TALKS WITH WOOD-WORKERS.

A BRANCH of wood-working that calls for some idea of taste and nicety in the performance of the work is that of veneering. A bad piece of veneering is an eye sore to the most unskilled eye and it is unbearable to the practised eye. A contributor to Carpentry and Building tells us that to treat a door with a thin veneer and do it right is a pretty hard job for one who is not used to the business, and the veneer is apt to let go from the core and blister. The best veneer for doors, etc., is ⅛ to ⅜-inch thick. It is much easier to work than thin veneer, and gives greater satisfaction in all cases. In order to veneer a door the operator needs clamps, cauls, hot irons or water cans for moving over the surface of the veneer to keep the glue from setting too fast, and until the cauls and clamps are in place and screwed up tight; a few veneer tacks and sufficient extra weight handy to put on the cauls where the clamps do not give it an even pressure on the lock rail. Use good glue and cook it well—until the water is boiled out of it. Get out the veneer of the proper size for stiles and rails, making allowance, however, on the stiles, for mitering the veneer on the outer edges of the door. The shop should be at a high temperature when veneering is to be done. Stand or lay the pieces of veneer close to the stove so they will become very warm, while the door is placed on the bench and the tools gathered together. Have the irons hot, or if water cans are used, fill them with water which is boiling hot. We now veneer the door. The latter can be glued up like a "regular" or driven together, trued up and cleaned, but not sand-papered. Drive it apart and veneer each piece separately, after which the door can be glued and wedged before the edges are veneered. The cauls should be made to suit the width of the stiles and of sufficient length to fit the parts where used. They should be true and straight on the surface next the veneer. Everything being ready heat very hot the piece of veneer to be put on; then with a brush quickly spread the glue on the core, after which lay on the veneer, tack it in place, put on the cauls and clamps, set them up hard and make sure that all parts of the veneer are pressed tightly down to the core. Take up the next piece and treat it in a similar manner, and so continue until all the pieces are veneered on one side. When the glue is hard on the first piece reverse it and veneer the other side in the same manner, so continuing until all the work is done. Drive and clamp the door and clean the veneer, using a sharp scraper, but no sandpaper. A No. 0000 glass paper can be used after the scraping is done. Do not rub across the grain. In fitting the doors allowance must be made for twice the thickness of the veneer and the plate for hinges, etc. Strong dark glue is the best. In order to tell good glue take a piece between the fingers and bend it. If it does not crack or fly to pieces, but bends tough, showing no signs of snapping, it is a glue that will hold if properly cooked. A copper steam heater is, in my estimation, the best for glue. A little vinegar added to the glue will prevent its setting too fast, but it dries slowly.

× × × ×

In the present day of changes in the manufacturing of building materials, as in the world of manufacture generally, the intelligent workman is interested in following up developments along this line. The Northwestern Lumberman, in a recent issue, describes a new building material made of ¼-inch strips of wood, from ¾ to 1¼ inches wide, placed between two sheets of heavy strawboard and united under heavy pressure with a strong cement. The process of manufacture is peculiar. Into the machine that moulds the board are run two sheets of the strawboard from rolls, one from above and one from below a table onto which are fed from a feeding device the strips of wood. A roller running in a tank of the liquid cement rolls upon the inner surface of the sheets of strawboard, and the three layers of material run together between rolls and into a hydraulic press capable of exerting a pressure of 120 tons to the square inch. Ten feet of the board is stopped automatically for a few seconds in the press, then run out upon a table fitted with cut-off saws, where it is sawed to the desired length. It is then run upon trucks, placed in the dry kiln, and when taken out is trimmed to 18 inches in width. The strength of the board as compared with its weight is marvelous. The ends of an 18-foot board can be brought together without breaking or warping it. No conditions can warp it. Wall paper is put upon the board, and the finish is as fine as upon any plastered wall. The strong points claimed for the board are: It is not more expensive than first-class plastering. It forms an absolutely air-tight wall. It stiffens a building much more than any coat of mortar and lath can. It is quickly put on, and produces no dampness, thus causing no swelling and shrinking of floors and castings. It is light, thus avoiding the dragging down of the house frame, the consequent cracking of walls and the warping of door frames. It forms a solider, cleaner, warmer, drier wall at no more expense than is involved in the old way.

JAS.

AUCTION SALE OF TIMBER LIMITS.

THE auction sale of Canadian timber limits that had been announced for the Board of Trade rooms, Toronto, on August 29th, brought together a considerable number of lumbermen from various parts of Ontario and Quebec, and among these were a fair sprinkling of United States lumbermen. Prominent among those present were: J. Bryson, M. P., Pontiac; C. McLachlin, Arnprior; C. Leduc, J. C. Brown, Peter McRae, Wm. Charleson and others from Ottawa; Alex. Barnett, Renfrew; R. O. McConnel, Mattawa; Robt. Klock, Mattawa, Thomas Hale and T. Mackie, Pembroke; William Little, Montreal; Mossom Boyd, Bobcaygeon; J. B. Miller, Parry Sound; R. Thompson, Hamilton; Dr. Spohn, Penetang; T. Conlin, Thorold; W. D. Gladman, Parry Sound; P. C. Whitney, Minneapolis, Minn.; Morris Quinn, Saginaw, Mich.; "Archie" McKinnon, Saginaw, Mich.; J. Vincent, Saginaw, Mich.; E. M. Fowler, Detroit; William Peter, Columbiaville, Mich.; Matt Slush, Mount Clemens, Mich.; besides such well known local lumbermen as John Waldie, Joseph Oliver, Thomas Meaney, the Messrs. Campbell, of the Muskoka Mill and Lumber Co., William Smith, (J. B. Smith & Co.), Geo. Bertram, John Drynan, James Tennant, W. Cook and Nicholas Garland.

The limits offered for sale had an area of 1864 square miles, of which 817 were in Ontario and 1047 in Quebec, and altogether embraced the following lots: 36 miles in Caldwell Township; 36 miles in Dill; 22¼ miles in Butt; the Latour limits on the Upper Ottawa, 230¼ square miles in extent; the Kippewa berth, 64 miles on the Upper Ottawa; berths, 23 and 6, 34¾ miles in the Township of McClintock; berth 5, in Livingston, 8⅜ miles; berth 71, in Snider, 27 miles; berth 1, in Livingston, 13¼ miles; berth 2, in Finlayson, 10¼ miles; berth 3, in McCraney, 11½ miles; berths 19, 20, 21, 25, 27, 65, 67 and 68, Rainy River district, 50 miles; berths in South and North Burleigh, 34 miles; berths 2, 3, and 4, Thunder Bay District, 22 miles; berth 8, Thunder Bay district, 37½ miles; berth 7, Lake Expanse, Upper Ottawa, 16¾ miles; berths 51 and 43, Lake Huron district, 72 miles; the Lauzon limits, comprising berths 597, 598, 599, 601, 602, 603 and 604, in the Upper Ottawa district, 145½ miles; berths 591, 592, 593, 594 and 600, Upper Ottawa, 126¾ miles; berths, 394 and 395, 100 miles, on the Black River, Upper Ottawa; berths 512, 513, 514, 515, 516 and 517, Upper Ottawa, 300 miles in all; berth 3, in McMurrich, 5 miles; berth 3, in Perry, 3½ miles; berth 1, in Pringle, 23¾ miles; berth 205 in McMahon, 36 miles; berth 200, in Morin, 36 miles; berth 193, in Houghton, 36 miles; 28½ miles in Striker, 36 miles in McGivern, 15½ miles in Mississagua reserve, 3¼ miles in Cobden, 10½ miles in Township 155, and the Blind River mill.

The sale was under the management of Mr. Peter Ryan, trade auctioneer, whose success in connection with the last government sale, as also with other lumber sales in the province, gave expectations of a successful sale in the present case. These hopes, however, were early blighted, whatever the cause may have been. The list of properties embraced many desirable limits in the Georgian Bay territories, along the Ottawa, and in certain parts of Quebec. But neither the ability of the auctioneer, nor his good nature, nor enthusiasm, could get business moving with any degree of encouragement. As a matter of fact only one limit was sold, namely, 36 square miles in the township of Caldwell, district of Nipissing, the buyer being Mr. Nicholas Garland, of Toronto, who started the lot at a "sporting bid," to use the auctioneer's phrase, of $100 a square mile, and he made the final bid of $140. With the other lots on the list it was either impossible to get bids approaching nearly to the reserve bid or else there were simply no bids at all. Mr. Ryan at one time of the sale announced that he was "waiting with patience and with that christian fortitude, of which I am so famous for further bids, but the bids did not come. Again he endeavored to start the steam going by remarking: "You don't seem to be aware that the Cleveland administration has allowed the tariff bill to be passed without the President's signature. You don't seem to have read the newspapers. Let us have a bid!" Still the bids did not come. Lot 20, which was purchased for $555 per square mile at the government sale of 1890, did not find a single offer. "So much for the reputation of a decent government," facetiously added Toronto's registrar-auctioneer. No one seemed to take an interest in a virgin limit, heavily timbered with superior white pine in the township of Livingston, "where $17,500 a square mile was bid for a limit not one whit better," said the auctioneer, "at the Government sale." At the close of a little more than the first hour the sale was brought to an end, no business really being done.

In view of the adoption of free lumber by the United States government the result of the sale was a surprise to many, and yet as one studied the complexion of the audience assembled, and there were at least 150 lumbermen in the rooms, it did not look as though anyone had come with a very serious determination to buy lumber. Mr. Ryan was, of course, disappointed, but viewed the matter philosophically, and to-day has as great confidence in lumber as an asset, as the most sanguine lumberman in the country. The LUMBERMAN'S representative talked with leading lumbermen present at the sale after the business of the afternoon was ended and he certainly did not find anyone in the dumps. Mr. Quinn, of Saginaw, remarked: "There is one thing I have always observed at sales of limits, and I have attended them since 1881. In a sale of private limits like the present prices did not rule nearly as high as when the limits are owned by the government. Your Ontario Crown Land Department get right along higher prices than the limits are worth and I am blessed if I know how it is. If these limits had been government limits there would have been a lot of sales." Mr. E. E. Lauzon, of Ottawa, was of the opinion that people were a little timid because of the unsettled state of affairs. "The banks", said he, "have lots of money but are afraid of it. The sellers are rich and can afford to wait for their price." One lumberman plainly said that the sale was a bluff, the object being to determine values. Mr. Little, of Montreal, did not think the result of the sale could be taken as indicating in any way the real condition of the lumber market. "The truth is," said he, "times have been so depressed for the past year that whilst lumber is a good asset, the banks are yet chary of giving out any large amount of capital until business commences to get around once more to something like normal conditions." Mr. J. Bryson, M. P. argued that owing to the taking off of $1.00 a thousand from white pine those having limits to sell have made big increases in prices at which they are willing to sell. "A number of Ottawa lumbermen," he said, "attended the sale prepared to buy but owing to the way in which the limits were bid up by the agents of the parties selling they bought nothing." The consensus of opinion was perhaps summed up in the remark of a shrewd local lumberman, that "everybody had all the lumber on hand just now for which they could readily find a sale, and they were not in a buying humor. No doubt later not a few of the limits that had been offered for sale by auction would find buyers by private sale and at satisfactory prices."

SOUND GOSPEL.

IT is the prompt attention to little things that makes the successful engineer. The careless man is dropped at a convenient moment, and he has hard work to get another "job." The greater dangers are seen by all, and almost anyone can make the proper provisions. The engineer who scents danger, which may result in two or three day's "shut down," or a possible explosion, is the one who gains his employer's confidence and finally lands on top.—Safety-Valve.