

THE NEWS.

—J. A. Johnson will erect a planing mill at St. Mary's Ont.

A. Ferris & Co. are building a new planing mill at Sudbury, Ont.

C. Greason's planing mill at London, Ont., was sold by auction on the 12th ultimo.

Achison & Dolman have leased the saw mill at Petrolia, Ont., owned by Mr. Stirrett.

Richard Smith, of Beebe Plain, Que., is considering the removal of his saw mill to Sherbrooke.

Mr. McArthur has about 60 men at work in the Riding Mountain district getting out logs for his mill at Birtle, Man.

B. F. Young, who operates a planing mill at Stratford, Ont., is reported in financial difficulties and is asking for an extension of time.

J. H. Milton & Son, Moncton, N. B., have removed their sawmill to a new site at Foley Hill, on the line of the Albert Railway.

Alexander Scott, manager of the Buckingham Pulp Co., proposes to erect a saw mill a few miles up river. Chiefly hard woods will be manufactured.

H. Hetu of the Edmonton Saw Mill Co., Edmonton, N. W. T., is taking out two million feet of logs this winter to be sawed at the mill up the river.

McMillan & Haynes, saw manufacturers, St. Catharines, Ont., have leased the old battery factory adjoining their works, and will also extend their present factory.

The saw mill belonging to the Norris estate, St. Catharines, Ont., was sold at auction a short time ago to John Sully, representing a Canadian syndicate, for \$34,000.

A carload of pine from British Columbia has arrived at Quebec via the Canadian Pacific railway for the Marine Department, to be used in steamship decking.

Huge logs of hardwood are being hauled into the city mills at Chatham, Ont., some of them containing more than 1,000 feet of lumber. They will be cut into ship plank for export.

W. H. Schneider, of Mildmay, has sold his saw mill and flour mill property to Fred. Glebe, of Shelburne, Ont., for the sum of \$12,500. Mr. Glebe took possession on the 10th of January.

W. J. Munro, of Pembroke, has purchased the Snider limits from the Ontario Government, containing about 27 square miles of timber. It is the intention of Mr. Munro to commence cutting at once.

James Playfair & Co. have purchased from Burton Bros., of Collingwood, the tug Metamora, three barges and a large quantity of booms, which they will use in connection with their lumbering business.

J. A. Christie, of the Brandon mill, has two camps numbering forty men and twenty teams at work in the Riding Mountains, Manitoba, and expects to get out about one and a half million feet of logs this winter.

The McLaughlin Carriage Company, of Oshawa, has resumed operations. A new seventy-five horse-power engine and ninety horse-power boiler have been put in, also a large saw mill to cut lumber from the log.

The Toronto Hoop and Veneer Co., of Toronto, are applying for incorporation, with a capital stock of \$50,000, to manufacture hoops, staves, veneers, etc. The operations of the company are to be carried on at Eugenia, Ont.

The Niebergall Stave and Lumber Co., of Staples, Ont., are applying for incorporation, with a capital stock of \$45,000. Among the directors are G. Niebergall, of Goderich; G. M. McEwan, of Hensall, and D. R. Menzies, of Clinton.

W. W. Parsons, of Rankin, Ont., has purchased from Mr. R. Reeves a twenty horse power portable steam saw mill. He intends placing it on the mountain north of Lake Dore, where he has taken a contract to cut 500,000 feet of lumber.

We are informed that Findlay & Lewis, of Collingwood, have made preparations to start a sash and door factory in Parry Sound as soon as navigation opens. The factory will be equipped with the latest machinery for turning out dressed lumber, mouldings, sash and doors.

The Winnipeg Commercial states that a peculiar phase has developed in the lumber trade in Western Ontario lately, it being the presence on the market of pine lumber from the United States. This lumber was sawn in Michigan from logs originally towed across the lake from Canada. The lumber in question is understood to have come as far west as London, and to have sold at figures some fifty cents per thousand feet below the price at which it would cost dealers to lay it down there, leaving altogether out of the question the matter of profits.

—On the 11th of September last the Collector of Customs at Detroit seized a carload of pulp entered by the Laurentides Pulp Company, of Three Rivers, Que., for undervaluation. The company had entered it at \$13.44 per long ton of 2,240 pounds, and the collector held it at \$15 a short ton of 2,000 pounds. Shortly afterwards another carload was seized on the same grounds of under-valuation. The company appealed to the Board of General Appraisers in New York, with the result that a decision was given against the collector and in favor of the Laurentides Company, fixing the valuation of wood pulp at 60 cents a 100. This victory for the Canadian company will no doubt be the means of bringing American capital to Canada for investment in timber preserves and pulp mills.

A. Ferguson, an American lumberman, has recently been looking over the lumber business at Rat Portage and vicinity. In reply to enquiries, he said: "Forest fires will necessitate the cutting of at least one hundred millions of timber within the next fifteen months in Northern Minnesota, that from its location must find an outlet in the Lake of the Woods. The present companies doing business at Rat Portage, from having a large stock on hand as well as having extensive timber limits on the Canadian side, do not see their way clear to make any new contracts for American timber, so that holders of timber lands in Northern Minnesota must look after their own interests. I am advised of a meeting to be held in St. Paul in a few days to devise means to facilitate the handling of it. Although a great deal of the timber has been bought up by wealthy pine dealers, yet a large amount of it is still in the hands of homesteaders."

TRADE NOTES.

Messrs. Shurly & Dietrich, of Galt, Ont., have recently made extensive shipments of their saws to Tacoma and other points in Washington Territory.

Bingham & Finney's saw factory at the Chaudiere, Ottawa, which has been in course of construction for some time, is now completed, and the proprietors have commenced the manufacture of saws.

STACKING LUMBER.

By JOHN SHAW, in "LUMBER."

IN the preparation of lumber to be worked into any form, or for any process in which machinery is brought into use to partially or completely finish it for the builder's use, there is no part that demands more careful attention than stacking.

It is thought by a large number of persons, and many actually in the lumber trade, that if boards are only stuck up, that is quite sufficient for all purposes. They give no heed to the amount of waste and consequent shrinkage that there is in piles of poorly-slacked lumber of any kind. Whatever help we may employ in this work, it is very necessary that the man in charge should properly understand the whole business, from the blocking to the last board that is put on, and then to properly cover the pile up.

The foundation for the pile is of the first importance, and should be made on good, solid ground, or on good, permanent piling. Being satisfied that the timber is well anchored on solid foundation, the next thing is to level it up and see that the bearings are out of the wind and have the proper pitch. There is a great difference of opinion in this matter, as well as in everything else, but as a general thing not less than six inches pitch in stock sixteen feet long should be given. This is a good one for water to quickly flow off after a storm, so the piles can rapidly dry out. The process of drying should go on as uninterruptedly as possible, or, if the stock is already quite dry, it should be kept in such a condition that it can be worked into any desired shape.

The sticks for boards are very often too few. I contend that any stock of boards from twelve to eighteen feet long should not have less than four sticks, and boards from eighteen to twenty-four feet should have five. The stick in the front end should come flush with the end of the pile, so sticks and board ends should form one solid block. Front sticks should not be less than three inches in width. Now, while I do not claim that for all piles the whole of the sticks must be fully up to that width, I do claim that they should be of good width, and never less than two inches, and three inches is very much better.

One thing should be positively attended to, and that is that every picket should be exactly placed, one above the other, as the pile goes up. Very many concerns are

careless about this, and the consequence is that their stuff is full of short kinks, and it is impossible to make good work of any kind with boards in such shape. Matched flooring will never come nice if stock comes along in such shape, and oftentimes it costs more to smooth up a floor than the lumber comes to. If many owners of lumber yards who own and run mills in connection with their places would take pains to stack their lumber well, they would often find a large margin in their favor when they balance their yearly account.

The necessity of covering up piles should receive particular attention, and it is strange that this part of lumber piling has not received closer attention. I know it takes quite an amount of stock to cover a large amount of lumber, but we must take into account the fact that it can be used over and over again. If it is properly cared for it loses but little from year to year. It is like everything else, however, if roughly handled it goes into the wood pile, or the wood pickers will gobble it up, and the owner will be grumbling at the cost of covering up his lumber. A boss never takes into account how much covering saves him.

Covering piles saves in two ways. If the lumber is to be sold again the top of the pile comes out good, instead of being warped and crooked and in many cases split so as to be partly or wholly lost. This splitting and warping always make trouble in the mill, if either being worked full width or being sawed into strips for flooring or ceiling, or perhaps for moldings. Splitting obliges us to put the lumber into either No. 2 or No. 3 stock or throw it away entirely.

There seems to be the greatest disregard of proper methods of stacking up planks of any thickness, from two to four inches. Men utterly disregard the idea that cross sticks should be put in the ends, and instead put them two or three feet from each end, and one only in the middle, of whatever length the lumber may be. It is no wonder that mills work stuff poorly under these conditions, or that men have hard work to get stuff through their mills at all without breaking them. Men expect that machines will do good work whether the stuff which is brought to them is crooked or straight, or flat or warped. If the stuff does not come out of the machines good, it must be the fault either of the machine or the operator, or both. Some people never take into consideration the condition the stuff is in. Very few dealers think of this, and expect mill men to get for them good gold dollars from poor and damaged stock. It is curious that these things are so rarely taken into account until the stock is either spoiled, or so far damaged that its value is made so much less than in many cases the first cost is not realized, much less the percentage of profit which should be made to pay the expense of handling.

It is too often said that a man, or the men, "only know enough to stack lumber."

I consider that any man who can stack up a pile of lumber well, from bottom to top, is a good workman, and ought to be well paid. If looks had anything to do with it we would say that, if only for looks' sake, the owners of lumber should insist that all the piles be of uniform width and height and of the same pitch, so as to have the whole row appear like a well-kept street, clean and free from broken pieces and all kinds of rubbish.

Of course the rubbish does not add to or detract from the value of the lumber in the piles. If, however, the surroundings are nice, the probabilities are that the proprietor uses a good system all through his business, and whatever he produces, whether by machinery or otherwise, will be well and thoroughly finished.

I have not written of this because it is a common custom for lumber dealers to be negligent about piling up lumber, for, as a general thing, they are not, but because among the great number we find many who have an idea that if the lumber is only piled up it will answer the purpose. I think, as a matter of fact, that such proprietors are always grumbling about hard times, are always slow in paying their bills, are slack in getting out orders, and that their work is always poorly done. Men show their character in their businesses, and there is no better business to show them in than the lumber trade.