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On June 22, the steamer *Astrubal*, of London, 1,194 tons burden, with a cargo of cedar from St. John, N. B., collided with an iceberg and went down off Point Lance. The crew was saved.

Forty thousand dollars worth of spruce chewing gum is gathered in Maine every year. The clear, pure lumps are worth $1 a pound. In the large mill cities of Massachusetts the girls consume enormous quantities, one dealer selling $1,400 worth in a year.

The new kindling-wood factory at Lock Haven, Pa., is 37×76 feet in size, and has a kiln that holds 100 cords of wood, which is cut in pieces 1¼×3 inches, and thoroughly dried before it is packed. There are 30 improved packing machines employed, operated by boys, who are thus enabled to pack 16,000 bundles of wood per day.

The Stockholm correspondent of the *Timber Trades Journal* says that several large ships are now in coarse of loading between Gefle and Sundswall for Australia, with deals, while planed goods have also been shipped thither to some extent. The consumption in Austra'ia must be increasing rapidly to judge by the quantity of goods now going there.

The *Northwestern Lumberman* says Mr. T. W. Harvey, of this city, has just purchased 35,000 acres of timber limits in the Georgian Bay country, from which he will draw heavy supplies in the near future, Not content with handling more lumber than any other individual operator on American soil, Mr. Harvey, in reaching out for more worlds to conquer, has stumbled against Canada. We shall expect to hear any day that he holds in his capacious pocket title deeds to what little yellow pine there may be left standing down in Louisiana and Texas, with an eye out for the timber Putman is "discovering" in the neighbourhood of Puget Sound.

The Green Bay (Wis.) *Advocate* says: Rafting on Lake Michigan is considered extremely risky even for short distances, and to raft 425,000 feet of logs in one lot, for a pull of 40 miles, takes as much sand as a glass factory; yet the Messrs. Spear, of this place, took this big risk recently. Under the careful management of Capt. Wm. Anger, two days was spent in making the raft at North Bay, when the *Gregory* hitched on and in 14 hours had the raft safe within the canal, without losing a log. The raft was 90 feet wide and about 1,200 feet long, and valued at over $30,000. Then the *Gregory* took the same boom sticks to Europe Bay, where another still larger raft is to be made and it will be towed here. It is expected that half a million feet will be put in this, the second great raft.

THE PORT OF GRANGEMOUTH.

Grangemouth is situated at the junction of the River Carron with the Clyde and Forth Canal, opened in 1790, and through which so much of the traffic to Glasgow passes as almost to justify the styling of Grangemouth the eastern port of Glasgow.

As a timber port Grangemouth holds a leading position, in proof of which it may be mentioned that in the year 1881 no less than 87,670 loads of hewn and sawn timber were discharged there. There are several firms of timber merchants in the port doing a considerable business, whilst the extensive saw mills of Messrs. Alexander Thompson & Nephews, Macpherson & McLaren, W. Kerr & Co., and others, afford ample facilities for dealing with the large importation.

The ground acquired for the construction of the new docks extends to nearly 60 acres, and while 19½ acres of this is the water area of the new docks and timber basins, the actual dockage area is about 10½ acres. This, in addition to the old docks with timber basin, will give about 28 acres, a large portion of the old area being available for graving dock purposes should the trade of the port so increase as to render it necessary for it being required for such a purpose.

THE SEASONING OF WOOD.

Wood requires time in which to season very much in proportion to the density of the fibre. But this rule is not without an exception, for pitch pine, which is not at all a densely fibered wood, requires a long time in which to season, even when the process is conducted under favorable circumstances.

This occurs probably in consequence of the resinous character of pitch pine, the resin clogging the pores of the wood and thus stopping up the channels through which the moisture would otherwise exude. There are some woods—and mahogany, ebony, and some other of the tropical woods are of the number—that even in their living state contain very little moisture.

Plants that are of slow growth contain less moisture when in a living state than do those whose growths are rapid. A mahogany tree requires 500 years in which to mature, and, as a consequence, its texture is exceedingly dense. Being dense in texture, it requires a long time to properly season, and during that lengthened period it shrinks very little. Mahogany should not be kept longer than necessary in the log, because insomuch as the outside portion of a log contains the greatest amount of moisture, and it being the exposed part, it will, as the wood dries, shrink more than the inner wood, and so, to allow for the outside shrinking, outside shakes will and must occur.

The same remark applies with equal force to all log timber, but we name the circumstance in connection with mahogany particularly for the reason that it is a general practice for some to keep their mahogany logs in an unsawn state, under the misapprehension that the logs will not deteriorate. When it is required to keep the logs in comparative bulk, it will be found to be a convenient method to have one cut put down the centre of them, which, as a rule, will be sufficient to obviate any tendency to outside shake that may arise in consequence of their shrinking on the outside. When cut, mahogany boards should always be laid aside to season in the same order as they left the saw. Strips of accurately sawn wood should be placed at intervals of a not greater distance than 12 inches from each other, and we are inclined to advise that the strips of wood be placed even closer together than that.

It is advisable that some woods should be seasoned quickly, and others should dry slowly Mahogany must be seasoned slowly To season it thoroughly and well, periods should be allowed in something like conformity with the following table:—

TIME TO BE ALLOWED FOR SEASONING IN THE OPEN.

Thickness of boards.	*Months.*
¾ inch	12
1 inch	12
1¼ inch	16
1½ inch	20
1 inch	24
1½ inch	30
1¾ inch	33
2 inch	36
3 inch	46
4 inch	56

Pine boards should be seasoned on very much the same plan as that we have recommended for the seasoning of mahogany boards. We suggest only this alteration, that they should be placed where the wind can reach them, for they should be dried quickly. The reason for this is that pine is a wood which is prone to rapid decay, and therefore the quicker it can be placed in an absolutely dry position—such, for instance, as being made up into internal joinery work—the better.

Whitewood cannot be satisfactorily dried by artificial means, for it twists under the action of heat. Whitewood hardens very much by being exposed to the weather. The reason of this is that from its sponge like texture the pores of the wood rapidly close when evaporation ensues.

The system of stacking flooring boards to dry in triangular fashion is much to be condemned for several sufficient reasons. The first is that, when so piled, boards will hold no inconsiderable quantity of snow or rain water.

The second is that they do not dry in those places where the boards must necessarily touch each other in the crossing.

The third reason is that when the boards are in long lengths they have a natural tendency to "swag" in their centers, and so to dry in a twisted or crooked form.

It is to be borne in mind that although wood the grain of which is of a twisted character has a natural tendency to dry crooked, yet that it can, by being judiciously weighted, be kept straight.

This fact suggests to us that even straight-grained wood will dry in a crooked form, if when left to season it be allowed to assume a bent form, and that this being so it is imperative that the piling of wood into position for seasoning should be directed by care and intelligence. —*The Builder.*

STAVELESS BARRELS.

The logging camp of the Mattulath Manufacturing Company is located at Carson, a half mile from Puyallup. They are getting out 20,000 feet of cottonwood logs per day, using the labor of seventeen men and four yoke of cattle. These logs are made into rafts and towed to the factory at Seattle. The company think they have a great improvement in the sheet barrel, which is made by cutting a log into barrel lengths, softening them by a steam process and then shaving each piece into a long sheet, unrolled like a carpet. Each sheet is then crosscut into such a length that when the two ends are brought together it is given the size and form of a barrel, without heads, the whole being done by machinery. This has proved a great improvement over the stave barrel in cost of manufacturing as well as in merits for use. The only drawback, if drawback it may be called, is that clear timber is required in this case, all the knotty timber being rejected, whereas for staves knotty timber may be used. Consequently the best of the cottonwood is now being culled out, and unless the supply of virgin forests of this kind proves illimitable, they will after a while be compelled to return to the manufacture of staves exclusively.—*Ledger.*

Puget Sound Business.

Lumber is reported higher in the Puget Sound district than ever before, while stone and brick have declined to the lowest notch. This curtails the lumber demand for building purposes, which some time ago was quite considerable, owing to the then low prices of lumber Notwithstanding this decrease in a branch of the demand, there has been an extra good volume of trade in lumber on the Sound all the season, which goes to show that the uses of lumber are so many and extensive that one item of consumption is a small matter in the general result, even though it be the important one of building. The Puget Sound product goes largely to supply the coast trade, particularly for shipbuilding. —*Northwestern Lumberman.*

A large portion of the Kippewa district is flooded owing to defective dams Considerable damage has ensued.