

Chips.

THERE is an elm tree growing at Canton, N. Y., between seven and eight feet in diameter. At Palouse Junction, on the Northern Pacific railroad, W. T., there are piled 600,000 ties and 36 miles of rails.

SOME of the lumber camps in the vicinity of Port Severn are breaking up on account of the great depth of snow. It is about 3½ feet on the level.

THERE are produced annually in North America 100,000 barrels of hemlock bark extract, of which a single Boston firm produces 72,000 barrels.

A WEST Virginia farmer recently sold a single black walnut tree for \$600, which was but little less than the sum he paid for the tract on which it grew.

A PETITION has been presented to the Manitoba parliament from vessel owners and lumbermen, praying that the mouth of the Red River of the North be dredged and lighthouses erected for the benefit of navigation.

THERE is a pine tree in Montgomery county, Mich., the owners of which are offering \$140 to any party or parties who will deliver the butt log in Alpena. The tree is over nine feet in diameter, and it is thought to be largest tree in the state.

THE Montreal *Gazette* says:—Not only is there an enquiry from American markets, but we hear of orders being received from Winnipeg at good prices. The local market rules quiet, a fair business having been done in both hard and soft wood.

THE Northwestern Lumberman says that the Puget Sound Iron Company has 70 men engaged in cutting wood on the Sound, to be made into charcoal, and the force is to be increased to two hundred. Two-thirds of the men are Chinamen.

WE learn from the Northwestern Lumberman that a patent has been granted to Mr. Westman for a new method of erecting portable houses, designed for Manitoba. The inventor covers a round, wooden frame with rope made of prairie grass, and chemically made incombustible.

LOCUST is a valuable wood for many purposes, and is employed in heavy work on account of its strength and durability. It is used in ship-building and mill cogs largely. Locust fence posts are said to have been known to remain in the ground 60 years, continuing perfectly sound.

VERY few ties or other forest produce are being got out in Haliburton. The snow is too deep and the price too low. Cordwood is paying better. Sound two foot wood delivered in the village realizes \$1.25 per cord. This is an artificial price, and is owing to the deep snow. There must be nearly four feet of snow in the woods.

GEORGIA exports over 300,000,000 feet of yellow pine annually. The principal exporting points are Brunswick, Darien, Savannah, St. Marys and Satalla. Brunswick comes first with about 135,000,000 feet, principally resawn lumber. Darien's specialty is timber, of which about 100,000,000 feet was exported last year from this port. The balance was divided mainly between the other three ports.

A correspondent of the Montreal *Gazette* says lumbering seems to be the principal business of the people at Eaton Corner, clapboards, spruce logs, basswood and birch being \$6 per 1,000 feet, board measure, at the Cookshire Mill Company's mill, and the company cannot saw the lumber nearly so fast as it comes in to their mill. The company have also contracted with a party up the river in Newport for 300,000 feet of spruce lumber, and with what they buy of individuals they will be able to run their mill to its full capacity.

NEARLY all the fine cabinet woods in general use are imported via New York and New Orleans, but there are many varieties of Australian woods that do not reach New York, but are occasionally brought into San Francisco. Of these are the "prima vera" or white mahogany, the toa wood, resembling rosewood, and the manoa wood, all of which are very beautiful cabinet woods, but very expensive. They are somewhat used in California, but rarely find their way eastward.—*American Furniture Gazette*.

THE New York correspondent of the Northwestern Lumberman says in regard to eastern spruce that there is really no change to note. Some scattering cargoes are arriving. St. John, N. B., is likely to forward some supplies before long. But there is no demand just now to call for the moving of any large stocks.

M. FAVOL, a French investigator, has found that the croosote treatment for the preservation of wood sometimes doubles the durability of oak timbers used in collieries, but has little influence on pine. He further says that oak prepared with ferrous sulphate last 10 times longer than in its natural state. It should be immersed 24 hours in a solution of 200 grammes of ferrous sulphate.

THE prospective value of southern pine land says the *Tradesman*, is well illustrated by two transactions recently made by Mr. Van Kirk, of Pensacola, Fla. At about the same time he sold 35,000 acres of Florida pine lands for \$1.25 per acre, while for 110,000 acres of Wisconsin white pine lands, estimated to cut the same amount to the acre, he received \$21 to the acre. Yet the Florida lands are as near transportation and as accessible as the \$21 Wisconsin lands.

THE Northwestern Lumberman says that last season D. W. Goodenough handled nearly 5,000 cords of hemlock bark, at Ludington, Mich., and thereabout, and this year he expects the amount hauled by him will reach 6,000 cords. The larger portion will be gotten out along the Manistee branch of the Flint & Pere Marquette road, mostly in the township of Freesoil. Farmers clearing their land make a good thing on the bark, the stripped logs being clear grain.

MESSRS. JAS. AND WM. DEMETER, of Gananoque, are actively engaged in their lumbering operation in the Township of Canoto. They have a large gang of men and teams at work; and have now 15,000 standard pine logs ready to run out as soon as navigation opens. The timber is first growth and of best quality; the logs will be taken to Gananoque by way of Kingston. In addition to the saw-logs Messrs. Dempster Bros. are cutting a lot of other timber for rafting and railway purposes.

THE Singer Manufacturing company of South Bend, Ind., is making an immense amount of veneered work. At least two-thirds of the tables and cases turned out are veneered, the veneer being walnut, principally, and the basis pine. It is much the cheaper way, considering the high price of good walnut. Two thicknesses of pine are used, cross-grained in order to prevent splitting. Butternut and cherry are also used to some extent. The factory gives employment to 1,500 men.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Northwestern Lumberman writing from New Lexington, Ohio, says:—We had formerly good oak, poplar, walnut, ash, hickory, butternut, sycamore, chestnut, black oak, beech, birch, hard and soft maple, but now there is no lumber made to be shipped from here. D. C. Fowler has the only stationary mill in this vicinity, and it does not run more than a third of the time. There were formerly mills on all the creeks and runs with sufficient water, but they have all departed this life. Since the advent of circulars and portable engines, nearly every section of land has had one or more "sets." Timber has been recklessly destroyed, until Perry county is not a timber county, but large amounts of lumber are shipped in for building and fencing purposes.

TRADE IN THE STATES.

The Chicago Northwestern Lumberman says: The most marked feature of the lumber trade for the week past is an increased activity in the middle sections of the country, north of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi, with encouraging reports from the East and the heralding of good prospects at the West. The actual revival of demand in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, where in the long, hard winter has, to a considerable degree, let go its grip, is like a rebound from the extreme stagnation that prevailed after January came in. It is cheering, as showing that the actual demand for lumber is now, and gives prospects of being, large, and that the current requirement during the winter was simply arrested by the severity of the season. It is proof that much of the clatter about the shrink-

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ago of demand on account of alleged hard times, and forebodings of the future has had more sound than real significance, that the industries of the country are still expanding, that the mass of the people are yet prosperous, that real estate is being improved, railroads and manufacturing built—in fine, that the progress of this great country at large has not been arrested, and that the consumption of lumber is going right on despite the lugubrious croaking of reactionists. While the foregoing is a fact, it may be, doubtless is, true that, in consequence of the prodigious output of lumber last year, there may be placed on the market this spring an aggregate stock somewhat in excess of the immediate requirement, which may tend to cause prices at the season's opening to rule a little lower than they did last year. In fact, the decline in as sorted yard stocks has already been felt, especially at the West. To what degree the value of bulk stocks will be affected by this weakness in the trade remains to be seen later on.

FELLING A REDWOOD.

In felling a redwood tree it is necessary to be careful to have the way cleared for it to drop, as the wood is so brittle that much of a shock is apt to break the trunk square off. The woodman will hold his axe like a plummet, and squint upward to ascertain how nearly perpendicular the huge tree may be, due allowance being made in cutting for any divergence therefrom. Logs are often dragged along to fill gullies, knolls must be levelled and stumps removed. Mortise holes are first cut in the trunk about four feet from the ground, into which iron-shod spring-boards, about four feet long and six feet wide, are fixed for the men to stand on while chopping at a height too great to reach from the ground. In this way the undercut is made, the strokes being made with great

force and precision from the rather dizzy perch. In the neighborhood of an hour the choppers will reach the heart of a big tree, from which point new and more scientific tactics are adopted. The trunk must be laid exactly on a line with the course that has been cleared for it, to prevent injury to it. By very careful sighting and calculating, and masterly execution of plans laid out, the men are able to drop a tree right where they want it, to a dot, and seldom miss their mark, so great is the dexterity acquired. Measurement is made from the end of a lath pointed directly along the line where the trunk is to be laid, to each corner at each side of the undercut, and a little chopping is done to make the angles jibe. The mathematics of the case, though not especially complicated, are about sufficient to place a professor in his element. After the undercut is properly arranged, new mortises are made behind the tree for the spring-boards, and the overcut is made by a two-handed saw. The last few strokes are a delicate piece of business, the ax finishing the job, and the tree falls true and straight.

Salt and Woodwork.

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 sound 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.