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## BY THE WAY.

A TELEGRAPHIC dispatch from Rat Portage, Ont., of a week since, tells of a shut-down among the mills of the Ontario and Western Lumber Association. Last spring wages were reduced from \$1.50 to \$1.35 per day and the demand now is that these be raised to the former rate. This not being acceded to, the men, to the number of about 200, stepped out and the mills have closed down. The men labored 11 hours, and are willing to accept either the old rate or a reduction of hours to 10, or an increase to the old rate as follows: Laborers, \$1.50, pilers, from \$1.75 to \$2. It is said that other grievances existed between the men and Manager Cameron, but the latter has stated that he is willing to leave a decision in the case to the Keewatin Lumber Co. as arbitrators, but to this the men do not accede. A good deal of lumber has been coming into Manitoba from Minnesota and selling at low prices. If the strike should last for any length of time it will have a hurtful effect on the trade of that province, no doubt, by stimulating this outside trade.

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Among recent logs from the Georgian Bay territory cut into lumber at one of the Michigan mills, was one log sawed at the South End Lumber Co.'s mill, at Bay City, Mich., which produced 1100 feet of 4 in. plank, all clear stuff, and valued at \$33. Five of these logs foot up \$150, when converted into lumber. And yet we are sometimes told that there are no fine timbers in these degenerate days.

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It has not been all plain sailing with the big log raft floated down the Pacific Coast, though the outcome of the venture has been an improvement on some of the disastrous failures that had taken place before. At San Francisco things got a little lively, and betwixt the combined influences of wind and tide the tug-boats that had attempted to hold the raft in position were nearly pulled out to sea, making imminent for the moment danger to all the craft anchored thereabout. But as this is a small affair compared with the former experiments, there is reason for those on the Pacific Coast, who have been determined to pursue this experiment of rafting logs on the Pacific, to be congratulated.

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The decrease in the lumber cut of the Saginaw river mills is one of the remarkable changes that has overcome the lumber business of recent years. The statement is that the cut will not exceed 250,000,000 feet, though other estimates place the figures up to 400,000,000 feet. Even taking the latter figure, this will represent a big decrease from a year ago, when the cut was 482,500,000 feet. This decrease, of course, has been taking place for a number of years, but this season is more noticeable than ever before, because the figures are getting down so small. In contrast to this is the immense increase in the cut of the Duluth district, which it is expected will reach 500,000,000 feet. By procuring logs in large quantities from Canada and from the Lake Superior district, the calculation has been that Michigan would continue to hold its own as a lumber manufacturing centre, but the figures of this year hardly bear out this conviction. The fact is Michigan lumbermen have been importing lumber from Duluth in large quantities this year, rather than buying the product of their own mills, claiming that price is in favor of Duluth. As one of the various transformations which trade undergoes, it will be highly interesting to watch conditions in this case. Canada, as one source of supply for Michigan, is interested in the change.

## SAWED HOOPS.

THE manufacture and sale of sawed hoops during the past few years has been watched with varying opinions, regarding their practicability and ultimate success. A recent interview with an experienced manufacturer of this article, says a writer in the Woodworker, produced the information herewith presented.

In entering into this industry, a very essential thing is to procure a fair quality of hoop poles, as free as possible from short crooks and ugly knots. Poles should not be cut earlier than the latter part of August or the first of September, when they are usually free from sap. For making tierce hoops they should be cut not less than eight feet two inches in length, and from 1¼ to three inches in diameter at top or small end. Poles of these dimensions yield easily from two to six good marketable tierce hoops.

In preparing poles for the saw, care should be used in having them properly knotted without making serious cuts in the bark. This part of the work should cost about 30 cents per 100 poles. After knotting they are ready for the cut-off saw, where they should be reduced to eight feet in length. They are then ready for the hoop saw, usually a band saw about 12 feet in length, welded together and revolving around two 24-inch wheels, one above the other. To obtain the best results these wheels should be speeded to about 800 revolutions per minute. An operator on each side of the saw serves to force the pole against the saw, while another assists in guiding it along its course, receiving the hoop and returning the pole for further and similar proceeding. A good sawyer can, with little experience, turn out from 1,500 to 3,000 hoops per day on such a machine.

The laps can be successfully cut by touching them against a disc wheel containing four knives set opposite each other, the wheel revolving about 300 revolutions per minute.

At this point a sawed hoop can be made as perfect as any bark hoop manufactured, by using a planer. This gives it the appearance of a shaved hoop and preserves the fibre of the wood. Planers are now in use which have a capacity of planing hoops about as fast as one machine can saw them.

The remaining details of sawed hoops manufacture consist in building and tying. This should be done as soon as they leave the planer.

The entire cost of labor in manufacturing hoops in accordance with the foregoing process, amounts to about 28 cents per 1,000 for hickory and 34 cents for oak.

The principal difficulty met with in this industry seems to be the carelessness in selecting No. 1 poles in sufficient quantities. However, there is no reason why sawed hoops made from good poles should not be as satisfactory, if not superior, to the averaged shaved hoop. Their uniformity adds greatly to the appearance of a finished package, and with proper care in the different stages of manufacture, they should certainly command the same prices as shaved hoops.

## A FOREST TURNING TO COAL.

REPORTS from France say that on the shores of Brittany, between St. Malo and St. Lunaire, in the vicinity of the St. Enogat station, at a place called Port Blanc, the tides have lately displaced a considerable amount of sand to a depth of some nine to thirteen feet. Accompanying this phenomenon is the fact that forests known to have been buried for periods covering eighteen or twenty centuries have been brought to light, and a vast forest has been discovered in process of transformation into coal. Ferns and the trunks and barks of trees are to be seen in an advanced state of decomposition, being already beyond the peat formation, showing the

films and flakes which are found in coal, and while some of the trunks are sixteen feet in length and still very distinct, they are becoming rapidly transformed.—Iron Industry Gazette.

## TREES SUCCEED THEMSELVES.

LUMBERMEN say, "When the pines are gone they are gone forever." But what are the facts? From time immemorial such trees have grown in various parts of the old and new world in the same places where nature has been allowed to have her own way. The pines of Maine have been cut over and over again on the same wild grounds. The ancient oaks of Britain have replanted themselves times without number on the very spot where the Druids worshipped. The redwoods of California and elsewhere yet live among their giant ancestors that date back even before the beginning of the Christian era. Despite human rapacity, the great cedars of Lebanon, whose sires were cut by King Solomon for his temple, have repeated themselves on those shaggy heights, a few yet lingering under religious protection. The olive trees of Palestine, and the fig trees, and the willows on the lower banks of the Jordan, under whose shade the nomadic Israelites pitched their tents, have again and again during all the centuries since replanted themselves there, rebutting the theory that they do not succeed themselves. If these instances are exceptions to the rule, they count for the rule when conditions warrant it.

If men rob the supports of the pines or any other class of trees, of course they will die out, and another species of less value may take the ground and hold it. The reason why there are so many tree rotations is because men interfere and produce the conditions that necessitate them. "When the pine forest is burned over," says Robert Douglas, "both trees and seeds have been destroyed, and as the burned trees can not sprout from the stump, like oaks and many other trees, the land is left in a condition for the germination of tree seeds, but there are no seeds to germinate. It is an open field for pioneers to enter, and the seeds which arrive there first have the right of possession." The cotton-winged seeds of the aspens and other poplars generally get ahead, taking root on high and dry soil, where some other seeds would die. The burned over land is their paradise, and their paradise is the forest retrogression for which our lumbering methods have paved the way.

Conifer and other seeds may sprout under their parent trees, but their young shoots speedily pale and die, if the shade is too dense. The same result occurs, though in reverse order, where the trees are all cleared off. If they sprout, the sun's excessive heat soon kills them. If a fire burn up the leaf mulch and the roof network in the soil, of course the seeds are destroyed, and there is no succession of forest growth there, simply because "we can not make something out of nothing." Observing there no reappearance of the old species, men aver "The pines once gone are gone forever," and they ring the changes on this "lumber adage" to convince us that it is useless to try to save our pines.

Some common sense needs to be drilled into men's understanding. By the decay of fallen leaves and limbs, mosses and other minor vegetations, aided by water thus conserved, forest trees manufacture their own nutrition and support. Hence forest soil that is not raided by axe or fire does not "run out" like a farm soil planted with the same kind of seeds from year to year. It is plain that successive tree crops will continue to grow and do well on their own native heath under a practical system of forestry, whereby the forest conditions are improved by cutting for the market.—Lumber World.