

## Chips.

An English firm is said to have offered Mr. David Moore \$300,000 for his timber limits situated on the C.P.R.

The men are at work grading the road for the new siding by which the Grand Junction and Midland cars will have access to Hazlett's mill.

The supreme court of Maine has decided that sawdust and shavings are included in the act prohibiting refuse from being thrown from the mills into the Penobscot river.

A BUFFALO despatch dated August 15th, says that lumber freights are more active, several boats having been loaded for New York at the rate ruling for some time past, namely, \$2.50 per ton.

The flywheel to the engine in Henderson Brothers' mills, Montreal, Quebec, is the largest ever put up in Canada, it being fourteen feet four inches in diameter, and thirty-two inches face. The double belt made for it is full hide width—twenty-inches wide and eighty feet long.

A LETTER from a Chicago lumberman speaks of the great lack of dock room on which to handle the great amount of lumber which has been pouring into Chicago during the last few weeks. It says that in consequence of this there was a falling off of 50 cents during a day or two of last week to save demurrage, but adds that prices will "quickly."

A BOSTON paper, says that a short trip among the lumbermen fully substantiates the statement made a few days since that the Eastern furniture manufacturers are seriously troubled at the scarcity of black walnut timber, and that the whole supply in the United States has now become entirely inadequate to the demand.

An Ottawa correspondent writing on August 18th, says that a raft belonging to Mr. J. R. Booth is now running the Chaudiere slides. Rafts belonging to Campbell Bros. and McLachlin Bros. are above the Chaudiere. The raft of the latter is said to be the finest taken out this year, and is said to have been sold at 40c. a foot, to be delivered at Quebec.

A FIRE BROKE out in McArthur and Rayside's saw mill at about four o'clock, on Aug. 19, at South Lancaster and lasted about one hour and a half, burning the saw mill down to the ground. The machinery is damaged considerably. The mill was insured in the Queen's of Toronto for two thousand dollars. The estimated loss is eight thousand dollars. The cause of the fire is unknown.

A CORRESPONDENT writes from London, Eng., to a furniture journal that American whitewood is very much used for ebonized work. It is found to take the stain remarkably well, and is generally preferred to any other kind of wood. Well squared, straight, round logs, of American walnut are quickly bought up at good prices. It is the poor quality, faulty, and ill-made log that are difficult to place.

A REPORT from Beef Slough, Wis., last week, says the total number of logs consigned to the different mills down the river, to date, is 256,821,810. The total amount rafted is about 267,000,000. The amount rafted last week was about 17,000,000 feet; but hereafter, owing to the rapid decline of the water, the rafting will not exceed much more than 2,000,000 per day, and it may stop altogether, until the fall rise in about two weeks.

FINAL arrangements have been completed by Messrs. Allan, Grant & Co., of Ottawa, to send to this city a large number of cars of square timber, consigned to Messrs. Cook Bros. & Co. The first train of this wood is expected here tomorrow. A switch will be run on to the custom house wharf to accommodate this cargo, which, when arrived here, will be thrown into the pond, enclosed by a boom, then rafted and towed to Messrs. Cook's cove.

### A New Invention.

An improved machine for passing logs over dams has been patented by Mr. David B. Weaver, of Hopewell Township, Huntingdon County, Pa. This invention consists principally in providing the top of the dam with a strong beam or shaft having any suitable number of radial arms, the beam or shaft being adapted to be turned in its bearings by any suitable means for throwing logs over the dam.

### AUTOMATIC FIRE SPRINKLERS.

A recent issue of the *American Machinist* contains a very interesting account of a series of experiments with different styles of sprinklers for extinguishing fires in sawmills or other establishments that are in danger of quick destruction by fire. The report will prove interesting to many of the *Lumberman's* readers, though we are not inclined to think that it determines conclusively the relative merit of the different devices tested. We extract from the article as follows:—

For many years the most hazardous portions of mills have been defended against fire by parallel lines of perforated pipes, extending across the room near the ceiling, and connected with a water supply, furnished by pumps, reservoirs or tanks, so that the room may be showered by opening a valve on the outside of the building. This arrangement is particularly valuable in rooms difficult of access from the outside, where the contents are very combustible, or where the smoke is too pungent for human beings, as that of loose cotton.

Notwithstanding the absolute necessity of such apparatus, the use of this system has been open to serious objections. Property is frequently damaged by water let on the sprinklers, by accident or malice; the orifices in the sprinkler pipes are liable to be obstructed by paint or rust; and in case of emergency the water cannot be concentrated on the fire, but will be spread over the whole or half of the room covered by that system of sprinklers. The efficiency of the best planned system of pipe sprinklers is limited by the vigilance of the one discovering the fire, and the presence of mind which opens the right valve.

Within a few years there has been another type of sprinklers, termed, from the method of their operation, "automatics." They each consist of a rose head, or its equivalent, for throwing water in an upward direction over as large an area as is practicable. The distributing pipes and their branches are arranged so that these heads are about one foot from the ceiling, and ten feet from each other. These heads are kept closed by thin metal caps over the top, or valves within, either being secured by bismuth solder, which melts at 165° Fahrenheit. (Composed of one part each of tin, lead and cadmium, and four parts of bismuth.) For dry rooms and similar places, an alloy which fuses at 250° is used. The water pressure remains constantly upon these sprinklers, and when the heat in any portion of the building exceeds the melting point of the solder, the head is opened, and the water flows from the nearest sprinkler. The first supply is usually from a tank placed in the mill tower, and this is supplemented by a reserve supply, furnished by pumps, or a reservoir. The lowering of the water in the tank sounds an alarm, by means of an apparatus which rings a bell or blows a whistle. This system of automatic sprinklers is no new and untried experiment as the representatives of the various sprinklers have constructed buildings in which hundreds of fires have been set and extinguished. There have been twenty-one fires in mills put out by automatic sprinklers, and in no case where properly supplied with water have they proved inadequate to serve their purpose.—*North Western Lumberman*.

### Spiders Obstruct the Telegraph.

One of the chief hindrances to telegraphing in Japan is the grounding of the current by spider lines. The trees bordering the highways swarm with spiders, which spin their webs everywhere between the earth, wires, posts, insulators and trees. When the spider webs are covered with heavy dews they become good conductors and run the messages to earth. The only way to remove the difficulty is by employing men to sweep the wires with brushes of bamboo; but as the spiders are more numerous and persistent than the brush users, the difficulty remains always a serious one.—*Scientific American*.

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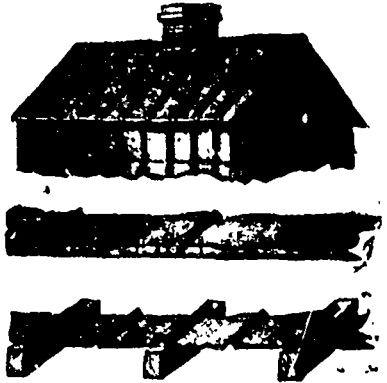
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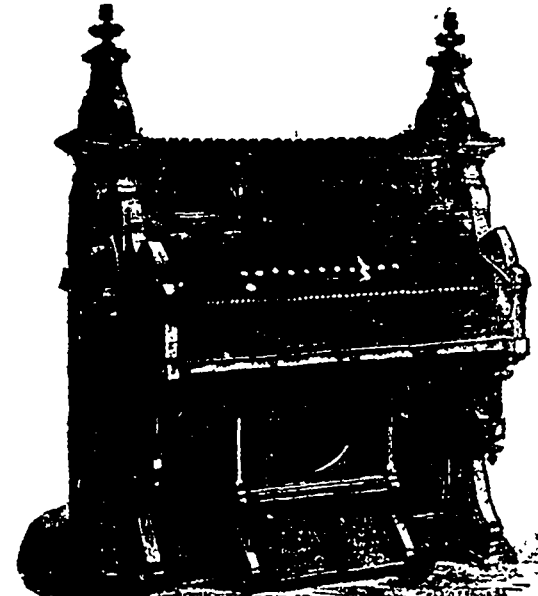
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