

TALKS WITH WOOD-WORKERS.

THE sensible advice is given that one of the best things a young fellow in the shop can do, or an old one either for that matter, is to learn to make sketches of different tools and devices in use, or of peculiar things that he sees in other shops. I often think of the opportunities for advancement, that are lost by workmen everywhere in not exercising the power of observation and of thought, as might be done. It is a bad lookout for any of us when we simply become machines in our work. As regards these proposed sketches they can be made roughly in a note book and will prove often a fund of knowledge to do good service in some future day. The ideas come to us all as we are at our work and it is a case of following the advice of Captain Cuttle; "When found make a note of it." Draftsmen it has been remarked could save the firm lots of work, by simply making a good neat sketch with correct figures instead of making an elaborate drawing for some small job that really does not want it.

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Do we realize that a good deal depends on ourselves how much we get out of a lathe, or any other machine for that matter? I have been struck with the difference in workmen. Some people, and they are not of a stingy disposition either, lay their plans so that a dollar goes much further with them than with others. So it is in handling men; if we handle a staff of men in the right way we will get, sometimes, 50% more work out of them, and yet not be nigger drivers. The inanimate machine is susceptible of the same kind of handling. A lathe can be run to an economical limit, or it may give very poor service. Speaking of a lathe a writer has said that a comparatively slow speed of cutting, (a slow running of lathe) and a heavy cut with a moderately quick feed, will give good results in most cases. What applies to the lathe applies to all classes of work, each kind of work being tried separately for best results.

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Pony planers, we are told by a writer on this subject, should never be belted with the countershaft directly under the machine, as it gives too short a belt. A perpendicular belt will always slip and will never have the same power as a belt at an angle or a horizontal belt, therefore the countershaft should be arranged at an angle of 45 degrees to the cylinder which it is to drive. Then we have an easy running belt. For the ordinary pony planer most mill men prefer to have the countershaft at the out-feeding end of machine. The reason is the belt to the cylinder is easier gotten at, the loose pulley gets better attention, &c.

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"Considerable has been said about babbitting planer cylinder arbors," says a writer in the Woodworker, "whether it is best to babbitt directly on the arbor or have a dummy to babbitt on. I have contended for the latter way. A few days ago parties from a large dressing mill brought in an arbor for me to true up. They said it rattled badly. Putting it on the centers of the lathe I found it out one-sixty-fourth inch. That is a good deal. We sprung it back true, run the tool over it, and polished it nicely. Before night they came back saying it was not true yet. Putting it on the centers I found it "out" again. "Have you habbitted?" I asked "Yes, we had to; it run too loose a fit." "Well, you have sprung it." I straightened it again, perfectly, and told them to rub red lead and oil on the arbor, put it in the boxes carefully and revolve it a little, then take it out and scrape where the lead showed on the box. This they did and it has been all right since. The bearing was two inches diameter, 10 inches long, made of machinery steel. I think the dummy arbor and scraping is the only correct way, particularly with 4,000-turn arbors on fast-feed planers."

JAS.

LEGAL DECISION.

MUSKOKA MILL AND LUMBER CO. V. McDERMOTT.—The Court of Appeal holds that the legal right of a license of timber limits under a license issued by the Ontario Crown Lands Department ceases (except as to matters specially excepted by the Act) at the expiration of the license, and there is no equitable right of renewal capable of being enforced against the Crown, or sufficient to uphold a right of action for trespass

committed after the expiration of the license and before the issue of a renewal. The insertion in an expired license of a lot omitted by error does not confer upon the licensee such a title as enables him to maintain an action for trespass committed on the omitted lot.

LUMBER DISCUSSION IN THE LEGISLATURE.

AT the meeting of the Local Legislature on 19th April, on motion to go into committee of supply Mr. Miscampbell, member for East Simcoe, and ex-lumberman of Midland, Ont., moved:—

This House disapproves of the large expenditures which are made annually by the Crown Lands Department for surveys, amounting to upwards of \$35,000 per annum, and of the sums paid by that department to unnecessary crown lands agents, and it regrets that the executive and the department persist in the practice of disposing of the crown timber reserves of the province without consulting or obtaining the approval of the representatives of the people in this House, and wholly fail to take any adequate steps for preserving the standing timber, and especially the smaller trees, from unnecessary waste and destruction; and this House deplors the improvidence which characterizes the management and disposal of the timber upon those reserves which has destroyed in many parts of the country the saw milling industries which flourished, and has transferred the business which they formerly carried on, to the state of Michigan, and other states of the neighboring republic, and is fast depriving the province of its most valuable asset, and one, if adequately and intelligently cared for, safe-guarded and managed, would continue to furnish a large revenue to the province for years to come, but which, as now mismanaged, is rapidly disappearing.

Speaking to the resolution Mr. Miscampbell said there was no question but that it would be admitted the timber limits of the province formed one of their most valuable assets. It was believed this timber was rapidly disappearing. In various parts of the province, instead of a flourishing industry, what did they find? That whereas sawmills had existed in the past, these had closed down and their owners had now to devote themselves to other occupations. As to the amount of timber taken away, whether that was large or small, every foot carried out of the country was an injury to the province. The cost of taking out the logs was about \$5 or \$6, and in order to realize a profit after coming from the mills the lumber must be sold at \$11 per thousand feet. There was a clear difference of \$5 that would have been expended in this country if the logs were manufactured here. Other industries depended upon the lumber business. There were the railways, for instance, to whom the carrying would prove most profitable. It was said if they prohibited the export of logs the United States would retaliate, but in this resolution they asked for nothing that would interfere with a dollar of vested rights. They asked that the Government should husband the resources of the province, and make it a condition that the timber should be manufactured in this country. If this course was taken they would have Saginaws and Bay Citys on the north shore of lake Huron. It was easy enough to understand the era of prosperity that would then set in. He maintained that for every thousand feet of lumber that was manufactured outside the country employment was lost to one man, or in other words, a family of five individuals, who would otherwise be living here, were settled elsewhere. As an argument to show the timber was becoming rapidly exhausted, he mentioned that some years ago the size of the sawlog cut was 160 feet, whilst to-day it was down to 100 feet to the piece. One reason advanced for selling the timber was that the manufacturers wanted timber. Was it not a peculiar fact, however, that 33 per cent. was lying unused. What other construction could be put upon that than it was being held by speculators until the price went up.

Mr. Conmee, representing west Algoma, an important lumber district, replied that the resolution amounted to an assertion that the timber of the country should be used merely for home consumption. Yet Mr. Miscampbell had enlarged on the benefits of the lumber trade. If the timber had not been cut in the past where would Ottawa and the other lumber towns be? The timber near James' Bay has been the property of the Province for years and has been of no value, because development has not approached it, and so with the timber now standing. Mr. Conmee then referred to the way in which the northern district has been gradually filling up with settlers under the present system. It would be wrong to tie up the timber of the country; it should be

used to keep the mills going in the country. A Chinese policy of repressing the industry would drive still more of the people away to the American side in order to seek for work. He was against putting restrictions on the trade of the Province; he would leave the people free to make the most of the natural capabilities of the country. If the present Government had a fault it was in being too chary in disposing of the timber. One might as well ask them for gold as for timber. Mr. Conmee then referred to the ravages which fires commit, and declared that if not cut it would be in danger of being burnt and being a total loss. As for the smaller logs now cut, it could be explained by the fact that the recent improvements in the lumber business, together with the regulations of the Government, have made it profitable to cut and use smaller logs than before.

Hon. Mr. Bronson, a member of the Cabinet, without portfolio, and of the extensive lumber firm of Bronson & Weston, of Ottawa, in rising to discuss the question was obliged to defend himself against a charge made by Mr. Whitney, that as the holder of 28 timber licenses all of which were held by the sanction of the government, he had no right to be a member of that government. Mr. Bronson denied that he or his firm had ever bought a foot of timber limits from the Government. Every foot that they had secured had been bought from third parties. All transactions which his firm had had were in the ordinary way of trade, and he was unaware of any discrimination having been exercised in his favor. Indeed, Mr. Whitney had been very careful to make no actual charges against him. As a matter of fact the timber dues were fixed, not shifting or dependent on the will of the Government. Nay, so far was he from having profited, that, since he had become a member of the Government, the dues on timber sold had been advanced 33 per cent. If he had had any influence, it evidently had been in the interests of the Province, not of the lumbermen. Mr. Bronson then remarked that the lumber interests of the Province are very great, and the Government might easily find the presence of a practical lumberman in its councils of some use, and any influence he may exert would be exerted in the interest of the Province. Speaking directly to Mr. Miscampbell's resolution, Mr. Bronson asked, What would be the result of adopting the policy suggested in regard to the timber of the Province, viz., the building of a Chinese wall around that timber? Such a policy would prostrate the industries of the country and inflict upon them a blow which they would not recover from for years. In timber, as in every other part of the vegetable kingdom, there is a period of growth, of maturity and of decay; there comes a time when it should be marketed, or it would decline in value. The Government's policy has been to market it as soon as the proper time comes. At the last timber sale some of the timber sold was on the point of deterioration, and would have been injured by being kept any longer. Mr. Bronson then questioned the statement that the keeping of the timber in the country would result in cities like Bay City, Saginaw, etc., growing up on the Canadian shores of the great lakes. The trade depends on the American market; only the best can be sent to Europe, and a great deal of low-grade timber must be cut and must be sold by Canadian lumbermen. But if the timber were kept in the country this market would disappear, and the country would suffer. He reminded the House that once the announcement that an export duty would be charged by the Dominion Government stopped a sale, as the lumbermen would not, under those circumstances, give the Provisional Government a sufficient bonus. He touched on the danger of fire, and said he could show hundreds of miles where timber that should have been cut years ago had been burned. The export duty would cause the mills to be shut down. The assertion that the manufacture of lumber in this country would lead to prosperity depended upon the United States allowing the Canadians to send them lumber free of duty after the export duty had been charged, which Mr. Bronson doubted. The closing down of the mills would inevitably result from the imposing of such a policy as Mr. Miscampbell advocated.

The resolution was defeated by a considerable majority.