

## AXE AND SAW COMPETITIONS.

At the annual meeting of the Australasian Axemen's Association held at Sprent, Tasmania, Australia, on July 21, 1900, a feature of much interest was the international teams' matches, inaugurated for the purpose of giving British manufacturers an opportunity to prove that they could make tools of quality equal to those made by their successful rivals, the American manufacturers. The result is given in the Australasian Ironmonger, as follows: In the axes, the beautiful gold medal given by the association was won by W. Hunt & Sons (Brade's Ltd.), England, with "Plumb" axes, America second. Several other American and English makers showed up wonderfully well, and the final between England and America created intense excitement. This great win for the home land should largely help to bring English axes into favour again. The gold medal for saws was contested for by only the three great American firms, Disstons, Simonds and E. C. Atkins, and the Atkins saws scored a meritorious victory, the Simonds being second. The correctness of this decision has come out in a marked degree during the months since the sports, for the Atkins saws used in the contest, having been distributed among professional sawyers, have won splendid unsolicited testimonials for their cutting powers and all round quality. The gold medals for files and axe handles were both won by American firms.

## RUSSIAN SAW MILL PRACTICE.

A CORRESPONDENT of the American Lumberman says: There is very little in the handling of logs in a Russian saw mill to distinguish it from similar institutions in Europe, although it is usually vastly different from the modern American band mill, with its many labor-saving appliances—not all of which, it must be admitted, are material-saving as well. Probably the most universal implement for reducing logs to thin lumber is the saw frame or gang through which the entire log is fed without first reducing it to a cant. The resulting boards are often piled and seasoned with the outer bark upon them. They are usually edged, however, before being transported to any considerable distance. In some of the remote portions of Russia the old primitive pit saw is still in use, one man standing upon the log and his fellow-workman in the pit underneath it, the saw being manipulated in an approximately vertical direction. It is only on the far Russian frontier, however, that this method is in vogue. Special forms of portable saw mills are, however, often used, a small gang frame on wheels being the more common type. Of course, a temporary timber foundation is constructed for it wherever it is set up.

The circular saw is also used to some extent for the cutting of logs into timber, but usually finds its greatest application in the different varieties of cut-off saws, edging-saws, slab-saws, etc. For the cutting of the more expensive

woods for cabinet-maker work the band saw is also coming into use, and one or two of the larger saw mills are already quite extensively equipped in this direction, some of them with machinery of American manufacture. Other devices, such as live rolls, etc., are also in use, and the various forms of planing machines correspond quite closely to ours, although for surfacing timbers they still retain the form in which the planing knives are set in the face of a circular disk which revolves horizontally upon the upper face of the timber. This form of planer is almost unknown in this country at the present time, although one was in use for surfacing timbers in Chicago as late as four or five years ago.

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