

FROM THE JAWS OF DEATH.

On Tuesday morning a young French Canadian mill hand named Narcisse Meunier, in Eddy's new mill, at Hull, Que., had one of the most marvelous escapes from death on record. It seems that while attending to his duties in the lower part of the mill he slipped and fell into the water beneath. At this point the stream resembles a gigantic seething cauldron, but notwithstanding the warning of the rushing waters Narcisse, who is a powerful swimmer, struck out boldly for the shore. In spite of his efforts he was hurled down the waterway towards the Devil's Hole, where the stream enters the underground passage. Nothing daunted by the tremendous strength of the current, against which he was battling, Narcisse continued to fight for his life. At length he succeeded in getting near enough to the shore to clutch a projecting piece of rock, to which he held until rescued by some parties who had witnessed the accident. When the news spread about the mill that this had occurred few could credit it, as it was considered utterly impossible that any man could have fallen into the maelstrom beneath the mill and escape with his life. When he fell into the water he shouted as loud as he could, but the noise of the mill prevented his cries being heard, consequently his fellow workmen did not know of the occurrence until it was over. Fortunately for him some outsiders happened to see him clinging to the rock on the shore with the energy of despair, while the force of the current was almost tearing his arms out of their sockets, and came to his rescue. Had it not been for this he would inevitably have been sucked down into the Devil's Hole and probably never heard of again. No description can give the faintest idea of the dangers of this spot, but after one glance at it it seems inconceivable that a human being should have been there and survived. A reporter called at the mill to get the particulars of the affair from Meunier. Notwithstanding the fearful peril from which he had been rescued a few hours before, he was coolly engaged at his usual work as though nothing out of the way had happened. He is a stoutly built young fellow of about nineteen summers, and although he looked rather pale after his battle with death, he made light of the affair. In answer to an enquiry by the reporter he shrugged his shoulders and said he didn't feel very bad at the time, but he wouldn't like to be there again.—*Ottawa Citizen*.

Two-Horse Load of Tooth-Picks Daily.

Where do the tooth-picks come from? A Maine newspaper states that the little town of Sebect, at the outlet of Sebect Lake, Piscataquis County, in the interior, has one of the best waterpowers in the state, but has never been fully developed. A tooth-pick factory there is doing a large business, using over a thousand cords of poplar and birch wood annually, turning out a two-horse load of tooth-picks daily, and employing from 12 to 15 girls and 8 or 10 men. A private letter from the place states what the newspaper omitted, that "the tooth-pick mill gives employment to as many girls as can afford to pack a hundred boxes for twenty-five cents, and feed themselves." This seems very small wages for women, but board is cheaper there than in the city, and probably many of them board at home, and would be unable to earn as much otherwise.

A Good Wager.

The "Greendale oak" in Welbeck Park is called "the Methuselah of trees," and writing of it in 1790, in his "Descriptions and Sketches of Remarkable Oaks at Welbeck," Major Rooke said the tree was then thought to be 700 years old. In 1724 an opening was made in this oak large enough to allow a carriage, or three horsemen abreast, to pass through it. At that time the girth of the ancient tree above the arch was nearly 36 feet, the height of the arch was 11 feet, and the topmost branches were 54 feet from the ground. On the estate the story is told that a former Duke of Portland, in an after-dinner frolic, made a bet of 1,000 guineas that he could drive a coach and six through the body of the tree without touching the bark, and that he accomplished the feat and won the guineas.

CLARKE'S ETIQUETTE.

An Oshkosh, Wis., paper relates the following incident in the history of the Hon. J. C. Clarke, familiarly known as Jack Clarke:—"About one quarter of a mile below the dam at Morrill, the Lincoln Lumber Company own about 30 acres of land, on which they have erected a saw and planing mill. They have a double gang and a circular saw, having a capacity, for manufacturing 130,000 feet of lumber per day. Last fall John C. Clarke, of Wausau, took and interest in the property and was elected general manager, and under his supervision the mill has received a general overhauling, so that now it is about as perfect as a mill can be. A story is told of Mr. Clarke that is worthy of repeating. When he took charge of the business, he found in the office several young gentlemen who were somewhat on the dodo order. The new superintendent is a plain man, and he does not believe much in stand-up collars, tight breeches and eye-glasses. When dinner was announced, all parties took their seats at the table. By the side of each young gentleman's plate laid an elaborately carved ring and napkin. One glance was sufficient, and the new superintendent broke out with "Well, young gentlemen, what do you do with those things?" Receiving a reply, "We wipe our mouths with them." "You do? Well, you can pack up your trays and seek other sights and scenes, for I never employ men that do not wipe their mouths on their shirt sleeves when they eat."—*Northwestern Lumberman*.

THE EXTINCTION OF FIRE BY STEAM.

The frequently proposed application of steam for the extinction of fire has recently met with a practical application in a steel-pen manufactory in Berlin. The owner of the factory, in consequence of frequent conflagrations in the drying rooms for wooden penholders, had three small steam pipes, in connection with the steam boiler of the establishment, fixed in three such rooms. The ends of the pipes were closed by a short piece of pipe, made of an alloy of lead and tin, which would quickly melt should fire break out, when steam would at once rush out. To prevent the steam inside the pipes from hindering the melting of the ends, the latter were filled with resin. Quite recently the stoker was warned by a hissing noise that fire had again broken out in one of the drying rooms, and when it was entered it was found that such was the case, but that only a small portion of the contents had been destroyed. The other combustible materials in the room, frames, walls, and floors, were found to be only saturated with the condensed steam, a portion of the penholders still smouldering. The heat caused by the breaking out of the fire had melted the ends of the pipes, and thus caused the heat to escape, which had extinguished the conflagration at its commencement without the intervention of the hand of man. It is probable that this ingenious and valuable contrivance, which is especially suited for large factories or stores, will find a wide application in the near future.

Matters in Maine.

A correspondent of the *Lumber World* says: It has been very unfavorable weather in this vicinity this spring for stream driving, as we have had very little rain. We had little or no thaw during the winter, leaving the snow light and but little water in it. It went off by the sun so slowly that the small streams did not get water enough to bring out the logs. The first rain of any account was on the 22nd, and that not very great, but it raised the streams considerably for a few days. The prospect is now that there will be a large amount of logs kept back that cannot be got out this spring. The prospect for sales of lumber is good, so far as for heading for West India trade, and home consumption for box-boards, which constitutes nine-tenths of all the Saco river long lumber. All the mills that saw oak for shooks are overstocked, which makes shooks low, as they have fallen from \$1.25 to 80 cents and must be low for a year to come.

Of the five hundred men at present at work on the Moira timber drive, 200 are in the employ of Messrs. Rathbun & Son, Deseronto.

RAFTS ARRIVED AT QUEBEC.

The *Chronicle* gives the following list of rafts, &c., arrived at Quebec:—
MAY 25.—Jean Voyer, deals, Connolly's Mills.
Ross Ritchie & Co., deals, Three Rivers and St. Maurice.
Calvin & Son, staves, Bowen's Cove (Sillery).
Ross & Co., oak, &c., Cape Rouge.
MAY 30.—Sundry persons, oak, &c., Cap Rouge.
J. McRae & Co., oak, &c., Cap Rouge.
JUNE 1.—Collins Bay Co., oak, St. Michael's cove.
Collins Bay Co., oak, sundry coves.
Burton Bros., sundry woods, Sillery cove.
JUNE 7.—J. McLaren, white pine, St. Lawrence Docks.
E. L. Kelsoy, staves, Union cove.
" " New Liverpool.
Simon Wigle, " Woodfield.

Monster Conveyance of Real Estate.

Probably the largest conveyance of real estate ever made in the Dominion to a private individual was made in Quebec on Thursday, June 7, the vendors being the executors of the estate of the late G. B. Hall, of Quebec, the well-known timber limit and saw-mill owner. The purchaser was L. A. Sonecal, and the property transferred comprising, among other features, the famous saw-mills at Montmorency Falls, the Radnor forges, near Three Rivers, and over 2,662 square miles of timber limits in this Province alone, besides various other lands in the Eastern Townships and elsewhere. The deed, which covered 260 pages, was signed on his own behalf by Mr. Sonecal, who paid down \$250,000 cash on account of the purchase price of \$1,600,000. Hon. Geo. Irvine, who leaves shortly for Europe on professional business, acted as legal adviser of the Hall estate.

Salt Preserving Timber.

It is a curious fact, says the *Carpenter*, that in the salt mines of Poland and Hungary the galleries are supported by wooden pillars, which are found to last unimpaired for ages, in consequence of being impregnated with the salt, while pillars of brick and stone used for the same purpose, crumble away in a short time by the decay of their mortar. It is also found that wooden piles driven into the mud of salt flats and marshes last for an unlimited time, and are used for the foundation of brick and stone edifices; and the practice of docking timber after it has been seasoned, by immersing it for some time in sea water, is generally admitted to be promotive of its durability.

MELLY's saw mills, at Somerset, Que., were burned on Sunday, June 10th. The loss is estimated at \$10,000.

THE St. Paul *Pioneer-Press* gives a statistical review of the season's lumbering operations in the Minnesota and Wisconsin woods. The aggregates reveal the stupendous magnitude of the business. The total cut of the two states exceeds 4,000,000,000 feet. This represents the trees growing on 1,250 square miles. The Chippewa valley region of Wisconsin contributes nearly 1,000,000,000 feet, the Mississippi above Minneapolis nearly 600,000,000 feet, the Wisconsin river 441,000,000, the Duluth district 297,000,000, and the Black river 228,000,000. The streams on the west shore of Lake Michigan, grouped together for convenience, show a cut of 785,000,000. On the different railroads in Wisconsin and Minnesota about 600,000,000 feet were cut. The cut is by far the greatest in the history of the Northwest.

THE *Central Canadian* says:—The activity one beholds about Mr. Peter McLaren's mills and yards is truly wonderful. Night or day there is unbounded bustle. The great head himself is nearly always present somewhere. Occasionally he goes into the yards where there appear to be dozens of men both piling up and pulling down; and when he speaks to them it is in a friendly sort of way—the kind of tone and the kind of words that make men say: "A first rate man, that." The wages are very high this year—higher, we believe than ever before—and this puts fire into the men, who keep a cheer-

ful sunlight in their faces all the day. We hear no real cases of discontent. Though the work is heavy, it is not constant; and there are many chances to rest. The machinery gives entire satisfaction, and everything runs with the regularity and harmony of clockwork.

THE *Timber Trades Journal* says:—We learn that a couple of cargoes of deals, &c., despatched from the Surrey Commercial Docks to the Island of Cyprus about the time of the termination of the Egyptian campaign last year, in the expectation of considerable building operations being carried on there, are still unused. In fact, it is reported that they lie just as they were discharged from the vessel, with very little prospect of their being called into requisition, and the off chance of never being used at all in that region. It would be interesting to know how the deals have stood the long exposure out there, and what they would be worth for transshipment elsewhere. We believe the stuff was sent to Cyprus for the purpose of constructing barracks for the soldiers and other buildings in connection therewith, but the troops have been withdrawn, so the deals are apparently useless.

THE *Buffalo Lumber World* says:—A great variety of wood will be used in the manufacture of furniture this season. Walnut still remains in favor, and is quite expensive. Mahogany is also much used, the variety known as San Domingo mahogany being very desirable. It has an excellent yellow tone, growing richer and darker with age. Amaranth is among the rare varieties, its beautiful purple surface taking a high polish and carving finely. Leopard-wood shows a yellowish ground, with darker spots, and is rich and effective for screen frames or panels. Butternut resembles oak, and takes a carved decoration well. Satin wood is much used, and cherry is quite a satisfactory substitute for mahogany. Unstained cherry is a yellowish brown color, and can be used with good effect. Ebony is somewhat out of favor, the genuine wood being very expensive, while the imitations are always unserviceable and disappointing.

ONE OF MANY.—Mr. R. W. Carmichael, Chemist and Druggist, of Belleville, writes as follows:—"Your Burdock Blood Bitters have a steady sale, are patronized by the best families here and surrounding country, and all attest to its virtues with unqualified satisfaction."

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