

# THE DOMINION MECHANICAL & MILLING NEWS

DEVOTED ESPECIALLY TO THE INTERESTS OF OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF

Flour Mills, Saw Mills, Planing Mills and Iron-Working Establishments.

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## COMBINED PLANER, MATCHER AND MOULDER.

WITH quite a number of small manufacturers in wood working establishments and saw mills, economy in room, and machinery of such construction as will not only plane lumber, but match and make mouldings, wainscoting and other forms of material seems to be sought after of late years, hence the production of the machine which we illustrate on this page. This machine appears to fill all these specifications. The main cylinder, which is made of forged steel, carries plain knives on two sides, and is slotted on the other two sides for moulding, beading or siding knives. Genuine Shimer matching heads are used for matching, and also a set of 4-sided slotted heads for moulding.

The machine is convenient in construction, easily operated, and appears to be just the thing for small mills that have not room and cannot afford the expense of three or four machines to do such work as this one machine is designed to perform.

A. R. Williams, Soho Machine Works, Toronto, is the manufacturer, from whom any further particulars may be obtained.

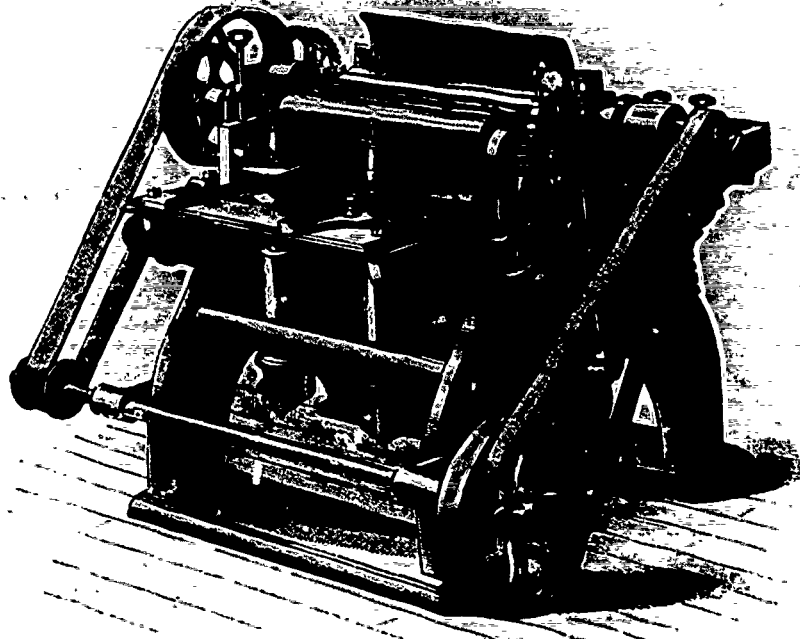
## WHY MANY FLOUR MILLS FAIL.

COMMENTING on the reasons why many flouring mills fail, the *Milling Sphere* says: "There are more mill failures to-day on account of the use of inferior cloths employed in their clothing than from any other single cause. We have known firms to construct mills perfect in every appointment up to a certain point to equip them with first class operatives and launch them in the trade with apparently every advantage furnished to full measure, and then defeat the whole business by the employment of inferior cloths, the same not being found out until the firm was badly crippled by losses. We were once sent to find out the trouble in a mill where settlement was being postponed between builder and owner because the break flour was not right. Two experts had visited the mill at different times before and were defeated; and we fully expected to have the same kind of medicine to swallow. But through accident, perhaps, we discovered that a strip of flour-cloth, filling between two ribs, among the break-flour reels, was a miserable abortion. The branded number of this was a 14, but it abounded in meshes running as far down as a 9. Time and again we have known millers to condemn a centrifugal reel when the fault was not in the reel but in the manner in which they had clothed it. They had bought without clothing, intending to employ the same graded numbers as they had seen a neighbor use in the same position in his mill. But in buying they had failed to secure a cloth of equal reliability to that of their neighbor, according to its branded numbers. Hence the work of the machine was a failure and accordingly unjustly condemned."

Our Manistee correspondent touches upon a feature of trade not commonly noticed in the lumber journals—the foreign demand which comes through Canadian sources. He speaks of a call for "longitudinals," an item not frequently discussed, but an important article in the list of materials used for railway building in England, where the bed work of the road is often of solid masonry; and the necessity exists for something that will "give," on which to fasten the rail. The longitudinal lays on the stone work, averages about 32 to 34 feet in length, in dimension 5 1/2 by 3 1/2, and has to be clear stuff—good lumber.—*The Timberman*.

## Western Letter.

THE great matter of interest to all classes of our people out here in the Great West—we don't like the term Northwest, it sounds too cold—is the crops. There is no part of the country which depends so largely upon the crops as this prairie region. In this new country manufacturing and other industries, aside from those depending upon agriculture, have not made much progress as yet. The milling industry, the only manufacturing branch which has been developed to any extent, depends entirely upon the crops. Everybody and everything relies upon the crops, and hence the crop



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situation is watched with an intensity of interest which is quite unknown in the east, and in older countries where the pursuits of life are more diversified. When the crop outlook is poor, a sense of depression pervades the land. The people are gloomy, and will not undertake new business enterprises. Merchants will not buy goods, and the unlucky drummer who goes on the road at a time when the crop outlook is unsatisfactory will return with a blank order book. "How is it," remarked a Toronto drummer to me a short time ago, when the crop outlook was not good, "that you hear so much about crops in this country. I have been up here for a fortnight, and I haven't heard anything talked but crops. People won't buy goods because the crops are not favorable, and if I am going to do any business, I will have to sit right down in the hotel here and wait for a change in the crops. If the crops in Ontario are a total wreck you would not hear half as much said about it." Thus spoke this eastern drummer, and such is really the case. The feeling is, that notwithstanding the good crops in the past, the country is still on trial. Aside from the direct advantages arising from a good crop, many people here seem to imagine that the whole world is watching Manitoba crop reports, and that a good crop will bring us plenty of immigrants to develop the country, while a poor crop will have the opposite effect.

The crop outlook this season has been a varied one. It has been both one of the most unfavorable on record, and also one of the most favorable. To commence with, the very heavy crop of last year put farmers greatly behind with their fall work. This, followed by an

early winter, closed last year's farming operations with plowing considerably behind. Now, in this country fall plowing is looked upon as essential to successful farming. On account of this backward condition of plowing, people hoped anxiously for an early spring, so as to make up for the loss of time last fall. But instead of an early spring, 1888 has been one of the very latest on record. Winter held on with surprising tenacity, and weeks after farming operations had been in progress last year, this year the prairie was still covered with its white mantle of snow. At last, however, the snow slowly disappeared and the farmers got to work. The seed was put in the ground in excellent condition, the weather being exceptionally favorable for seeding, but it was too cold for growth, and if it had been warmer, it would not have been any better, as there was no rain to start growth. Weeks stole away and there was no change. The weather was cold and with sharp frosts at night, and owing to the drought, the grain that was commencing to show above ground was only patches. The feeling of hope had changed to one of restless impatience, and this again was giving place to one of settled despair. Everybody who had a stake in the country had the blues, and there was a feeling of depression abroad, which even the removal of railway monopoly and the building of the Red River Valley railway could not relieve. But in the nick of time the change came. June brought with its first day a decided change in the temperature, followed a day or two later by copious and warm rains. Such a month for vegetation as this June has been, is perfectly surprising. Warm, drizzling rains at frequent intervals, with the long hours of sunshine for which this country is famous, have wrought such a change as can hardly be imagined. The result is that notwithstanding the gloomy prospects throughout May, July will commence with one of the

most favorable crop outlooks in the modern history of the West. The crop will be as far advanced as is usually the case on that date, and the copious rain that is falling at the time of writing, practically disposes of any serious danger from drought for this season. Before the effect of drought could be felt the crops will be too far ahead to receive much injury. Old settlers are delighted, and declare that this has been a typical Manitoba spring, such as used to prevail up to recent years, but have been lacking since 1882. In justice to these old settlers it must be said, that all along they contended that things would turn out all right, notwithstanding the backward weather. Their idea is that when the spring sets in early, the crops are more liable to suffer from drought during the early part of the season, and do not make as rapid headway as when the season is later. The favorable crop conditions prevailing at the time of writing, are not confined to Manitoba. The same report is true of the whole country, from the Lake of the Woods to the Rocky Mountains, and northward to the great Saskatchewan river. Telegraphic advices report that the rain falling at the time of writing is general all over the country. Even the region generally considered as the dry district, is receiving a thorough soaking. The grass is excellent, and where grain has been sown, it is doing remarkably well. The crop outlook for the entire west is therefore most hopeful, and with a continuation of favorable weather, this country will maintain if not eclipse its record of last year.

As to the area sown to the respective crops this season, it is very difficult to give even an approximate esti-