

THE WEATHER IN SWEDEN.

STOCKHOLM, March 8th, 84.—The weather of the last 14 days in the north of Sweden has been more seasonable than heretofore this winter. This circumstance, in conjunction with the comparative absence of snow, has strengthened the ice at the entrance to the various timber ports in a marked degree; so much so, in fact, that the opening of navigation will be considerably retarded. It is yet too early to express a decided opinion as to when the lower Gulf ports may be expected to be clear of ice, but should we have cold weather up to the 20th current, then first open water cannot fail to be late.

The scarcity of snow in the timber regions supplying the lower ports is at length interfering with the getting of logs. Up to the present, however, I do not consider that the want of snow has been nearly so much felt, as far as the driving out of logs is concerned, as some of my friends would have me believe. On the contrary, the absence of an excess of snow in the high lands of Dalecarlia and Dalarna, as well as some other districts, has more than counterbalanced the inconvenience experienced through the want of it. After this date the scarcity of snow may be expected to make itself felt, not only in the getting of logs, but, what is more, in the probability of there being insufficient floating water the ensuing spring. There is yet time to change all this, but should we not be favored with either a heavy fall of snow at an early date, or with a wet spring and summer, a partial failure in floating is quite on the cards. With the waterways almost bare of logs, the result of the excellent floating weather of the last two seasons, the bare possibility of even a partial failure of the floating operations will constrain more than one importer to cover some of his wants.

SQUARE TIMBER.

The Ottawa Citizen contains the following letter:

SIR,—I am an old stevedore, and for more than 40 years loaded ships with square timber at Quebec and elsewhere. Having been at the C. P. R. station several times lately when trains loaded with white pine, owned by Messrs. R. H. Clok & Co., were lying there, and feeling some interest in such matters, I have examined the timber, and after doing so I cannot refrain from giving publicity to the result of my examinations. The timber is without exception the best I have ever seen, and the gentlemen who own it deserve credit for the admirable manner in which they have had it made. It will average as near as I can judge, 78 or 80 feet and is all butted—in fact ready to be loaded into the vessels, and comes from Widow River near Lake Nipissing. Owing to the many facilities afforded by the C. P. R., the three or four hundred car loads that are to come will be at Papineauville to go thence to Quebec on the opening of navigation. I thank you, sir, for the use of your valuable paper,

THOS. O'NEILL.
Ottawa, March 27th, 1884.

Wood v. Asphalt.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Commissioners of Sewers, held at Guildhall recently, Mr. Altman brought up a report from the Streets Committee relative to the paving of Houndsditch and cutler street, and stating that having considered the memorial referred from the last court in favor of paving the said places with wood, they adhere to their recommendation that the said places should be paved with asphalt (estimated cost about £3,127). He said, after reconsideration, the committee had come to an almost unanimous opinion that Houndsditch would be better paved with asphalt than with wood.

Mr. Philips thought it was almost agreed at the last court, that Houndsditch should be paved with wood in accordance with the wishes of the deputation from the ward. He asked whether it was right to push down the throats of 84 men living in that street this villainous asphalt. (Laughter.) It was the most confounded muck that ever was laid down. (Laughter.)

Mr. Deputy East moved to strike out the word "asphalt," and substitute the word

"wood." (Hear, hear.) He admitted that the committee had listened with great attention to what he had said on the subject, but the fact remained that only one gentleman in Houndsditch was in favor of asphalt. ("Name," Mr. Hopkins. (Laughter.) He thought such a strong feeling on the part of the ratepayers ought to be considered by the Commission.

Mr. E. Bell seconded the amendment, and complained that the petitioners had not been asked to attend the committee, who, he thought, would have convinced them of the desirability of aving the street with wood.

The chairman replied that there had been no discourtesy to the petitioners. The Clerk had adopted the usual course, and had written to the first gentleman whose name appeared on the petition, Mr. DeRies.

After an animated discussion the amendment, on being put, was lost, and the report agreed to. —*Timber Trades Journal.*

Black Gum.

A gentleman just returned from New York says he noticed there a very pretty furniture wood, of a greenish color, close grain, with here and there a streak of old gold running through it, and asked its name. He was told that it was olive wood, he asked further questions and was finally told that that the olive wood is made of black gum brought from southern swamps. The manufacturers claim for it a beauty of fibre and of polish, and a cheapness, which makes it one of the best known woods for the manufacture of furniture. Now, as this southern country abounds in black gum, here is a source of wealth not before noted. Day by day such discoveries are made. The new uses of magnolia wood in making shooks have been commented upon. Southern ash also has quite a run in the handle factories recently established. In very truth, southern forests offer extra inducements to manufacturers, and no doubt this fact will very soon find its way into the brains of northern capitalists. —*American Lumberman.*

Building Exhibition.

The 5th annual building exhibition which opened at Islington, London, Eng., on the 24th ult., closed on April 5th. Speaking of it, the *Timber Trades Journal* says:

"The value of these exhibitions and their beneficial effect on the trades interested in them cannot be over-estimated. They form a ready means of bringing manufacturers and buyers into communication, and they are interesting as showing the improvements introduced in the manufacture of the materials employed for the exterior and interior embellishment of buildings.

Sanitary science has received great attention in recent years, and the most approved methods for rendering our homes free from impure air was a leading feature in this exhibition.

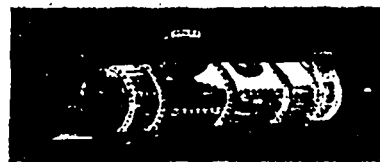
Force of Wind Storms.

A striking proof of the force of the wind storms in December and January last was afforded in the 2nd week in March at the annual sale of timber on the Clumber-Park and Workop Manor estates of the Duke of Newcastle. The catalogue contained no fewer than 67 lots, which included 2,612 trees which had been uprooted in Clumber Park, and 673 trees and 159 poles blown down in Workop Manor. Among these were between 600 and 700 oaks, many of noble dimensions. No previous storm has ever proved so destructive in this district.

Advice to Mothers.

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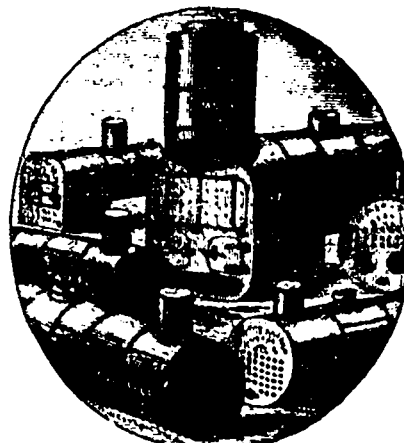
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