

## LIFE IN A LUMBER CAMP.

THE lumber camps of the pine regions have within the last few years become an institution peculiar to their time and place. The novelist may yet make a fortune out of incidents directly or indirectly connected with them.

Lumbering, like everything else in this busy, pushing generation, is carried on by the wholesale. The owner of a tract of pine either employs a general manager for the several camps of workmen or lets the cutting of the pine out by contract. If his business is sufficiently large, so that he runs a number of camps, he employs a walking boss, who is the highest authority in the whole business. Each camp has its "foreman," who rules his own domain, subject to the periodical visits and "cussings" of the walking boss.

Each camp is a colony by itself. Everything is provided for the comfortable sustenance of its inhabitants. A camp consists usually of two principal buildings, which are built of logs or boards in some hollow, shaded from the winds, and are long and low. In one of them are the bunks of the men placed along the sides in two or more tiers. In the middle is a long box stove that looks as though it had come out of the ark. At least, one was never seen that appeared to have been new in the present century. Here the men pass the few hours that they are not at work, either sleeping, reading, playing cards or telling stories, and always chewing tobacco or smoking. The Lumber Jack that can't go to sleep with a pipe in his mouth and wake to find it within reach of his hand has not learned the first lesson of a lumberman's life.

The other long, low room is the kitchen, dining-room, pantry and cook's parlor combined. The cook is one of the chief features of the camp. In the woolly days of early logging the board furnished was the poorest kind of "grub." Fresh meat was an unknown quantity, the cooking was on a par. Most camps at present, however, furnish as good or better food than the ordinary run of small country hotels. The cook is one of the highest salaried personages about the camp, and one can find no better place to dine, after a long tramp through the woods, than a modern logging camp. The cook, himself, is only required to cook and fill out his orders for provisions. Under him and directly subject to him is the "Cookee," who builds the fires, brings in the water, washes the dishes and makes himself generally useful.

The daily programme in a lumber camp is somewhat as follows: At three or four o'clock in the morning all hands are called up. A substantial breakfast is served and the day's work begins. Every man has his duty. Some of them upon the hillsides are felling the monarchs of the forest with an ax and saw. After the tree is felled and trimmed it is cut into proper lengths and skidded. The skids are simply platforms made of limbs of trees alongside the logging road. Up to within a few years the logs were conveyed to the landing place by horse-power, each sled carrying from eight thousand to ten thousand feet; but with the increase in lumbering large firms now construct logging railways and haul their logs in long trains by steam.

The men are served four or five meals a day. If their work is near the camp they return thither about eleven A. M., and have dinner. If they are at a distance they are served during the day with lunches, and have a full meal on return to camp at night. The day's work often does not end until eight or nine o'clock in the evening.

Wages and pay-day usually form a bone of contention between employers and employes. Ordinary laborers get from \$15 to \$30 per month of twenty-six days and board. Every man has a camp account of various articles which he buys during the winter, all of which are deducted from his pay. What he buys consists mostly of wearing apparel and tobacco. Liquor is never sold nor openly allowed in camp. The foreman keeps his supplies in the "wanagan," which is simply a large chest, and they are charged to him at the company's office. The men are never paid in cash, but receive time checks, which in camps run in cold climates and during the winter season only are due about the 1st of May. Thus, if a man wishes to quit work in the middle of the winter he receives a time

check, which he must either carry until it is due or get it discounted. The time business is a rich thing for the banks during the winter season. It is, also, a feature which causes much complaint on the part of the employes; but the employers claim that it is the only way they can hold their crews together, since, were it not for this system, the men would combine together and leave them in the lurch on the slightest provocation.

During the season of employment the Lumber Jack stays pretty close at home. He may occasionally take a Saturday night and Sunday off, and when he does he calculates to make the fur and the money both fly. But he is usually tired enough when he comes from camp to go to bed after his supper and omnipresent pipe. Sunday he lies around camp and reads such stray papers or story books as he can find. The local printing office is always a mine of pleasure to him, as its exchanges contain just that miscellaneous kind of reading matter which will serve to pass away an idle hour. The ladies of the Christian Temperance Unions and other societies are, also, doing a noble but often unappreciated work in supplying reading matter to camps. The lumber camps in the pineries often hold the balance of power at town and county elections. The "Lumber Jack" is, however, an indifferent voter and usually casts his ballot as his walking boss or the circumstance of the hour may dictate. His home is here to-day and somewhere else to-morrow. Having no fixed habitation he has no fixed interests. Hence, whatever of a civilizing influence may be made to reach the lumber camps will always be an element in the upbuilding of a better government and a purer moral atmosphere in the towns and cities adjacent to them. When the camps break up in the spring the boys draw what time is coming to them and make for the nearest town. All their worldly effects are contained in a gunny sack or wrapped in a piece of newspaper. The first saloon they strike is usually the "bank" in which their time checks are discounted. Often a winter's wages of \$200 or \$300 is squandered in a night or two. Wine, women and the gaming table take the bulk of it. The Lumber Jack is then open for a new engagement at hard work. And yet, they are not all alike. Many of them are saving and foresighted. From common laborers they rise to the position of foremen, walking bosses and contractors successively. It is but a step from the latter to the ownership of a tract of pine. Many wealthy pine land owners began life amidst the vermin and the foul air of a lumber shanty. Still more than this, the Lumber Jack is not as bad as he is often painted. He may be a spendthrift, it is true, and all his surroundings may be of the vilest, but beneath his woodmen's jacket often beats a true heart. To his friends he is always open and generous to a fault, and the wayworn traveler in the forest of our Northern pine woods can find nowhere a more generous welcome than in a lumberman's camp.

## HORSE-POWER OF SQUARE ENGINES.

THIS table gives the horse-power of the various sizes of engines at 50, 25, 15 and 10 pounds mean effective pressure, with 400 feet piston speed. The revolutions per minute are for "square" engines, where the diameter equals the stroke. The little numbers (606, 303, etc., over the horse-power columns) are multipliers for any other areas of pistons at those pressures, and 400 piston speed per minute.

Diam. In.	Area, Sq. In.	Rev per min	Factor, H.P. at 400 feet	Mean Effective Press.		Lbs. per sq. inch.	
				50	25	15	10
				60660	30330	181818	121212
3	7.07	800	.0857	4.24	2.12	1.272	.857
3½	9.62	686	.1166	5.84	2.92	1.752	1.166
4	12.57	600	.1524	7.62	3.81	2.286	1.524
5	19.64	480	.2379	12.90	6.45	3.870	2.379
6	28.27	400	.3427	17.14	8.57	5.142	3.427
7	38.48	343	.4664	23.32	11.66	6.996	4.664
8	50.27	300	.6093	30.47	15.24	9.141	6.093
9	63.62	267	.7713	38.57	19.28	11.571	7.713
10	78.54	240	.9519	47.60	23.80	14.280	9.519
12	113.10	200	1.3709	68.55	34.27	17.965	13.709
14	153.94	172	1.8639	93.30	46.65	27.990	18.639
15	176.72	160	2.1421	107.11	53.80	32.133	21.421
16	201.06	150	2.4371	121.86	60.93	36.558	24.371
18	254.47	133	3.0844	154.22	77.11	46.260	30.844
20	314.16	120	3.8076	190.38	95.19	57.114	38.076
24	452.39	100	5.4956	274.78	137.39	82.434	54.956

## AN AGE OF COMBINES.

THE air is rife with "combine." The whole tendency of trade so far as our more important commercial industries is concerned is in the direction of amalgamation. Within the month three of the largest implement companies in Canada have consolidated. The Massey Company of Toronto and Winnipeg, two concerns that have always had separate management, and the Harris Company of Brantford, the united organization to be known as the Massey-Harris Company (Ltd.) The authorized capital of the Company will be \$5,000,000, with headquarters in Toronto.

The paint manufacturers of the Dominion have about completed an arrangement which will make one firm of A. G. Peuchen & Co. and the Toronto Lead and Color Company, of this city; William Johnston & Co., Ferguson & Alexander, William Ramsay & Co., P. T. Dodds & Co., of Montreal and Henderson & Potts, of Halifax.

The financial returns of the Dominion Brewery of this city, which rather more than a year since was bought up by an English syndicate, have been such that now plans are on foot for the consolidating and buying up of three other breweries and making one gigantic institution of the whole.

The announcement is still fresh in memory of the formation of the Pillsbury-Washburn Flour Mills Co., of Minneapolis, which grouped into one several of the largest mills of the American north-west, and this is followed by word that an English syndicate, under the name of "The Northwestern Consolidated Milling Company" has been formed, and that it has taken over the "Galaxy," and "Columbia," the "Northwestern," the "Zenith," the "Crown Roller" and the "Pettit Mills" plants, six other mills of Minneapolis, with a total daily capacity of 11,000 barrels.

When interviewed by the newspaper press the principals of these big enterprises have been very earnest in combating the slightest suggestion that the strength of these combinations will be used against existing smaller concerns, or that there will be any noticeable increase in prices. There is undoubtedly plausibility and also fact in the claim, that in some cases amalgamation has become a necessity because of the extremes to which competition and cutting of prices has been carried. There is no business in doing business at a loss, which for example, we are told has been the case in the implement business. A greater number of firms have been making self-binders in Ontario, than has existed in the whole of the United States, and with results to force methods of business that have caused alarm to creditors and especially the banks.

It is the case that expenses will be substantially reduced as an outcome of each one of these amalgamations, and the inference is that this circumstance will at least work against any increase in prices, and possibly may lead to a reduction.

So far as a business combine of any kind tends to more healthful methods of doing business it is a blessing. The country and individuals are all losers by the ruinous course often adopted by business men to keep themselves afloat, the growth of an over keen anxiety on the part of one to get ahead of the other. Failure is inevitable in every such case, and whilst the consumer is temporarily the gainer by being enabled to buy cheaper goods, he in the end suffers in the general pinching that follows commercial disaster. As individuals we can prosper only in the measure in which the whole country is prosperous.

Unfortunately history tells a dark story of combinations and monopolies. Benefits such as we have named accrue to the public, but too often these are more than outweighed by the selfishness and grinding greed which seem to be born of monopoly and which a combine of any kind suggests and breeds. Everyone will hope that these latest additions to the catalogue will show a record different from that of many of the combinations that have preceded them. —Canadian Miller.

They were talking about trees, "My favorite," she said, "Is the oak. It is so noble, so magnificent in its strength. But what is your favorite?" "Yew," he replied.