

INGENIOUS WOOD CARVERS.

The Swiss peasantry are the greatest wood carvers in the world. They carve out of wood, with wonderful ingenuity, anything from a simple paper knife to an elaborate piece of architecture in miniature. Aside from wood carving and some other mechanical operations, they are not good for anything, being very simple people; but they have a genius for carving, and have a natural skill for copying from nature. Their floral pieces are regarded as masterpieces, and serve as models for young sculptors. It is only necessary to furnish them with a photographic design of what is wanted. Most dealers who import Swiss carvings do this, although the peasantry themselves produce numberless things without the aid of any suggestions.

They carve out of wood almost every kind of fancy articles, such as nutcrackers, inkstands, jewellery cases, cuckoo clocks, ladies' workboxes, and a large number of other things too numerous to mention. The tools they use are very simple, the carving being done by hand. The articles they carve are ingeniously ornamented with leaves and flowers, and some of their designs are extremely odd; they are, however, always artistic. Here, for instance, is a piece of carving in the shape of nut-cracker. It is a life-like representation of a bear on its haunches. Of course, it is made more for ornamental than use, but its artistic merit is worthy of careful study. The Swiss have a knack of turning the most simple article into a real work of art. Here, again, is a book rack, a very simple form of bookholder for the library table, having two side pieces on a sliding base; yet see how beautifully the side pieces are carved, bowing in bold relief a double rose surrounded with a mass of leaves and vines.

One advantage the Swiss have is in the wood which they use. This is remarkably fine, and free from knots, and a tool cuts it as easily across as with the grain. The kind mostly used is known to the trade as peachwood, which closely resembles in every respect. Another kind of wood which is largely used is called tinwood.

The art of the Swiss in carving wood first attracted attention about 50 years ago. It was not, however, until years afterwards that it was turned to account in a commercial point of view, and even then the sales of Swiss carvings were restricted to tourists in the summer season, who made their purchases through the intermediary of hotel porters. Hence the trade was for a long time very small and unremunerative. But in the course of time local capitalists took the matter in hand, opened workshops, and began an export trade. The business of wood carving now finds employment for several hundred persons. In fact, in one establishment three hundred persons of both sexes are employed.

Each artisan employed in the workshops has his or her specialty, the choice of which is left to individual taste. Some have an aptitude for and excel in the modelling of groups of animals; others prefer to carve various fancy articles with floral patterns, and some build miniature chalets. The latter is one of the most popular articles of Swiss handiwork. As usually made, it is composed of different carved woods. The thatches with the ropes and the stones hold them on and the deep roof is a prominent feature. This roof is so constructed that it can be raised like a lid; the part which represents the upper stories is lined with plush, and is intended as a receptacle for beds. A movable partition divides this also into the first story, which contains a musical clock. This is set going by moving the top of the roof. The prices of the articles range from \$10 to \$85.

Few people make a specialty of Swiss carving, for the reason that the production is very limited, owing to inability to turn out the goods fast enough by hand. Besides, the rare art of carving are made by the peasants at their homes in the Alps, who work only in the winter season. In the summer they are occupied in tilling the soil and tending their herds on the hillsides, a pursuit they love so much that no amount of money could entice them from it.—*Timber Trades Journal*.

Subscribe to the CANADA LUMBERMAN.

YOUNG TREES FROM THE FOREST.

To the Editor of the Canada Lumberman.

SIR.—Will you allow me to call the attention of your readers to the fact that the present time, and till the frost renders the ground too hard for digging, is the period when all deciduous trees, such as the maple, oak, elm, ash, hickory, basswood and others, may be had from the forest, or better still, if possible, from the fields adjoining, where they have grown from seed blown from the woods, and planted to best advantage. They may be taken an inch or more in thickness of stem and planted at once in their ultimate positions, or very young, and planted in garden beds, next year or the year after to be planted where they are needed. The first method is generally the most rapid of results, but the transplanting so increases the root fibres as to give great certainty of taking root and additional vigor of growth,—and one word of advice, if you take deciduous trees strip off their leaves, if any are on; if evergreens, keep their roots moist and covered till you plant. Evergreens will grow if carefully planted now, though their best time is June.

In the west, where planting is being done with a view of growing timber rapidly, they plant thousands of acres with trees in blocks of nearly a square mile, four feet apart every way leaving roads here and there. These are mostly fast growing trees, which can when mature be cut out and used, leaving the slower and more valuable timber at certain distances. Grown thus, they need only cultivating lightly for two years, to keep weeds down and the soil soft, after which the branches shade the ground, and each tree striving to get to the sun light above, a very rapid growth results, which growth is all straight trees, the branches dying off in consequence of the closeness of the planting. The quantity of wood that can be got from some acres thus planted is very great. Some idea of the advantages expected may be obtained from the fact that wood is still plenty in parts of the same states, but the cost of transportation by rail would be such as to make it much cheaper to grow the wood than haul it.

Many of our wood lots have been so tramped, gnawed, and rubbed by letting in cattle, that they will never grow one-tenth the wood the same area planted would soon furnish. The remedy is to plant some acres where it will give both wood and shelter; say on the north side of the farm. The process on prepared ground is simple; two men will plant a thousand trees, or nearly half an acre, in a day.

Yours, etc.,

R. W. PHIPPS.

Toronto, Oct. 15th, 1885.

THE PRODUCTION OF GOLD.

A single mining company in California reports the production of over \$1,000,000 of gold per annum, and that its operating expenses are less than one-third the value of the product. Its dividends, it says, amount to \$50,000 per month. The product of gold in the world reaches about \$100,000,000 annually, and of this the United States produces one-third, Australia a little more than one-fourth, and Russia not quite one-fourth. The product of gold appears to be steadily decreasing in the world, as well as in the United States, while its use in manufactures is being greatly increased. Nearly one half of the gold produced in the United States is used in its manufactures. Nearly eight million dollars' worth goes into jewellery and watches, and three and a half million into watch cases. The other principal uses for it are gold leaf, plate and watch chains. The dentists make much use of gold, and yet in such small quantities that the whole amount credited to dentists in the United States is only \$37,912 in 1883. The chemists use almost as much, a large share going, no doubt, to the photographers, who use gold in toning. The statistics on this matter, however, must be approximations, for quite frequently gold coin itself is taken for use in the arts.—*Philadelphia Ledger*.

CAPT. ETHUR, of No. 8 company, 65th battalion, is organizing an association among members of his company to take over the land given them by the Government and to work it for their mutual benefit instead of taking the scrip.

Sold.

When Governor Cleveland visited the State camp at Newburgh, in 1883, he was attended by his staff in full rig. It was one of the few opportunities the governor's military family had enjoyed of appearing together in full uniform, and they presented a very handsome and even brilliant appearance. The Governor led the way through the private entrance to the camp closely followed by his secretary, Colonel Lamont. To the astonishment of his staff, the gate was then quickly closed and locked. As may be imagined, disgust succeeded surprise, when, in reply to vigorous remonstrances, the gatekeeper blandly remarked: "It's according to orders, gentlemen. This is the Governor's entrance. The band goes in at the other gate."

Fire at Fredericton, N. B.

FREDERICTON, N. B., Oct. 13.—Morrison's saw mill and two million feet of lumber were burned to day. The loss is close upon \$100,000. There was no insurance upon the lumber, but on the mill a policy was held for \$20,000, viz., \$5,000 each in the Royal, the Commercial Union, the Liverpool and London and Globe and the Western.

BELLEVILLE, Oct. 19.—John Oakham, while hunting deer with Judge Fralick and D. R. Leavens, near Bancroft, was accidentally shot below the left shoulder blade. He was a few feet in advance of Leavens, who fell, his gun discharging its contents into Oakham's body. He is seriously wounded, but may recover.

Blowing up Hell Gate.

has been a laborious and costly work, but the justifies the effort. Obstructions in any important channel means disaster. Obstructions in the organs of the human body bring inevitable disease. They must be cleared away, or physical wreck will follow. Keep the liver in order and the pure blood courses through the body, conveying health, strength and life: let it become disordered and the channels are clogged with impurities, which result in disease and death. No other medicine equals Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery" for acting upon the liver and purifying the blood.

Catarrh—A New Treatment.

Perhaps the most extraordinary success that has been achieved in modern science has been attained by the Dixon treatment for Catarrh. Out of 2,000 patients treated during the past six months, fully ninety per cent. have been cured of this stubborn malady. This is no less startling when it is remembered that not five per cent. of the patients presenting themselves to the regular practitioner are benefited, while the patent medicines and other advertised cures never record a cure at all. Starting with the claim now generally believed by the most scientific men that the disease is due to the presence of living parasites in the tissues, Mr. Dixon at once adapted his cure to their extermination; this accomplished the Catarrh is practically cured, and the permanency is unquestioned, as cures effected by him four years ago are cures still. No one else has ever attempted to cure Catarrh in this manner, and no other treatment has ever cured Catarrh. The application of the remedy is simple and can be done at home, and the present season of the year is the most favorable for a speedy and permanent cure, the majority of cases being cured at one treatment. Sufferers should correspond with Messrs. A. H. DIXON & SON, 305 King street west, Toronto, Canada, and enclose a stamp for their treatise on Catarrh.—*Montreal Star*, 19122.

WANTED--A LOG JOBBER

TO CORRESPOND WITH RESPONSIBLE LOG JOBBERS, with a view of making a Contract for a series of years to stock from 100,000,000 to 200,000,000 feet of Yellow Pine, to commence operations during October, 1885. Logging road, 30-lb. steel rails, cars and locomotive all new and first-class in every particular. Deep water landing.

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