

CHIPS AND SHAVINGS.

ELM has become a favorite wood with chair makers.

"OAK is the grand, everlasting wood of the ages," quotes a lumber journal.

IN the east mahogany is being used more extensively than ever for inside finish.

PAPER picture frames which are a good imitation of walnut moulding are being made, and unless cut with a knife it is hard to tell the difference.

FOR interior house finish soft wood seems to be becoming obsolete, if there is any pretense to richness in design. Hardwood is used almost altogether in houses of the better class.

IN time now long past, flooring strips were supposed to be thoroughly seasoned before they were put down, but now the tree that stands in the forest to-day may form the floor that is laid a week or ten days hence.

THE two oldest trees in the world are supposed to be the one in Calaveras county, Cal., that is believed to be 2565 years old, and the cypress of Somma, in Lombardy, Italy, that is 1911 years old, or planted forty-two years B.C.

ALL sorts of vessels, culinary and otherwise, including pails, tubs, basins, water coolers, spittoons, as well as various other articles, are now manufactured in one piece from wood pulp, under the name of indurated fiber ware, and are called indestructible.

ON account of its weather-resisting qualities, there would seem to be no good reason why cypress should not make headway as a material for siding, in competition with white pine. It is being used to a small extent for house finish in some northern cities. It has a pleasing appearance.

IRONWOOD and lignum vitae are preferred for heavy canes, and lamboo and malacca sticks for light ones. British Columbia redwood, however, is said to make as heavy a cane as any wood known. It has a rich port wine color and is very handsome.

IN London, 20,000 men earn their living at carpenter work, 4,000 in Paris, and 4,000 in Berlin. Hours in London are 52½ per week, wages, 18 cents per hour. In other cities in England carpenters work 58½ hours and at 12 cents an hour. Employment is precarious. In Paris the eight-hour day prevails and wages are \$1.70.

IT is thought with good reason, that cypress interior finish will serve a purpose in keeping out bugs and moths like that of red cedar. The latter is costly and not very attractive to the eye; while cypress is comparatively cheap and handsome. It is a cedar, and has a slight aroma, and will tend to keep a house sweet and free from vermin.

RED oak grows in favor. It is in some respects and to some tastes more in favor than white oak. It is easier worked, shows up as ornamental a grain, is just as durable, and far more easily obtained. Maple does not hold its beauty to the eye like oak, but discounts it when you come to flooring. Both are wanted in increasing volume every year.

BANDS are superseding circulars, in old as well as new mills, and have reached a stage of development and utility which the circular did not attain for decades after its introduction. The more economical production of lumber by utilizing in the pile that which formerly went into sawdust, is the study of all manufacturers.

PERSONS who may not know the nature and color of black larch after dressing and polishing may be interested in knowing that the grain of the wood is very close, the color mottled and slightly darker than satin wood. Black larch makes beautiful furniture, and the only complaint made against it for house trimmings is the care and extra time required in nailing the boards, to prevent splitting.

THE following will interest many of our readers who spend the winter months in the lumbering camps:—An old Mount Washington guide says that he never carries a compass in the woods. There are three sure ways, says he, that I have for finding the points of the compass. You will notice that three-fourths of the moss on trees grows on the north side; the heaviest limbs on the spruce trees are always on the south side; and thirdly, the topmost twig of every uninjured hemlock tips to the east.

CHERRY is not what it once was in the popular estimation, and cannot be had in size, quality or quantity as of yore. Yet it is unquestionably one of the most beautiful of our native woods, and will never wholly go out of fashion as long as it can be obtained, which will be in greater or less quantities forever. Of walnut the same may be said; at present it is not so fashionable as it was 20 or 30 years ago, but while trees grow the black walnut will not be allowed to become extinct. The neglected varieties of our forest growth, such as sycamore, elm, larch, black ash and beech, are all finding a place in public favor.

HANDLING CIRCULAR SAWS.

IN reading an article by Mr. Hobart in your paper recently, I was led to think he had had but little experience in the use of saws, or else that he did not place a very high estimate on human life.

The lifting up of a board from a pinched saw or placing one over its top appears to be a very hazardous operation, and the word "dodge," is very appropriate. Circular saws are cranky machines. The way they knock things, when on a rampage, throw clubs, knots and chips, will make a man dodge if anything can. Like a mule, they seem to hold a grudge against every one. They may appear to be quiet and gentle, but they never fail to get their work in when an opportunity occurs.

The novice who should try to follow Mr. Hobart's advice, in adopting this "dodge," would be very likely to find himself sprawling on the floor, with a cracked jaw, a broken head or no head at all, a moment later. The man who knows the vicious nature of saws, when he sees an edging or strip of lumber balancing over the edge of the table behind the saw, usually ducks his head or gets out of the way as soon as he can.

I have had twelve years' experience in the use of saws and have learned that one cannot well be too cautious in handling them. Nearly all of the accidents which occur in their use are simply the result of carelessness.

Nor long since a man here was running an edger in the night, his lamp being secured to a post behind the table. Placing his stub pipe in his mouth he leaned forward over the saw to light it by the lamp, when his feet slipped back, letting him down, and in a twinkling his arm was cut off just above the wrist.

There is great danger in running saws at too high speed, especially when the power is variable. The speed may be proper and safe when cutting, but while changing the stuff the speed will sometimes be nearly doubled. I have known saws to burst under such circumstances, and fly about the mill like shot. I recollect one instance where a piece from a 22-inch saw flew off, parting in a straight line across the plate some five inches deep. This piece was thrown with such force as to pass one-half through a window shutter one inch thick. The instant before the saw burst the sawyer was standing directly in front of it.

A number of years ago, when I was building knitting machines in Ballston, Sp., a lumberman from a couple of miles up the creek, called to consult with me about a saw which ran crookedly. I went up to see it, but on examination it appeared to be stiff and in good order. I requested him to start it up slowly, when it appeared to run truly, and on applying a piece of edging, found that it cut a clean, narrow kerf.

Said I, to the man, "That saw appears to be all right." "Let me show you," he replied.

Then he lifted on a full gate. The speed began to increase and kept on increasing. It was a 28-inch saw used for sawing ash for fork handles. The speed soon reached a fearful rate, and I stepped back out of the way. Taking up a plank the man started toward the saw, when I caught him by the shoulder and said, "Come away, quick!" He looked at me with surprise, saying, "I see nothing wrong."

I held him back and pointed to the saw, which had now attained such a speed that the plate was so expanded as to vibrate sidewise, like the stem of a boy's top with a whiz through the air enough to make one's hair stand on end. It was weaving back and forth at least three-quarters of an inch out of line, and apparently as limber as a piece of leather.

I expected every moment to see it fly to atoms. I motioned to him to shut the gate, and when it had stopped I told him that I would as soon stand before the cannon's mouth as before a saw running at such a fearful speed.

"Why," said he, "I have been using it so for the past three days."

"Well," I said, "you may consider yourself a lucky man."

We then changed the pulleys, reducing the speed one-half, when he had no further trouble, and could saw more stuff than before the change.

To be a good sawyer is an achievement to which very few men ever attain, and although thousands spend their days at the business, yet they never fully understand the true science of putting and keeping a saw in perfect order. Every one has notions of his own, and the less he really knows the more notions he will have. Many of them believe that the machinery runs faster and will do more work in the night than in the day time.

A good sawyer will make a mill earn the full amount of his wages more, every day, than an ordinary man can, and double the amount that a poor man will; not only in the quantity of work done, but also in the quality, and at the same time he will appear to make less effort than either of them in accomplishing it.

In setting saws the tooth should not be bent in a true line with the plate, but should be given a twist carrying its front

or cutting edge further out of line, and allow clearance for the back part of the tooth. This is very important, as the front edge at the outside (i.e., the side toward the tooth which is bent), soon wears away, leaving a smooth rounded corner which tends to spring back into line with the plate, leaving a bearing further back on the tooth, while by giving it a twist the tooth will bear much more wear before this can take place.

Swaging the teeth with an upset is much to be preferred to bending the teeth, for with swaged teeth there is no chance of the tooth to spring away from the work. Whether the teeth be swaged or bent, it is most important that the saw be trued after the operation so that every tooth shall cut, and run in line with the others. If the sides of the teeth are dressed with a file, the points should be bevelled back to give clearance the same as the twisted tooth.

The upset was unknown in my sawing days as it is a later discovery. In sharpening splitting saws the front edge of the tooth only should be touched with the file, and this filed exactly square across the plate, or in line with the mandrel.

A saw should run perfectly true. If a 54-inch saw should show more than a thirty-second of an inch variation it should be corrected. The collars may be out of truth, and a trifle here may work mischief at the circumference. This may easily be tested by taking the saw and running the mandrel slowly. Place a wedge between the collar and the journal box to prevent any vibration of the arbor, then by placing a stiff rest near the collar and holding the end of the file down upon the rest with the end against the collar, the slightest variation may be detected.

If the collar should prove to be out of truth it may be trued up by scraping the face of the collar while it is running slowly allowing the file to cut only on the high side of the collar.

Inserted teeth are doing away with filing and setting saws at the present day, and are also doing away with a large amount of timber.

A first-class 54-inch solid tooth saw, No. 9 gauge, will save six per cent. of the timber and double that amount of power, and make as good lumber as the best inserted tooth saw in the market. This would save the value of the cost of the saw in every six days' work, sawing clear pine.—*Journal of Progress.*

BRITISH BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

An increase in quantity of timber and lumber received into the United Kingdom, but a decrease in aggregate value, is shown by the official returns for the eight months ending August 31st, 1886 and 1887 compared:

	Quantity.		Value.
	1886.	1887.	1887.
Eight months ending August 31st.			
TIMBER (Hewn).	Loads.	Loads.	£
Russia.....	113,234	132,574	210,494
Sweden and Norway.....	371,874	383,342	497,242
Germany.....	104,301	137,924	293,817
United States.....	60,165	63,979	249,755
British E. Indies.....	26,638	10,566	110,564
British North America.....	80,533	76,297	324,258
Other countries.....	268,209	307,805	303,039
Total.....	1,024,904	1,112,487	1,994,199

Timber (Sawn or Split, Planed or Dressed).			
Russia.....	469,188	579,594	1,103,825
Sweden and Norway.....	859,797	954,712	1,878,392
United States.....	209,206	165,702	407,375
British North America.....	479,393	495,188	1,137,359
Other countries.....	39,626	51,418	140,184
Total.....	2,057,209	2,246,614	4,707,135

Staves (all sizes).....	75,688	88,082	347,405
Mahogany (tons).....	33,472	27,449	227,030
Total of Hewn and Sawn.....	3,082,113	3,859,101	6,701,334

The total for eight months of this year is thus 3,359,101 loads, hewn and sawn, aggregate value £6,701,334; while that for same period of 1886 is 3,082,113, costing £6,758,755. The returns from Canada (B. N. A. in above list) shows a lessened import of hewn timber, but an increase of sawn, with a value smaller in the proportion of £1,137,359 to £1,147,046.

In iron, steel, tin, &c., the quantities exported from the United Kingdom during eight months ended with August last, are in all cases larger than in the like period of 1886. Values are all higher, too, with the exception of wire and tin plates:—

	£ mos. 1887	£ mos. 1886
Pig and puddled iron.....	755,922 tons	688,532
Bar, angle, &c.....	165,418 "	153,013
Railroad, all sorts.....	642,543 "	502,350
Wire.....	27,748 "	26,502
Cast and wrought.....	239,482 "	232,646
Hoops and sheet.....	200,327 "	198,608
Old iron.....	205,010 "	94,299
Steel unwrought.....	214,708 "	73,641
Tin unwrought.....	66,228 "	61,334
Tin plates.....	235,901 "	232,737