

TALKS WITH WOOD-WORKERS.

CARE is a necessary element to perfect work in handling any machine. Some machines, however, more than others, call for greater delicacy in operation. This is the case with the moulding machine. If we are to have nice work, a point most essential, says Mr. N. A. Curtis in the Wood Worker, is first to see that the knives are evenly balanced; second, have the chip-breaker and front pressure solid and placed as close to head as possible; third, do not lace the belt so as to have a big lump underneath to strike the pulley so hard that it can be heard all over the shop every time it makes a revolution; fourth, feed the material in the machine so the knives will cut and not against the grain. Above all things this writer tells us: "See that everything about the machine is adjusted and ready to perform its part of the work before the machine is started, so there will be no stopping it to try a piece, for if one gets in the habit of setting a machine by guess and then stopping and trying, there will not be much work done; the operator is always in doubt as to whether the work is right or not. Start right; set the machine up right, then start the machine and let it run, keeping a watch on it all the time so if anything gets out of order you will not be long in finding it. The instant you find there is something wrong, shut off the feed, go around the machine and find what it is. After finding it, stop the machine and fix it in short order, unless it is a clean break down; then you want to do your thinking in double-quick order, stopping the machine instanter."

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Frequently this journal has drawn attention to the number of deaths that occur in wood working establishments, as a result of carelessness or foolish bravado on the part of workmen. These accidents are powerful object lessons of the old adage, that familiarity breeds contempt. It certainly breeds rankest carelessness. The very fact that a man has become expert in the handling of sharp tools is one of the best reasons why he should be the more careful in holding this premier position as a workman. Just going outside of the immediate province of the wood-worker a daily paper told us the other day of an expert electrician about to deliver a lecture on electricity, who was killed when making his apparatus ready. Friends of the bench and the machine-room don't grow too smart, as the slang of the day runs, in handling your tools.

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The proverbial den of the newspaper editor has gone into tradition as a place where the most manifest disorder and lack of cleanliness reigns supreme. Fortunately on the members of the fourth estate the proverbial den exists now only in tradition. There is no need for untidiness anywhere. Such elements hinder and never help work. The rule applies just as stringently to a wood-working establishment. A writer has nicely said: "A clean, neat wood-working plant is always attractive to customers, insurance men and others. Usually it shows that the manager is a good business man, one to be depended upon to fill an order properly, and who takes unusual precaution against loss by fire."

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The workman who simply works, as does a machine by his side, as a sort of automaton, may find it difficult to secure employment at times like the present, when business is depressed. But the man of ideas in the duller times will find his services in request. This is so in the field of mechanics as much as anywhere. In the lumber industry there is a present demand for anything that will reduce cost of production or improve products. A lumber journal has pertinently said on this point: "There are thousands of men connected with the saw mill interests or wood-working plants, that have as much natural inventive genius as those who invented the machines they are using, and have plenty of time to think over their methods of operation and plan improvements. It is a game in which, if you fail, you lose little or nothing, and, if you succeed in making a valuable improvement, you are a winner by long odds."

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A month or two ago I made reference to the importance that is to be attached to the mortising machine of a wood-working establishment. Our contemporary, the Tradesman, emphasizes this thought in these words:

"Among the most interesting and important of wood-working machines (always excepting the saw, than which no more valuable tool was ever devised by man), are mortising machines. Only a few years ago, as history counts time, nearly all mortising was done by hand tools; now a hand-made mortise or tenon is rarely seen. Very skillful were those old hand-workers. It is doubtful if machines can do better work than they did, but it is certain that the speed secured by machines as compared with the excellent but slow hand work of by-gone years, will hereafter and forever preclude the extended use of the old mortising chisel and tenon saw." JAS.

LUMBER DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT.

WHEN in committee of Ways and Means a week ago the question of the export duty on sawlogs going into the United States was brought under notice of the House of Commons.

Dr. Sproule said timber was being taken out of the Georgian bay district so fast that in a few years the forests would be destroyed. He was informed that over 50 townships were denuded of timber in this district every year. A result of the wholesale export of logs was that lumber for building in this district was very scarce and expensive. Formerly culls and refuse lumber were largely used for finishing doors, window sashes and shutters, but now this refuse could scarcely be had. He regretted the Government had not put an export duty on logs of \$3 or \$4 a thousand, which would compel a large quantity of timber to be sawed up in this country, and provide employment for 8,000 men the year round. It would create an additional market for the products of the farmer and merchant, where now there was almost stagnation. It was a very short-sighted policy that allowed such raw material to be taken out of the country free. He hoped the Government would reconsider its policy, and reimpose the export duty, otherwise the forests would be depleted in a few years. The result might be accomplished by a provincial enactment compelling lumber sold to be cut and manufactured in the province. This had not been done, and would not be done, and the only other way was for the Dominion Government to put an export duty on logs.

Mr. Charlton said an export duty was essentially a robbery. The hon. gentleman was altogether mistaken in his remarks. The result of the abolition of the export duty had been to increase the wages expended, and the number of men employed in the industry, and to confer greater prosperity on all towns engaged in lumbering operations in the Georgian Bay region. At present southern pine was forcing Canadian pine out of the market of the Northern states, and not a foot of the latter was sold on the Atlantic seaboard. Canada should be careful of this market, and try and retain it. By reimposing an export duty, Canada invited stringent import regulations by the United States.

Mr. Macdonell (Algoma) said he was credibly informed that tugs usually towed three times as many feet of lumber as was stated in their clearance papers. He urged the reimposition of an export duty which would save to the country many thousand dollars a year. At present the exportation of logs destroyed fishermen's nets completely, but if the logs were sawed in the country they would not destroy the nets.

Mr. O'Brien was desirous that the logs should be cut in this country, but an export duty could not now be reimposed under existing conditions. He thought the statement made by hon. gentlemen that large quantities of saw logs were exported to the United States without being reported to the Customs Department, a serious charge against the department. But he believed hon. gentlemen were guilty of great exaggeration in their desire to have an export duty reimposed. With regard to the number of men employed in Parry Sound district, there never had been so many, nor labor so steady and constant, neither had wages ever been so good. If Americans were employed, it was simply because enough Canadians could not be got. So far from being an injury to the country, the extra quantity of logs taken out since the export commenced had given a great impetus to trade in the country. To reimpose the duty at present would paralyze trade from one end of the country to the other.

Mr. Macdonell (Algoma) said the Americans must have Canadian white pine lumber whatever it costs. They were going to buy it whether the duty was \$1, \$2 or \$4 a thousand feet, and the consumer paid the duty.

Mr. O'Brien thought the Americans were not so dependent upon Canadian white pine. In regard to the condition of the industry in the Parry Sound district or on the Georgian Bay, he said the principal mills were all running, and where any mills were closed, it was owing to the lumber trade having departed anyway. If an export duty was reimposed, it would put such a barrier in the way of the Canadian trade that only the very best quality of lumber would be exported. He believed the statements were exaggerated, both as to the quantity of logs exported and as to the quantity of American labor employed in the lumber districts. While there was a chance of the import duty being taken off the Canadian Government should not reimpose an export duty.

Mr. Peter White, the Speaker, who has had an extensive lumber experience, said that he had a great deal of sympathy with those gentlemen who asked for the reimposition of the duty upon logs, but they should remember that the evil effects which they depicted were, to a great extent, local in their character. They were confined almost exclusively to the north shore of the Georgian Bay. They should remember that the interests of British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec, and a large part of Ontario, were in the direction of obtaining free entry of lumber into the United States. If the views of those gentlemen who advocated the imposition of a prohibitive export duty were to prevail, Canada might be prevented from obtaining that which every member of the House would admit would be a great advantage to the different portions of the Dominion to which he had referred. It seemed to him that it would not be proper for the Government to impose an export duty on logs until they ascertained whether the Senate of the United States would continue lumber free. If lumber was continued on the free list it would be detrimental to the lumber industry in Canada if the export duty were reimposed.

Mr. Edwards, one of the largest lumbermen of the Ottawa, said that no one who understood the question would stand up and contend that an export duty would be of any benefit. Nor would anyone who understood the situation and the interests involved have introduced this discussion at such an inopportune time as the present when the Wilson bill and free lumber were before Congress. The other night the member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) had said the lumbermen of the Ottawa valley had 75 per cent. of their product sold before it was cut. To this he would say that he had not \$5,000 worth of his this year's product sold in the United States, and did not expect to until the Wilson bill was settled, and he would tell the House that no more serious blow could be aimed at the lumber interests than to bring on this discussion at this time. If they desired to promote the lumber interests of the country they would advocate the protection of the forests from the ravages of fire. After some experience he believed that 20 times as much timber had been burned as had been cut. Looking at the question from a broader standpoint than one section of the country, he believed there could be no question that the interests of Canada required that no export duty be imposed.

Mr. Bryson (Pontiac) said that the lumbermen should know what was in their own interest. The platform for the Government to accept was that the Americans should be given free logs provided they would admit lumber free. His earnest desire was that the Government should adhere to the ground it had taken.

The item passed without any change being made in the tariff at this point.

A new material for paving is being introduced into London. It is composed of granulated cork and bitumen pressed into blocks, which are laid like bricks on wood paving. The special advantage of the material lies in its elasticity. In roadways it furnishes a splendid foothold for horses, and at the same time almost abolishes the noise which is such an unpleasant feature of the city traffic. It is used in Austria with good results.