

full swing, and they are less interested in analyzing and meeting the needs of the country. So that when J. Cannon gravely shook his head over the legality of the forest bill, and supported the doubts of his rooters down in front—the measure went over to the judiciary committee, in whose none too solicitous care it will probably remain indefinitely. What the speaker's objections to it were, neither he nor anybody else seems to know, but inasmuch as he seems to be for J. Cannon first, last and all the time, they are probably sufficient unto himself.—Hardwood Record.

THE PROFITABLE SAWMILL.

A friend of mine recently requested me to go with him to look over a sawmill plant which had been built some sixteen years ago, but which had been standing idle for the last six years. This gentleman has quite an extensive plant situated right alongside this idle one, and, having a desire to expand, wished to remodel the old mill and make it up-to-date. After we had looked it over and under pretty thoroughly, and I had found as much in the underlooking as in the overlooking, which did not commend the proposition to one who has been up against the like before, he asked me what I thought of it. I replied that as an ashpile it would be of much more value to him than as a mill. He rather stared at me, but when I explained that out of an ash pile there might arise a good mill, but out of this old structure, filled with antiquated machinery, he would find that his pleasant dreams of an up-to-date sawmill would vanish into the bitterest of disappointments, he agreed after some little discussion that it would not be just the proper thing to try to convert this plant into the kind of mill he had been thinking of, and, like a wise man, abandoned the idea then and there.

Many a man who might make money out of a good plant, is struggling along with old machinery in an unsuitable building. This is all wrong. The man who makes money to-day is the man who does not allow any one to get ahead of him. If you have to stop and jack up some part of your building occasionally, and line up your shafting and machines six times as often as the other fellow, yet not half as often as you should, you are going to have a pretty hard time to keep him from going on and leaving you behind. It always seems to me a great pity to see modern machinery placed in an old rattle-trap of a building. Take it in the instance of a band mill. If you put modern machinery in a mill where the alignment is changed every time a different wind blows, you are not going to get any satisfaction, even with a good man looking after it; but under such conditions the good man is not often found looking after the machines, for once he knows the conditions—and it does not usually take him long to find them out—he will not stay, and then the machines are subjected to all kinds of abuses by the transient throng which follows. If we would be found anywhere near the head of the procession, give us a modern mill, equipped with modern machines, run by men of modern ideas under modern management.

I heard the statement made by a manufacturer's agent, not many days ago, that in his observations in travelling among mills throughout the country, he had found that more than half the steam plants were not taxed to more than half their capacity. This man represents one of our largest manufacturers of mill-working machinery, as well as steam engines and boilers, and he certainly ought to know what he is talking about; and yet his statement in this regard is just the reverse to what I have found in my travels. It may be that I have just happened to find the mills that he missed, but be

this as it may, I have found more mills that could use extra power if they had it than that had power to spare. I will say, however, that I have found many mills lacking power more through lack of modern methods of developing it than from the power plant being light, and it may be that this was also his finding and warranty for making the assertion.

In a sawmill plant where fuel is not considered as an item of expense, it is far better to have 200 or 300 horse-power more than we think we need at the start, than to have that money in the bank. Of course, from the above it will be understood that I am speaking of a plant of from 500 to 1,000 horse-power, for in a plant of 50 or 100 horse-power, 300 of a reserve would be out of all reason; but take a plant of the size first above mentioned, and if you start in without a reserve you will soon find you have not enough, and the longer you run the worse it gets, because we add a machine here and another there, and before we know it we have used up our little surplus, if we had any to use, and quite a lot besides, and as a result we find the whole mill lagging at times. Too much power, where one of the great questions is how to get rid of the by-product, is a mistake made on the right side, but a mistake which is not made as often as it should be, as many have found out to their sorrow.—N.E.

BE UP-TO-DATE.

That a manager of a new furniture factory should for a moment think of leaving a shavings exhaust fan out of his factory equipment, otherwise strictly up-to-date, is rather surprising, to say the least, and yet that was just what a manager with whom I am acquainted, did. I happened at the factory just before it was ready to start, and noting the absence of the fan and piping, asked the manager about it. He said he hadn't ordered a dust and shavings handling outfit because he considered it more of a luxury than a necessity. He, however, showed he wasn't entirely satisfied on this point by asking what I thought about it. I told him I wouldn't work in a factory that hadn't such outfit, and didn't believe any other man who cared for his health would. I then pointed out to him that it would take all of one man's time keeping the place clean, to say nothing of the filth that would accumulate on the machines. He told me such an outfit would cost \$1,000, and I pointed out to him that \$60, the interest on that sum for one year at 6 per cent., wouldn't go very far towards keeping the place clean. I also pointed out the fact that the fire risk must necessarily be much greater because of dust and shavings everywhere, and that the men would do so much more work in a clean shop as to practically pay for the dust and shavings handling apparatus in a single year. Fans on certain machines—the sander, for instance—were absolutely necessary, anyway, since the men couldn't stand the dust. When I wound up by telling him that a plant minus this part of what should by all means be its equipment, would probably be a losing investment, he became greatly interested, resulting in taking the matter up with his company and the installation of a very complete plant.

G. H.

—D. G. Courtney, manufacturer of white oak cooperage, railroad ties and lumber, Charleston, West Virginia, has opened up a distributing yard in Toledo, Ohio, under supervision of W. T. Hubbard, who is well-known in the lumber trade. He does this with a view of being able to make shipments more promptly than direct from the mill; he will also be able to fill orders for mixed cars to better advantage. They will yard a complete stock of poplar, oak, basswood, chestnut, ash, cypress and gum, and make a specialty of pane poplar in most any width or thickness.