

THIN SAWS.

A great deal has been said and written in regard to thin saws being preferable and superior in every respect to those of thicker gauge. While all the arguments in favor of the former as against the latter, may be true when viewed from a certain standpoint, it may also be set down as a fact that the only thing which will force the introduction of thin saws for general milling purposes will be the scarcity and dearth of timber. Mill men, while timber is as plentiful as at present, will continue to exert their energies to get the most lumber possible out of the machinery in use, because machinery power and labor is too expensive to permit too much regard being paid to the number of logs consumed. The thicker the saw the greater the speed to which it can be run, is considered an undeniable or undisputed fact, and until the scarcity or inexpensiveness of timber shall reverse the present condition of the milling business at the manufacturing centres, it will be futile to attempt to supersede the present saw in general use by one of much thinner gauge. Profit and loss is the only available argument in this connection, and until it can be demonstrated practically that there is greater profit in running thin saws and saving timber, than in using a thicker gauge saw and necessarily wasting a certain percentage of timber thereby, all argument in that direction would be futile. That thin blades are superior in a certain sense is undeniable, but so long as they continue to place the expense account on the wrong side of the ledger for user it will be found impossible to bring them into general use.—*Lumberman's Gazette.*

LUMBER.

Some uncertainty of feeling has pervaded the lumber trade for a few weeks, owing to the comparative lack of American demand. The approaching election in the United States had disturbed business and delayed intending purchasers, while a feeling that prices were likely to be lower rendered dealers the less disposed to buy. This feeling is being dissipated, however, since the meeting of producers at Saginaw the other day, when the mill men agreed to shut down for a certain season, and so restrict stocks. In Canada, too, there are signs of a lessened output from various canoes. The Georgian Bay Lumber Co., for instance, will limit its cut of logs the coming winter to one-half its usual quantity, while the British Canadian Lumber Company may be looked upon as out of the running for the season, so that in the western section of Ontario, less will probably be got out. And we do not think that any lavish policy is likely to be pursued by operators in the Ottawa territory. Prices of choice pine lumber may be said to be well maintained, and meet some inquiry. The principal transactions in the Toronto market have been in coarse grades, of which fair shipments have been made.—*Monetary Times.*

AN EASY TEST FOR LUBRICANTS.

The manager of any mill may, at very little expense, determine for himself all the conditions of safety and economy in lubricants as indicated by the standard of heat developed upon any given shaft. The apparatus required for this purpose is merely a thin glass tube closed at the lower end, and two thermometers. The method of using this apparatus is as follows. Place enough water in one of those tubes so that the bulb of the thermometer will be immersed, insert the tube in one of the holes in the cap of the journal, so that the lower end of the tube will be in actual contact with the shaft, hang the other thermometer free alongside, then gauge the relative heat developed with oils and with greases. Each man may thus satisfy himself as to which is the best and safest.—*Saw Mill Gazette.*

A COMBINATION of lumber dealers in Delaware has, it is reported, been formed for the purpose of handling a large quantity of Saginaw lumber the ensuing winter by rail, the object of the combined movement being to secure better rates than single dealers could obtain, and also better prices by purchasing large blocks of stock.—*Lumberman's Gazette.*

Russian Forests.

A great diminution in the forest trees of Russia has taken place during the last thirty years, and as a result it is said that the climate has changed for the worse. This is especially the case in the districts around Nishul, Novgorod, and Moscow, whose fruitfulness has been greatly impaired. In the Moscow government, formerly rich in fruit-bearing trees, apples and cherries now have much decreased in number, and pears have wholly disappeared.

Advice to Mothers.

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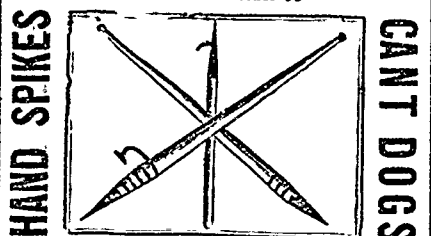
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