

LONDON.

The *Timber Trades Journal* of Aug. 26th says:—There are not wanting indications that the present is the turning-point of what promises to be a very active fall trade. The harvest seems now almost assured as being above the average, and prices of wood have come down to a level, below which it is hardly probable they will sink; a rise is therefore evident, and it is only as to the time at which it will make itself felt that there are any doubts. Stocks of flooring boards in the docks are undergoing considerable reductions, and it is just on the cards that the end of the year may find us with very little more of this commodity in the docks than we had to record last Christmas. It is possible, however, that the present depression will be supplemented to a much greater degree than we are yet aware of.

AUSTRALIAN TRADE.

Messrs. Gumnell & Co., in their report dated Melbourne, July 3rd, state:—The amount of business recently carried through shows a considerable falling off from the average, and we do not look for much improvement during the present winter. American lumber.—Prices realized at auction show a reduction on last months rates. Shipments have been beyond our requirements, and as the trade are fully stocked, no improvement may be expected.

WOODEN IMAGES.

A New York paper says that the wood used for figures, no matter what use they are put to, is white pine. The butt end of a new spar serves the purpose best, and is generally used. When green the wood cuts much easier than when dry, and is not so liable to split. The carving is done mostly by the eye. Chalk or pencil lines are drawn on the log in making the general contour. If the figure is that of a man or woman, it is made eight times the length of the head. Ordinarily, the image is one solid block of wood, but if the arm is extended a separate piece is put on, so that the grain will run the right way, to prevent its breaking off. Regular carver's tools are employed, such as chisels, gouges, etc. It takes from a week to a month of steady work to make a figure, and the prices of images range from \$50 to \$250, according to size. A mermaid three and a half feet high costs \$100. The tug boats mount eagles on their pilot houses. These are worth from \$40 to \$75. Figures have been known to last 200 years. If a thick coat of paint is kept on them they will last much longer than if neglected. The paint closes up the checks and cracks, and prevents decay to a great extent. The figures are fastened to ships' bows with bolts. There are only four or five places in New York where the figures are carved.

Useful Facts.

Weights of logs and lumber are given as follows in a book recently issued by H. K. Porter & Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.: "Weight of green logs to scale 1,000 feet, board measure—Yellow pine (southern) 8,000 to 10,000 lbs., Norway pine (Mich.) 7,000 to 8,000 lbs.; white pine (Mich.) off of stump, 6,000 to 7,000 lbs., white pine (Mich.) out of water, 7,000 to 8,000 lbs.; white pine (Penn.) bark off 5,000 to 6,000 lbs.; hemlock (Penn.) bark off, 6,000 to 7,000 lbs. Weight of 1,000 feet of lumber, board measure—Yellow or Norway pine, dry 3,000 lbs.; green, 5,000 lbs.; white pine, dry, 2,500 lbs.; green 4,000 lbs. Weight of one cord of seasoned wood, 128 cubic feet per cord—Hickory or sugar maple 4,500 lbs.; white oak, 3,850 lbs.; beech, red oak or black oak, 3,250; poplar, chestnut, or elm 2,320 lbs.; pine, white or Norway, 2,000 lbs.; hemlock bark, dry, 2,900 lbs. (One cord bark got from 1,500 foot logs.)"

Bobbins' Over the Line.

The *Northwestern Lumberman* says:—A manufacturer of bobbins in Massachusetts, finding that he was receiving a large number of orders from Canada, in order to avoid the customs duty of 20 per cent., has set up a factory on the upper flat of a Lacerte, Que., saw-mill. He has received a large number of orders in the Dominion as a basis of his new enterprise.

THE U. S. TARIFF.

Before the United States Tariff commission Mr. Arthur Hill, of Saginaw City, stated that the existing tariff of \$2 a thousand increased the cutting capacity of Michigan lands 30 or 40 per cent, by giving the operators in that state a chance to work off their coarse pine. If the tariff did not exist the coarse stock of Canada would flood the markets in the East, to the exclusion of Saginaw lumber. This would be so for the following reason: The tariff does not affect the pine of the better quality. In Canada lumbermen skim through the woods and cut the best trees for the purpose of sawing them into deals for the English market. The poor stuff is left for a future cutting. If it were not for the tariff this coarse lumber would be cut and shipped to the States, where it could be sold at such prices as would drive the common stock of the Saginaw valley out of the market. This would come particularly hard on the Michigan business, since the operators there have latterly been obliged to cut their stumpage pretty close, the larger trees having disappeared. Under the tariff the Michigan operators are able to utilize their coarse stumpage, which adds an income of about \$3,000,000 to the people of the state, which otherwise would be burned up and lost. True there is but little profit in it, to the dealer, but the aggregate amount going into the hands of the people from this source is considerable. Such coarse lumber brings an average of \$9.50 a thousand, and costs \$8 to produce it. With low freights by lake and canal, such as prevail this year, the Saginaw lumbermen continue to make a small profit. Saginaw stands in an unfavorable position compared with Ottawa, which lays down lumber usually at \$1.50 a thousand less than it can be done for in Saginaw. But when freights are low and prices are fair the difference is overcome.

Putting Away Tools.

The wearing out of farm implements is, as a rule, due more to neglect than to use. If tools can be well taken care of, it will pay to buy those made of the best steel, and finished in the best manner; but in common hands, and with common care, such are of little advantage. Iron and steel parts should be cleaned with dry sand and a cob, or scraped with a piece of soft iron, washed and oiled if necessary, and in a day or two cleaned off with the corn-cob and dry sand. Finally paint the iron part with rosin and bees-wax, in the proportion of 4 of rosin to 1 of wax, melted together and applied hot. This is good for the iron and steel parts of every sort of tool. Wood work should be painted with good boiled linseed oil, white lead and turpentine, colored of any desired tint; red is probably the best color. Keep the cattle away until the paint is dry and hard, or they will lick, with death as the result. If it is not desired to use paint on hand tools, the boiled oil with turpentine and "liquid drier" does just as well. Many prefer to saturate the wood work of farm implements with crude petroleum. This cannot be used with color, but is applied by itself, so long as any is absorbed by the pores of the wood.—*American Agriculturist.*

IRWIN & PHILP

Commission

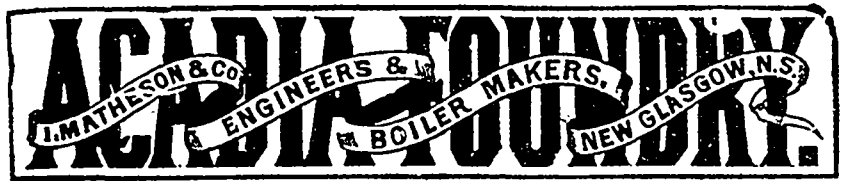
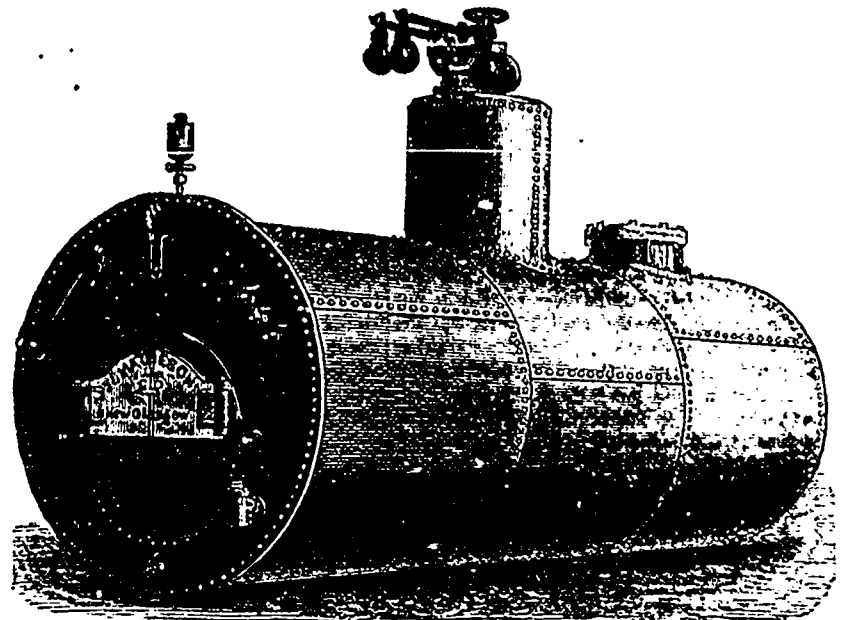
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