

Chips.

It is reported in Eau Claire that H. C. Putnam has sold 840 acres of pine land on the Red Cedar, to Thos. Carmichael, for \$40,000.

LUMBER to the amount of 15,000,000 feet has been shipped from Duluth this season that passed out of Lake Superior by way of the Sault Ste. Marie canal.

IN some of the camps in Michigan vaccination is being required. In Thompson Smith's Sons' camps, Cheboygan county, a physician went the rounds and treated all the arms that had never before been sore.

THE receipts of Lumber at Oswego, N. Y., in November amounted to 18,500,000 feet, an increase of 6,000,000 feet over the same month last year, and 170,000,000 feet have been received since the opening of navigation, being 20,000,000 feet less than during the same period last year.

GRY. SMITH, of the Barnhart Lumber Company, at Duluth, has been instrumental in the breaking up and arrest of a gang of thieves, who stole lumber from the companies piles, ran it off in small boats, and sold it, and committed other depredations of a vicious character.

A SPECIAL timber agent has been investigating the Northern Pacific and the Manitoba Improvement Company timber trespass cases. He reports to Commissioner Sparks that these corporations have caused to be cut from the public domain 45,100,000 feet of lumber and bridge timber, 84,744 railway ties, 15,400,000 shingles, 32,035 cords of wood, and 20,000 cedar posts, valued in all at \$613,400.—*Winnipeg Commercial.*

A FOSSIL oak has been discovered in the bed of the Rhone—dark as ebony, hard as iron, supposed to have been 3,000 years in the bed of the river. This tree is 150 feet high, 58 feet cube, and considerably over 120,000 pounds in weight. This reminds one of other phenomenal trees. As, for example, the oak of Allouville, bearing a chapel in its branches; the chestnut of Aetna, covering 30 horsemen; the tree of Augustus, in the hollow of which Caligula gave a dinner to 40 guests; the plantain of Xerxes, which sheltered himself and 100 guardsmen; the plantain of Cox, whose trunk measures 30 feet in circumference, and whose branches are propped up by marble columns. In the churchyard of La Haye de Routot, in Normandy, there is an immense yew that once covered the whole cemetery. It is 1,80 years old and grows every day.—*Laclede, in Montreal Gazette.*

As the schooner Mercury, lumber laden, was making the passage from Ludington to Chicago, during the great snow storm and gale of last week, the deck load was washed overboard, but the vessel was kept on her course, and stood up well. About midnight, John Anderson, one of the crew, was swept overboard by a huge wave. It was impossible to round to and pick the man up, and the schooner was kept on her way, though the cries for help of the unfortunate sailor could be heard above the howling of the sea. The captain was at the helm, and after a few minutes had elapsed he was astonished to see Anderson hanging on to a fender and trying to climb on board. He was quickly rescued from his perilous position. He had at first been swept some distance from the schooner, but little ahead, and managed to swim until he could get hold of the fender. His escape in such a sea seems like a miracle. The Mercury arrived at this port after a perilous passage.—*Northwestern Lumberman.*

SHINGLES AS SUBSTITUTES FOR SIDING.

"Why are the walls of all these old houses in Nantucket and, for that matter all along the coast, covered with shingles instead of clapboards?"

"Probably because they have such high winds here and the shingles are warmer; I suppose most likely they are cheaper, too."

"At any rate they are perfectly lovely to look at, so delightfully quaint and old-fashioned."

"I think they are just horrid. They make

all the houses look like poverty stricken pig-pens."

We do not see fit to set the speakers right either in the interests of building or of aesthetics. As a matter of fact the reason given for the use of the ancient shingles instead of the modern "siding" or clapboards, were almost the only ones that could have been hit upon that were not correct. In itself a covering of shingles is not as warm or impervious to the stormy winds that rage along the New England coast as a layer of clapboards properly put on and well painted. The reasons for the change in this particular item in building are not of much practical consequence now but the change itself is interesting as an instance of the natural evolution that obtains in building as in everything else.

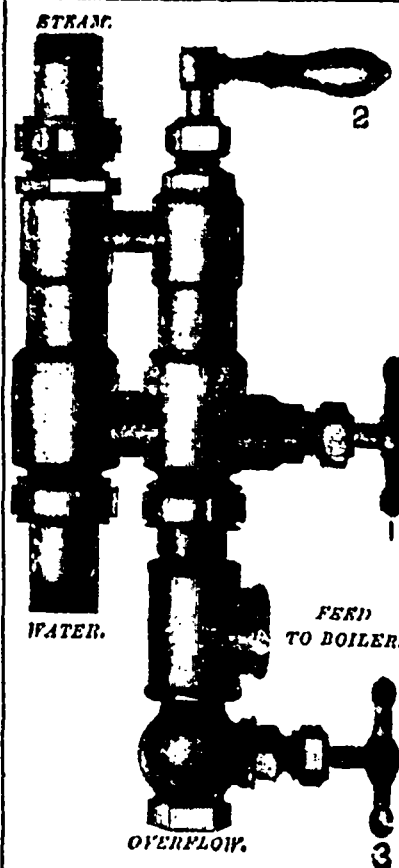
Hands were made before forks or saw mills, and shingles were doubtless used in former times because they could be made "by hand." The cross-cut saw with a man at each end was the first and for a long time the only saw mill extant. It was much easier to cut logs across the grain into short blocks, split the blocks into thin pieces, and with a "draw shave" on a rude horse reduce them to the tapering shape required, than to saw the logs into long thin boards one man above the log and the other in the saw pit beneath. Moreover after the boards were sawed, unless they were well seasoned and painted, they would split and check when exposed to the weather. There was no time to wait for lumber to season and paint was among the luxuries. In the case of the shingles, too, it was of less importance what kind of wood was used, anything that would split true and freely and shave easily would answer, although the latter quality was of less consequence, for muscle was cheap in the old times. Only a few years ago in hill towns of New England, chestnut shingles were made—they may be still for all we know—and served an excellent purpose, barring their propensity to stain the work below them and to kick up at the corners, the latter habit imparting a roughness to appearance that might now-a-days be reckoned a merit rather than a defect.

These old shingled walls are far more common along the seaboard than inland for which there is doubtless a natural reason. Among the hills in the fresh water regions, there is hardly a mountain brook large enough for a three years old trout to turn around in that will not be found at some part of its course beset by the ruined skeleton of a primitive saw mill, in which the "up and down" saw in its unwieldy frame impelled by an "overshot" or some other kind of shot-wheel, made frantic plunges through the rough log at the rate of one stroke every second, more or less, according to the size of the log through which the jagged teeth were gnawing their way and the flow of water. Along the coast and especially on the islands this local motive power was lacking and transportation from the interior was by no means as easy as in the present year of grace.

Doubtless shingles will last longer than clapboards, especially if both are unpainted, but it is not to be assumed that our venerated ancestors took this durability into account. These same ancestors of ours had so many shining virtues that it is not necessary or fair to ascribe to them more than their due. It was stern necessity, not pure wisdom that prompted them to use shingles. In applying clapboards the nail heads are left exposed while the overlapping courses of the shingles cover them; perhaps this exposure of the iron to the salt atmosphere has been one reason why the old fashioned outer garment has been maintained along the coast, but this is more probably the result of the imitation and conservatism that make certain styles of architecture and modes of buildings seem to be indigenous in certain localities.

Finally and in conclusion, sawed shingles—sawed by machines each one of which does the work of 100 men—cost somewhat more than the usual cost of horizontal siding; other things being equal they will last longer, if they are well lined with building paper.

As for the respective merits of the two materials in point of looks, that question is respectfully referred to the speakers who began this discussion, and to others whose opinions are equally well-founded.—*The Builder.*



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MONTREAL, QUE.

CEDAR.

It occurs to us that if red cedar was properly introduced in this market, and its merits once thoroughly known to the consumer, it would become a very important factor in the lumber interests of the city. It is a matter worthy of comment that red cedar fence posts and red cedar dimension is in less demand in this market than in any other of the country; and this, too, in the very face of the fact that, of all timber that grows, there is none possessing such lasting, such imperishable properties, if you please, as red cedar for fence posts. We recognize the fact that it cannot be secured in this market, so as to be sold to the consumer at anything like the prices for which white cedar is offered, but we see no economy in paying 15 cents for a white cedar post that will last but five years when for 30 cents a red cedar one can be had that will last a generation of years.

We were not a little surprised to know that some time since a couple of Tennessee gentlemen shipped a car load of red cedar posts to this city, and came in person to dispose of them and, if possible, lay a foundation for future trade, but their experiment resulted in a deplorable failure, not only to receive a consideration for them that justified them in bringing them to this market, but in making any arrangement for future trade.

We cannot understand why it is that a wood possessing such valuable merits, not only for posts, but for the building of clothes-closets in dwellings, is so little in demand. Where cedar is used in interior work vermin and moth will be unknown, and it is susceptible of beautiful finish that adds to its value as a wood for house-building purposes.—*Lumber Trade Journal.*