

VIEWS AND INTERVIEWS.

A Logging Wrinkle.

Somebody thinks themselves clever. We let our readers have the benefit, be it much or little, of the following wrinkle in logging which is somewhat freely going the rounds of the Canadian press. This is what our friend says: "As a rule it takes two men to pull a 6 or 7 ft. saw, but this way one man and a small pole will do the work. Cut a small pole the size of a fishing rod about 8 ft. long. Then tie a strong cord 3 ft. long, having a small hook to fasten in the eye of the saw, to the small end. Force the larger end of the pole in the ground on the opposite side of the tree you wish to saw and pull. The spring in the pole will pull the saw back every time."

Wooden Shoes In Europe.

We had something to say some months since of the extent to which wooden shoes are worn in the western states, but it is in Europe that the wooden shoe is more in vogue. Recent estimates place the number in Europe who wear wooden shoes at 70,000,000 people, one jobbing house in Paris disposing of 1,000,000 pairs each year. The ordinary every-day sabots are made of basswood, but there are finer shoes made of other woods. Basswood is light and does not split. In Europe poplar and willow are used, but poplar is inferior to basswood, and willow is the best of all. Beech makes a good shoe, as do walnut and birch. The harder, finer woods are used for Sunday shoes in the old world, but in this country, where sabots are worn for rough tramping only, the cheaper woods answer the purpose. Basswood is bought in stove lengths at \$2 a cord. A cord of wood will make 60 to 80 pairs, so it can be seen that the material does not cut much of a figure as to cost of production. The wholesale price for wooden shoes in this country is \$3 a dozen for adult sizes, \$2.40 for medium, and \$1.80 for children's sizes.

Slipshod Employers.

The employer does not hesitate, and rightly, to condemn the indifferent workman. The man who does not throw heart into his work, whether it be ruling a kingdom or sweeping a street, is a useless workman. But, who makes the careless workman, in part, at least? Slipshod methods, as the system of the shop, have no little to account for. To use the illustration of one writer on the subject: "Hurry up, it's good enough," has spoiled many a good man, and if an employer habitually crowds his men with more work than they can properly accomplish, denies them the right, as it were, to honestly perform their allotted tasks, he has only himself to blame if eventually they become as careless as he is. Where such shiftlessness involves a loss to the customer it becomes culpable dishonesty, and the employer who permits this has only himself to blame if he becomes eventually the victim of his workman's lack of rectitude. We are weary of reading dolorous complaints and criticisms where the power to remedy the evils complained of rests with the complainer. There would be an immediate and permanent decrease in the number of lazy and negligent workmen if every employer kept up to the mark himself and had those he paid do the same thing. It is the old story: like priest like people, like master like servant.

Squaring the Wage Question.

It does not seem unlikely that the eight-hour-day agitation at the forthcoming general elections in Great Britain may overshadow even the Home Rule question, which is being kept in the front of the Liberal platform. Whether in the older world or this newer country the wage question never downs. We seem not to touch bottom; it looks sometimes as though we did not try to reach bottom. We deal with systems, not men; and imagine we can square all men with the same measuring rule. Centuries of experience have proven the futility of the effort, though we still go on in the same perverse lines. Why not try dealing with men for a change? The Lumber World asks the question: "Can the salary question be perfectly squared? That is, can an employer, who pays so much a day, do anything to encourage an active, industrious, intelligent and skilled workman, and to draw out his best qualities? Or can he do anything to spur up the indolent, loafing, ignorant

and clumsy man alongside? Evidently not, so long as the work is paid for by the hour rather than by the product. I am convinced, from long observation of men in shops, that the best way to grade men's wages is to grade by the output. In other words, wherever piece-work is possible, the employer and employee alike will be better served by counting pieces and paying by the piece. That method puts a premium upon the good work of the skilled worker, and it puts a discount upon the bad work of the bad worker. It is no encouragement to a particularly good worker to have his superior work bunched with the inferior work of his elbow neighbor, and to be paid just the same as the man whose fingers are all thumbs and who would rather loaf than work. It simply encourages the inferior worker to go on and remain inferior." Does not this sound like common sense? Where the method has been adopted its common sense practicability has been shown. What is required is a more general application of the rule.

Masts 100 Feet High.

What would lumbermen say in this day of ship-building to masts 100 feet high? But we write of the past not the present. A writer on the subject of ship-building among the ancients says: "Large ships were not unknown to the ancients, and some of the most roomy attained dimensions equal to ships of modern times. Nevertheless they were unmanageable monstrosities, almost at the mercy of wind and wave, and utterly unfit to cope with the fury of a hurricane. Doubtless we are indebted to travelers' tales for the detailed descriptions that survive the lapse of ages. Constantius conveyed from Heliopolis to Rome an obelisk weighing 1,500 tons, and, in addition to this long-coveted monolith, the ship carried about 1,200 tons of pulse stowed about the small end of the obelisk in order to bring the ship on an even keel. In 268 B.C., Archimedes devised a marvelous ship for Hero of Syracuse. Her three lofty masts had been taken from Britain. Luxuriously fitted sleeping apartments abounded, and one of her banqueting halls was paved with agate and costly Sicilian stone. Other floors were cunningly inlaid with scenes from the "Iliad". Stables for many horses, ponds stocked with live fish, gardens watered by artificial rivulets and hot baths were provided for use or amusement. Ptolemy Philopator possessed a nuptial yacht, the "Thalamogon," 312 feet long and 46 feet deep. A graceful gallery, supported by curiously carved columns, ran round the vessel, and within were temples of Venus and Bacchus. Her masts were 100 feet high, her sails and cordage of royal purple hue."

Tongues In Trees.

"Sermons in stones, texts in trees, books in the running brooks, and good in everything," as Shakespeare so broadly expressed it, was perhaps the thought in the mind of a writer in the St. Louis Lumberman when he descanted as follows on the language of trees. He has said: "The lumberman is never out of school when in the woods. All he wants is a pair of good optics and an ounce or two of reflective brain. With these in operation he need never be blank in his mind or without a free library. The study of an acorn, a cedar cone or a pine seed will steady the observer's faith in the value of little things, the necessity of time for growth and maturity, and what, when united, the products can do, even of trees, supposably created to furnish warmth for cold fingers, or be transformed into shingles, fence posts or barn doors. A grove of oaks may shelter a spring that can irrigate a county; a cluster of cedars may stay an avalanche, and a clump of pines turn the course of a mountain torrent. If the observer is disposed to envy the higher status of his neighbor or friend the willow that clings to the swamps or the stream; the fir tree to the crag; and the cedar to the solitary morass, and each in its place maturing in size and serving its purpose, is a lesson of content by no means thrown away in this age of unsatisfied ambition and untiring energy. Again, if the woodsman is disposed to be critical with his circumstances, to look on the dark side of life, and in his struggle with adverse conditions he weakens in backbone and grit, he can see in the old oak that has been rocked in the storms of a hundred years that it is what it is by its brave contest with tempest and gale. It is sturdy

and vital, when others of its kind, sheltered in ravines and protected in forests, have long ago succumbed to the tap of the woodpecker and the tooth of time. It is in this way and only by this process of struggle and courage that the sturdier qualities of character are in any case developed. A study of this kind is good for any man in the dumps. The fact that no tree is useless, however cheap in the market or outside of demand, is a practical lesson to the man who is apt to demur at his lot or his talents. The cedar cannot say to the pine tree: "You are of no use," or the walnut to the willow: "You are a waste of space and leaves." If one is put into furniture and the other into barn floors, and one is utilized in a palace and the other in a laundry, each has its place and specific value. There was no spoilt timber in the plan of creation, and from a witch hazel to a redwood tree, the uses of each, as the wheels and springs in a watch, are practically indispensable to the interests of all. It is so in human life; no man worthy of his mother's milk is without value in the economy of nature."

THE ORIGIN OF SAWMILLS.

It cannot be denied that our forefathers executed their work well, but in many respects they were peculiarly wasteful in both time and material to attain this end. This can be particularly noticed in the latter case in the history of sawmills. Owing perhaps to their prejudices or the superiority of splitting timber over sawing timber in the simple early mills, sawmills were not encouraged to any extent until the seventeenth century, although their invention dates much farther back. Even this sounds a crude age for this ingenious tool to be used, but we must not forget that the invention of the saw by the Greeks dates far back into the misty ages of time. When we compare this age and the time which elapsed before its universal adoption, we see how great our forefathers' prejudices against new inventions were. Indeed so great was the quantity of timber wasted by splitting in Russia in the sixteenth century that Peter the Great forbid it to be transported on the Neva. But in spite of this, split timber is still used for many purposes because of its superior strength and toughness. Germany in ages back is well known to have been a great inventive country, and we find that the Germans had the honor of erecting the first sawmill on the banks of the little river *Raur*, in the fourth century. The early mills were all either driven by wind or water, and this early mill was driven by water. True, this mill is stated to have been for sawing stone, but there is no doubt that those for sawing wood were erected contemporaneously. This mill appears to have been the only one erected for hundreds of years, for they were not universally used, and many later writers speak of sawmills in their time as new inventions. The next instance we find of a sawmill is in the records of the City of Augsburg, which states that three were erected on the banks of the Hanvey brook in that city in 1332, owned by the Hospital of the Holy Ghost. Again when the Infant Henry of Germany sent settlers to the new found island of Madeira, in the fifteenth century, he ordered them to erect sawmills, in order to convert some of the beautiful timbers found there into deals. The city of Breslau had a sawmill in 1427, which produced a yearly rent of three marks. In 1490 a sawmill was erected in the forest of Erfurt. Norway, that timber-covered country, owned its first sawmill in 1530, for we read in 1543 of a deal tithe being instituted by Christian III. All these early mills had only one blade in a reciprocating frame, and those having several blades in one frame were not used until 1575, when several of that kind were erected on the banks of the Danube. Holland, which at one time owned more sawmills than any other country, erected its first in 1596, at Saardam. In England sawmills had the same fate as the crane at Strasburg. They were violently opposed by the hand sawyers, and the first one erected, that near London, in 1663, had to be abandoned, and the one at Limehouse in 1767 so excited the rage of the populace that they pulled it down. Circular saws and driving sawmills by steam power were probably contemporary, and they were first erected just about a century ago. Sweden owned the largest sawmill in the world at that time one driven by a watermill 12 ft. in breadth, which drove seventy-two frame saws. What would they say to our circular saws now?