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BY THE WAY.

THE lumber section of the Toronto Board of Trade is settling down to the business of the year. At a meeting a week ago the following officers were elected: Executive Committee, Ald. Jos. Oliver and James Scott, and Geo. Gall and John Firstbrook; Arbitration Committee, J. Donogh, Robert Laidlaw and C. Beck, of Penetanguishene. With an executive possessing men as thoroughly representative of the trade as is indicated by the names here recorded there is likely to be some active work done during the year. It is useless to say that lumbermen are different from those of other commercial bodies and have little or no occasion to get together at intervals and talk over and plan trade matters. We fear that sometimes this feeling takes hold of them and there is less of the *esprit de corps* than there might be among so important an interest. We do not take much stock in the Hoo-Hoo concatenations of the lumbermen of the United States. There would seem to be a lot of nonsense in connection with the affair, and yet back of it is the idea of lumbermen, whose relations with one another become sometimes a little strained through business transactions, coming together in fraternal intercourse and learning a little more of each other. Some Hoo-Hoo kittens might be brought to light in this country with gain in this particular.

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Those who are interested in the British Columbia lumber trade complain that so far they have been unable to enlist the influence of the Provincial Government in the way of inducing the Dominion authorities so to modify the regulations relating to towage and pilotage as to relieve them of the disabilities under which they labor when competing with the lumber mills of the Sound for the California and foreign trade. They claim—and very properly—that British Columbia lumber is superior to the article against which it has to compete, and in consequence is more highly esteemed, but the disability referred to is a most serious one, and ought to be removed.

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As indicating some of the changes of recent tariff legislation, Graham, Horne & Co., of Fort William, say: "Our trade heretofore has been wholly in Manitoba and the west. Free lumber brought Duluth and Minneapolis mills in direct competition with Canadian mills supplying that trade. The Americans have cut into the trade to some extent and probably will to some extent keep on sending lumber into Manitoba, so we look for no improvement as a result of free lumber west. On the other hand, our mill being on Lake Superior, with facility for shipping by water to the east, we think we can market a portion of our cut in the U. S. Having this in view, we have increased our log output this winter."

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The little value that is often placed on an article of great value has found frequent illustration in all lines of commerce. We see cases in point every day in the lumber business. A news item tells the story that the farmers about Cadillac, Mich., are hauling bird's eye maple cut into stove wood into town and selling it at 90c. a cord. This timber would readily bring \$20. a 1000 in the log. But the farmers there are not much less short sighted than those in many parts of Canada, who persist in cutting hardwoods for firing, that if allowed to remain in the standing tree, would in a few years prove a little gold mine to them. And it is only a matter of degree the short sightedness that is shown by shrewd lumbermen in the manner in which the forest products are slashed and cut for the lumber market. These are the days when, in Canada, not less than in other places, the

little things count, and trees, that a few years ago lumbermen despised, are worth dollars.

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A despatch from Michigan says that Howry & Sons are about sending another gang of men from that State to Canada to push operations in the woods there. This firm now have a large interest in Canadian timber, and they are showing lots of push, both in the woods and other departments of lumbering. They have six camps at work and expect to supply 40,000,000 feet for their new mill at Fenelon Falls. At Little Current they have three camps going, and will get out about 11,000,000 feet, which will be rafted to Michigan to feed the firm's mills there. The output of the mills of this concern at Michigan during the past two seasons is shown in about 50,000,000 feet of lumber, the logs coming from Canada. The Howrys are old residents of Saginaw.

HARDWOOD DIMENSIONS.

IN the LUMBERMAN of January we published an article from Hardwood on "Hardwood Dimensions". To some of the statements there made Mr. H. R. A. Baughman replies as follows in the Wood Worker: There are a few points on which I differ with Mr. Crosby. One point is, where he advised the cutting of the three-inch culls from heart of logs, into wood. My advice would be to leave the logs in the tree in the wood, as they are of more value to the man that buys the land for the farm, than they are in the three-inch plank wood, or any where else. I have known of firms who paid from five to nine dollars per thousand feet to get their logs to the mill, when fully one-half the logs would make nothing but culls, and as there are always more or less culls from best logs it will readily be seen there is a heavy loss on the whole. Added to this must be the cost of cutting into lumber, piling, sorting, rehandling of culls and cuts, and loading on cars.

Another disadvantage that the northern mill man labors under (the north being the section of country that Mr. Crosby speaks of in particular), is that often their plant is too large and expensive for the amount of hardwood they cut; for after they have been running on pine a few years ago, many northern mill men said and believed that there would be more money in cutting off their hardwood than there was in pine. They did not realize that prices quoted for common and better meant that the grade should be in hardwood; a grade equal to a B select or better in pine, and for grade under this a price of not more than five or six dollars, and for a large per cent. of culls no sale at all. Most of them went into the hardwood business in the same way that they had been handling pine. They cut everything they could hold on the carriage, without regard to quality. Of course the sawyer must cut as much as he did in pine, which means thick and thin lumber. Then they barked large quantities of timbers and left them for worms to work on before they were cut into lumber. This would not be quite so bad in some of the states farther south, where more hardwood is used.

Building culls are selling from ten to twenty dollars per thousand feet, and best grades at forty to fifty dollars (these prices at retail), with demand for all lumber cut, of all grades. I have known farmers in these states to realize from one to two dollars per 100 feet this summer, for logs four to ten miles from the mills, and still the mill men seemed to be doing well, for the reason that they had good sale for this poor grade of lumber.

No doubt but the hardwood of the north will within a few years become so valuable as to make the cutting of common and cull logs profitable. It has been but some fifteen years since the writer saw many thousand feet of

good pine culls go to the "hell holes" simply because the mill man refused to take them for saw bill and there was no sale for them. Since then the writer has sold many thousand feet of this same grade in Minnesota for eleven dollars per thousand, and in Wisconsin from five to eight dollars per thousand feet.

There is no doubt but hardwood will become as valuable as pine gives out, and the carpenter and builder gets over the prejudice of using it on account of its being harder to work. Already hardwood is being more extensively used in the central and western states than pine. Being stronger, more durable, taking a better polish, and having a fancier figure for finish work, it will come rapidly to the front. As the pine becomes scarcer, and the use of hardwood increases, prices for better grades will go up and there will be a correspondingly higher price for the lower grades, and in time it will pay to cut the common logs in hardwood as it has to cut the white pine.

Until that time comes I would advise in the first place to let all small timber stand, and cut only the larger logs, those that have a large percentage of common and better in them, in place of paying the railway company for hauling many thousand feet that will not pay freight bill. Put smaller mills near timber and cut only logs that will yield a profit, and pay railroads for hauling only lumber sold. It does not pay to put in logs to make only small dimension, for there is a waste of at least fifty per cent. in cutting and grading, and manufacturers will not pay a price for short dimension that will pay to handle it, so long as they can buy common and better at the low price that it can be bought to-day.

RECKLESS USE OF STEAM.

PERHAPS few people who pay for producing steam are as reckless in its use as owners of wood-working plants. Because the fuel used is generally mill refuse, they think economy in the use of steam a trifling matter. The enormous loss by radiation from long, unprotected steam pipes is seldom considered. This is a mistake. To drive saws and planers takes a great deal of power, which means plenty of good steam. If the engine lags when the saw is in the log or the big planer is thrown on, because of insufficient steam, there is a direct loss. The boiler may make enough steam to keep the mill or factory humming, but if much of the force of that steam is lost before it enters the cylinder of the engine, because of unprotected steam pipes poorly arranged, the owner of the concern loses good dollars every day he allows such conditions to exist. Of course, ample engine and boiler capacity is necessary, but its effect may be to a great extent lost through carelessness in various ways.

The circular saw is a tool that needs watching all the time. An exchange tells that a workman was carrying a saw under his arm, when he fell. The points of the saw penetrated two of the main arteries of his arm and the man bled to death.

A great deal has been published in engineering journals about scale in boilers, and yet very little has been said about the accumulation of it, in feed and blow-off pipes. There are men who maintain that scale can not accumulate in pipes in which the water is circulating constantly, or nearly so, as in the case of feed pipes and external or internal circulating pipes; but cases cited will show how fallacious such opinions are. As a matter of fact these pipes often fill up in a remarkable way, the deposit choking them to such an extent that it becomes a source of positive danger.