, if the file were not allowed to touch the substance being filed, the steel would continue to bend toward the operator, and would wear off smoothly, and so become uneven or jagged along the outer edge, which soon condemns a file for fine work. Then, again, these minute and evenly made furrows in the best made tools soon become, as it were, clogged by means of the small bits of worn off steel having the temper drawn by the heat generated by friction during the rapid, hard work. These little particles soon aggregate to that extent that the file is rendered incompetent for nice, even work, as shown by the great amount of rough filing seen in any shop where apprentices are allowed to file away regardless of the results as affects a continuance of the useful life of the file. These are little things of themselves, but in the aggregate they amount to no small amount in the cost of manufacturing.—*Lumber Trade Journal*.

WHAT WOOD TO USE FOR PATTERNS.

In selecting wood for patterns (says a writer in the *American Machinist*) it is of the greatest importance to secure that which is most sure to hold its form and place, and which will not warp or shrink after being worked.

I believe selected and well-seasoned mahogany, or baywood, is more to be depended upon than any other. But this is too expensive to be generally used in large, bulky patterns, and most shops will only afford it for standard or delicate work. I would choose it rather than pine in thin work, where it is liable to split, and in patterns having sharp edges and corners, as the grain is not so free and straight. That best suited to patterns is quite soft and easy to work. But to go to the extreme in regard to nicking of corners and edges, and splitting of frail parts, a better choice can be made than to take mahogany.

For shelf brackets and other similar ornamental scroll-work, trimmings and fittings for children's carriages, &c., I have never tried any wood that answered the purposes so well as apple tree, but I would not dare to place it where there is dependence to be put on its holding its shape exactly after being worked to rule and straight edge. It has a tendency to twist and warp while being worked, which I will not attempt to explain, cutting away some portions of the grain leaves an unequal strain on others, thus drawing it out of its original shape. I have received satisfaction in using this wood in patterns having slight or frail projections and thin places, as it is very tough and will stand a great deal of bending and twisting before it will split, it is also more likely to pass through the hands of the moulder and come out whole. There should be pains taken in making a glue joint, for if put together with surfaces, as originally left by the plane, it will not amount to much. The surface should be well scratched

with a scratch plane or tool. It is also difficult to nail or brad, as it is almost sure to split, or the nail to bend, without a hole is carefully made with the bradawl.

Another wood which makes a good substitute for mahogany and apple tree is cherry. In this, as is the case with mahogany, there is a wide difference in quality, and it should be well selected to get that which is suitable for patterns. What I consider best is that called here western cherry. It is lighter and of more free and straight grain, glues better, and is not so likely to warp as the native or eastern quality. A good quality of the western wood will not cost very much more than the best pine, where as mahogany will cost three or four times as much. Patterns made of cherry stand wear and handling well, and are not so easily dented or battered by rough use and the thrust of the vent iron.

The varieties of wood already considered are practically adapted to only the most choice patterns. Ordinary work can be made of pine and so on the purpose better, it being lighter to handle, and in large patterns this point should be considered, for the lighter the pattern the better it can be handled in drawing from the mould. As a rule, too, the lighter wood is best for patterns in other respects. It is pretty sure to keep its place better than the hard, pitchy kind. It is easier and quicker to work, and, if you wish to get the weight of your casting in a rough way by the rule of pound of iron to ounce of pattern, the lightest wood will come nearest to the mark.

We accidentally overheard the following dialogue on the street yesterday:
Jones, Smith, why don't you stop that disgusting hawking and spitting?
Smith, How can I? You know I am a martyr to catarrh.
J. Do as I did. I had the disease in its worst form but I am well now.
S. What did you do for it?
J. I used Dr. Sago's Catarrh Remedy. It cured me and it will cure you.
S. I've heard of it, and by Jove I'll try it.
J. Do so. You'll find it at all the drug stores in town.

Catarrh—A New Treatment.

Perhaps the most extraordinary success that has been achieved in modern science has been attained by the Dixon treatment for Catarrh. Out of 2,000 patients treated during the past six months, fully ninety per cent. have been cured of this stubborn malady. This is none the less startling when it is remembered that not five per cent. of the patients presenting themselves to the regular practitioner are benefited, while the patent medicines and other advertised cures never record a cure at all. Starting with the claim now generally believed by the most scientific men that the disease is due to the presence of living parasites in the tissues, Mr. Dixon at once adapted his cure to their extermination, this accomplished the Catarrh is practically cured, and the permanency is unquestioned, as cures effected by him four years ago are cures still. No one else has ever attempted to cure Catarrh in this manner, and no other treatment has ever cured Catarrh. The application of the remedy is simple and can be done at home, and the present season of the year is the most favorable for a speedy and permanent cure. The majority of cases being cured at one treatment. Sufferers should correspond with Messrs. A. H. DIXON & SON, 305 King street west, Toronto, Canada, and enclose a stamp for their treatise on Catarrh.—*Advertiser* 1722

LIVERPOOL STOCKS.

We take from the *Timber Trades Journal* the following Comparative Table showing Stock of Timber and Deals in Liverpool on Mar. 1st 1884 and 1885, and also the Consumption for the month of Feb. 1884 and 1885:—

	Stock, Mar. 1st 1884.	Stock, Mar. 1st 1885.	Consumption for the month of Feb. 1884.	Consumption for the month of Feb. 1885.
Quebec Square Pine.....	339,000 ft.	258,000 ft.	52,000 ft.	40,000 ft.
Waney Board.....	327,000 "	319,000 "	2,000 "	1,000 "
St. John Pine.....	23,000 "	20,000 "	6,000 "	6,000 "
Other Ports Pine.....	77,000 "	53,000 "	2,000 "	4,000 "
Red Pine.....	50,000 "	42,000 "	93,000 "	62,000 "
Pitch Pine, hewn.....	258,000 "	509,000 "	140,000 "	140,000 "
" Sawn.....	540,000 "	491,000 "	20,000 "	3,000 "
Planks.....	54,000 "	39,000 "	10,000 "	4,000 "
Dantale, &c., Fir.....	117,000 "	90,000 "	6,000 "	4,000 "
Sweden and Norway Fir.....	120,000 "	60,000 "	43,000 "	27,000 "
Oak, Canadian and American.....	257,000 "	247,000 "	52,000 "	52,000 "
" Planks.....	153,000 "	151,000 "	9,000 "	0,000 "
" Baltic.....	13,000 "	14,000 "	1,000 "	1,000 "
Elm.....	13,000 "	25,000 "	0,000 "	2,000 "
Ash.....	28,000 "	61,000 "	20,000 "	20,000 "
Birch.....	80,000 "	70,000 "	23,000 "	16,000 "
East India Teak.....	70,000 "	63,000 "	13,000 "	14,000 "
Greenheart.....	109,000 "			
N. B. & N. S. Spruce Deals.....	17,611 stds.	24,284 stds.	2,103 stds.	1,816 stds.
" Pine.....	1,986 "	500 "		
Quebec Pine & Spruce Deals.....	8,054 "	4,623 "	759 "	931 "
Baltic Red Deals, &c.....	4,630 "	3,184 "	521 "	232 "
Baltic Boards.....	60 "	107 "	31 "	29 "
" prepared Flooring.....	3,458 "	3,032 "	575 "	615 "