

FOREST LAWS.

The *Lumberman's Gazette*, of Bay City, Mich., says:—Europe, in its forest laws, is far ahead of the United States, and is in less danger, at this moment, of becoming a desert than is the United States, unless something prompt and effective shall be done to arrest the wholesale destruction of timber which is still going on in all parts of the country. It has been truly said that growth is slow and restorations tedious, while destruction is rapid and injury instantaneous. Palestine and Syria, Egypt and Italy, France and Spain, have seen some of their most fertile lands turned into deserts by the destruction of the forests. There are parts of Asia Minor, of northern Africa, of Greece, and even of Alpine Europe, once covered with luxuriant woods, verdant pastures and fertile meadows, which have now become so completely desolate as to be rendered an unfit abode for man. We are really in danger here of such a result in some sections of the country, unless intelligent and immediate measures of remedy are adopted.

Doors Shrinking.

It has been asked of us how we are able to account for the fact that the panels of inside doors, made of thoroughly seasoned wood, so frequently shrink when the doors are hung inside newly-built houses. To this matter, inquiry we would point out that wood is an exceedingly elastic material, expanding in an exact degree to the amount of moisture it absorbs, and shrinking again just in proportion as the moisture evaporates. Highly-dried wood absorbs moisture readily, and newly-built houses are usually full of damp air. It would appear to be further the fact that, with the evaporation of the absorbed moisture, some of the natural sap exudes, and thus even highly-dried wood becomes further shrunken. With well painted doors this shrinkage is not so apparent, and we should advise those who cannot wait for a house to be thoroughly dried, to have all the woodwork thickly coated before fixing it in its place in a new building.—*Timber Trades Journal*.

Two Thousand Years Old.

A mine has been found in the mountain near Salzburg, Austria, which gives indications of having been occupied and abandoned at least 2,000 years ago. It contains a large and confused mass of timbers, which were used for support, and a number of miners' implements. The timbers were notched and sharpened, but were subject to an inundation and left in confused heaps. The implements were mainly wooden shovels, axe handles, &c. The probabilities are that the ancient salt miners were overtaken by the flooding of the mine, as mummified bodies have been discovered also.

The *Pontiac Advance* says a raft of timber belonging to Mr. George Taggart has arrived there from the Quinzo Rapids, at the head of Temiscanungue Lake, being the first ever taken from that place. The "fifteens," as called from the number of them, are altogether some fifteen or twenty miles long, and located near the headwaters of the Ottawa River. It is said they are nearly two hundred miles from Mattawan village. Heretofore lumbermen have not cared to venture so high up, besides considering the rapids impracticable for the descent of timber. Mr. Taggart has, however, proved this not to be the case, and doubtless others will try next season.

The first raft that came through Victoria creek, upwards of 350 miles above Ottawa, Canada, is owned by R. & J. White, who have spent nearly \$30,000 in getting their timber through, many important improvements being made. The craft contained 130 cribs of first-class pine.

There is a company with 60 hands engaged in cutting walnut timber near Arkansas City, Ark. The most of the force is on Walnut Lake. The timber will be shipped to London.

The *Northwestern Lumberman* says that kindling wood factories are becoming numerous, a new one being heard from at a saw mill town every day.

WOODEN PLATTERS.

One of the curious industries of the country has its principal homes at New Bern, N.C. This is the manufacture of wooden platters, plates and trays. The timber used for this purpose is supplied by the neighboring swamp. A huge log is rounded by a circular plane and then put into a machine, which, with great accuracy and swiftness, cuts off thin strips of the wood. When these strips have been cut into square pieces and thoroughly dried they are made pliable by steam. In that condition they are moulded in the shapes desired. The factory is now making 100,000 plates a day, according to report, which is hard to believe.

THE *Timber Trades Journal* says a misconception appears to exist in the minds of some of those who require to have their wood submitted to the process of creosoting. Wood that has simply been "pickled" in creosote is not in any way improved by the process. Creosoting properly conducted is another and separate matter altogether. It consists in the wood first being dried. It is then placed in a cylinder, and the air is extracted from the pores of the wood by means of an air pump. Creosote is then let in, and finally forcibly injected. By this process the wood becomes thoroughly impregnated with the creosote oil, and it is then, and only then, benefited.

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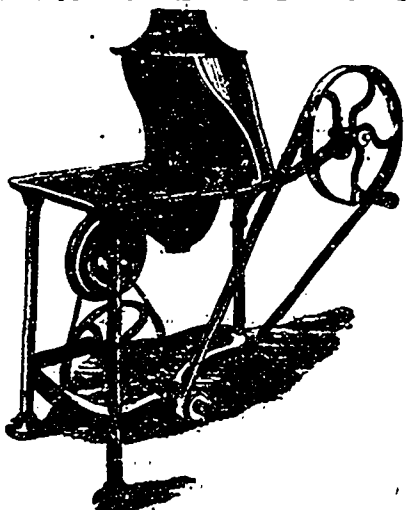
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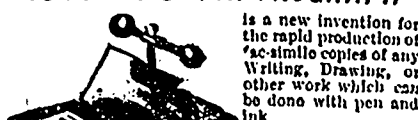
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