

feet of lumber. It cost \$30 per 1,000 feet, for lumber up to 16-foot pieces; and \$1 per 1,000 for every foot beyond that size. The supplies were obtained from city lumbermen. The council decided that this year all supplies should be purchased by tender and contract. Tenders for lumber were called for. About a dozen were put in. They were opened and considered by the board of works recently. Several of the tenders were from United States firms. The prices ran from \$24.48 to \$31.50 per 1,000 feet. The contract was awarded to Wood & Co. at \$25.88. An accepted cheque for \$2,000 accompanied the tender. The next highest tender was put in by J. G. Macdonald for \$25.95. Supposing that the city will use about the same quantity of lumber this year as was used last year, it will save \$17,500 by the tender and contract system. It is understood that the successful tenderer is or was a member of the firm of McBain, Wood & Company, and that the lumber to be supplied will be brought in from Quebec via the Thunder Bay route. The contract is an important one, inasmuch as it shows that lumber is going to be \$5 per 1,000 cheaper this year than it was last. If it can be brought from Quebec and sold to the city at \$24.88, it can also be sold to the general public at as cheap if not a cheaper rate.

EFFECTS OF STORMS.

We learn from Aberlour, Banffshire, that great destruction of timber was caused by the gale of Tuesday week. On Drum of Carron, from eight to ten acres of pine trees were levelled with the ground. On the Knock of Allachie, belonging to Mr. Duff, of Aberlour, several hundreds of fir trees were uprooted. Very many of these trees are broken, some through the middle, others at the bottom, and they lie sometimes in heaps of half-a-dozen, tumbled and twisted above each other. They are mostly the best and largest trees that have fallen. At Ballindallock the gale was of unusual severity, commencing on Tuesday night and continuing unabated till noon on Wednesday. It was considered by many to be worse than the storm on the night the Tay Bridge fell. The woods have suffered most damage. Many fine trees have been uprooted or broken across in the most exposed parts of the woods at Phonas, and Drum of Carron. In the Drum Wood, which belongs to Mr. H. A. Grant, of Elchies, many acres of timber are uprooted. The farmstead of Greenmoss, occupied by Mr. Ellis, which was thatched with straw and heather, was on one side clean stripped to the rafters. The stackyards came in for considerable loss. Many stacks have been turned over and scattered in every direction. Wooden erections suffered a great deal of damage.—*Timber Trades Journal*.

A Good Old Miller.

A New Jersey Miller, who had become old and rheumatic, one day called his sons about him, and said: "Boys, I am growing stiff in the knees and faint at heart. My liver is out of order, and I can no longer distinguish between a peck and a half bushel when taking toll. This mill is worth ten thousand dollars. In order to form a stock company, and render my own burdens the lighter, I shall give Reuben two-tenths, Samuel the same, and Henry, who is my first born, three-tenths. Bless you, my children, bless you. You may go fishing for half a day." The three sons took the papers which the old man had made out, and instead of going fishing they went down to a lawyer's office, called a meeting of stock-holders, and proceeded to business. The first-born was elected president, Reuben treasurer, and Samuel secretary, and the following resolution was passed: "Resolved,—That we bounce the old man, and run the mill after our own ideas!"

The above from the *Millers' Review* (Philadelphia), illustrates substantially the experience of a good many indulgent, confiding fathers. Some that read this will be reminded of like cases that have come under their own notice.—*Scientific American*.

The Dismal Swamp.

The Dismal Swamp in Virginia is much reduced in extent compared to what it was twenty

years ago. It now contains, says a recent visitor, some of the best farming land in the State. A railroad runs across it, and it is on its way to final extinction. The drainage of Lake Drummond, a central body of water lying higher than the average level of the swamp, would make the whole area fertile. This is a project of Gov. Benjamin F. Butler, who once had surveys made, but at length abandoned it. The one great industry of the swamp is lumbering. It is penetrated by small ditches in connection with larger canals, and by rude tramroads, over which the logs are hauled to be saved up into shingles, railroad ties and fencing. The lake, however, with its fringe of cypress and its projecting roots and stumps, is just as dismal as ever.—*Scientific American*.

THE PROSPECTS.

The *Chicago Lumber Trades Journal* says:—A representative of this journal, in rambling through the country during February, picked up considerable information relating to the condition, actual and prospective, of trade. The opinion among the dealers in whatever town his curiosity led him was emphatic in the belief that a large and profitable trade would open up in the spring, extensive building would begin at the earliest favorable period to pursue work, and the improvements, especially among the farmers, would assume large proportions. The northern part of this state will unquestionably witness, in every line, a marked progress. Along both the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy and Northwestern railroads the dealers are sanguine of a very satisfactory trade. Stocks are not what might be called good upon these lines of travel, for in view of a severe winter the dealers hesitated exceedingly, and did not put in big stocks in the fall, because of the uncertainty of how long they would have to carry them. The weather throughout the country has been very severe and trade amounted to but little in consequence. In Iowa and Nebraska it is stated that the building operations will exceed anything heretofore.

CLOTHES PINS.

The *Newmarket Era* says:—Nearly all the machinery taken to the temporary saw-mill on the 5th of East Gwillimbury last summer by the Messrs. Cano, has been brought back to the mills here this week. It is intended to commence next week at replacing it ready for spring work. There are now over 27,000 logs in and about 200 are yet to come in, but the teams are busy just now in hauling clothes-pin and nail timber. The new dry kilns are now complete and working like a charm. The nail-timber is sawn the proper length and shape and is piled in cars capable of holding 370 cubic feet. There are twelve of these cars, and as soon as one is filled it is shoved into the kiln and another, now dry, taken out of the other end worked up, thus having ten cars of stuff drying all the time. A large wooden chimney, about 40 feet high, has been erected at the back of the building which causes a constant circulation of hot air through the entire kiln, the heating of which we have alluded to. One of these carloads is manufactured into nails and tubs, and another car filled with green material, every day. This kiln is built especially for this branch of the trade and is independent of the other dry kilns. The manufacture of clothes pins is attaining considerable proportions. They are now making, ready for shipment, about 30,000 per day, out of beech, birch, and maple wood. Each pin passes through seven machines before being dried and packed. The firm have already gained the reputation of making the smoothest and neatest pin in the Dominion.

SHADE TREES ALONG THE CANAL.

The *St. Catharines Journal* says:—Mr. Ellis, superintendent of the Welland canal, proposes, during the coming spring, to plant a number of shade trees along the banks of the canal. The idea seems to be an excellent one. While a general tree planting will add considerably to the scenic effect, a much more important and practical feature will be the advantage to the canal banks. In many places the banks being more or less exposed, the planting of trees will be of advantage by holding the soil by reason of the roots permeating in every direction.

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During the past summer a few willow trees were planted in the neighborhood of some of the locks; but the number was very small. We are glad to see that Mr. Ellis has contrived to have a good deal of very necessary work accomplished along the canal that was much needed. A great many exposed places at the approaches to locks and bridges have been securely fenced, so that there can be little danger of accidents occurring at these points. Had this work not been done there can be little doubt but sooner or later some serious accidents would have taken place.

PLANTING THE PRAIRIES.

The *Lumberman's Gazette* says:—The question of whether forest trees will or will not grow on the prairies of the American Northwest is being warmly debated in connection with the bill introduced into congress setting apart a quarter of a million acres in Dakota for the cultivation of trees. The assertion having been made that owing to the long-continued droughts trees could not be successfully grown in Dakota west of the James river, Mr. Leonard B. Hodges, of St. Paul, replied as follows in an address delivered before the Minnesota State Horticultural Society: "The fact that within the last ten years hundreds of groves, containing millions of healthy, vigorous young forest trees, are now growing far out in the treeless region, where science had preordained and doomed the work an impossibility, must be acknowledged. The fact that young groves of forest trees are now being successfully grown on the line of the Northern Pacific Railroad, away-out and beyond the 100th meridian, has also to be admitted, science and its votaries to the contrary notwithstanding."

Saginaw District.

EAST SAGINAW, MICH., March 6.—There is plenty of snow in the woods. The days are mild and the nights cool. Roads are in good condition, and logging is progressing as favorable as could be expected. There is some crust to the snow, and the conditions for cutting and skidding rapidly are no better than before the thaw settled the snow. It is estimated that in neighborhood of 90,000,000 feet have already reached the banks of the Rifle river. Reports from other streams do not differ materially from those I sent you last week. The Flint & Pere Marquette railroad is hauling large quantities of logs, the quantity for January exceeding 16,000,000 feet. S. R. Hall has gone to his camps on the pine river for the purpose of discontinuing operations. He has secured 9,000,000 feet this winter.—*Northwestern Lumberman*.

The Cow Tree.

Sir Joseph Hooker, in his report on Kew Gardens, gives a sketch of a most interesting botanical curiosity, the *Palo de vaca*, or cow tree.

This tree grows in forests at the foot of certain mountain ranges in Venezuela, and attains a height of 100 feet, and frequently the trunk reaches to 70 feet without a branch. The remarkable characteristic of the tree is the milk which exudes from the trunk when an incision is made. The flavor is of sweet cream with a slight balsamic taste, but it is very wholesome and nourishing, the composition being said to approach very near the milk of a cow. From the fact that the milk is somewhat glutinous it would seem that the tree is of the caoutchouc order. Seeds which have been sent to Bombay and the colonies are said to be thriving well. It is noteworthy, as an example of the law of compensation traceable in nature generally, that this cow tree seems originally to have been a native of a country where milk giving animals were formerly totally unknown.

AN Ottawa despatch says.—Shanty toms are returning to the city in droves. The weather has been unusually advantageous for a good cut. The entire cut in the Kippewa district has been got out to the streams ready for the drive.

SHERRY, JERRY & Co. are constructing a logging railroad from Vesper, Wood county, Wis., four miles northwest to the extremity of their pine tract. They have received the steel rails and a locomotive, and will push the work to completion. A contemplated road from Centralia to Vesper would connect with the road being constructed.

HUNDREDS of thousands of cedar hop-poles are being shipped from Canada into New York, mostly by way of Ogdensburg, whence they are shipped into the central part of the state by way of the Rome, Watertown & Ogdensburg road. The high price of hops this has stimulated this industry, and every man who owns a second-growth cedar grove has a bonanza.

THE *Chicago Northwestern Lumberman* says: The new treaty with Mexico, whereby numerous manufactured articles are to be admitted into that country from this free of duty, in reciprocity for a like privilege on the part of the United States, will permit the admission of ready-made houses of wood or iron free. This gives another opportunity for the "knock-down" house business.

THE Fall Mountain Paper Company is erecting at Bellows Falls, Vt., a large furnace to burn waste wet chips and bark from the wood-pulp mill, which are first compressed in a hay-press. By the application of hot air above the fire an intense heat is secured, and the claim is made that the plan of boiler adopted will produce double the quantity of steam than can be made where coal is used for fuel. The company has 29 furnaces in its different mills.