

DRYING THICK MAPLE.

A gentleman who, because of great experience, is considered a good authority on drying all kinds of hardwoods, gives to the Wood-Worker his views regarding the drying of 2-inch hard maple. He says:

"In regard to kiln drying 2-inch hard maple, I will try and give as clearly as possible the method used by myself for several years, with good success. In the first place, much depends on the condition of the lumber to be dried in regards to its being green or partly dry, as each condition requires different treatment. Then also much depends upon the type of dry-kiln—whether a blast or dead-heat drier. Not knowing these conditions I cannot state as positively what is best, but will endeavor to give enough to enable him to make a selection.

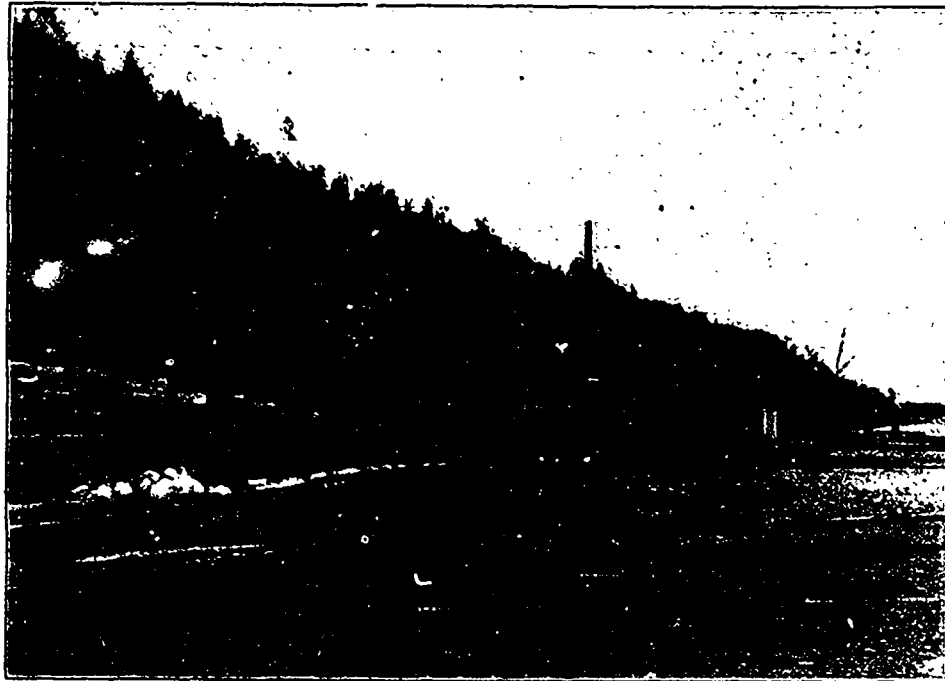
"In the first place, if the lumber is green, it would be greatly benefited by a live steam bath in a tight room, of from three to five hours. This loosens all the sap and leaves the pores open for the water and sap to flow out from the center, but after this steam bath a fan should be turned on to circulate the air, with a moderate heat at first, say 115 degrees. This will prevent staining the lumber, and if done well you will be surprised to see how soft and bright your lumber comes out—equal to any air-dried in regard to softness and much brighter in color, yet dry as a bone and free from honeycomb and checks. The fan should be kept going until the air gets fairly dry again, then repeat the steaming, only on a small scale, or just enough to moisten the outside of the lumber and keep the pores open until the center is dry, for that is what we are after; for if the center of the board is dry you can dry the outside without damage.

"If the steam baths are used properly 2-inch maple could be dried in from nine to twelve days, thoroughly, but that would require strict attention to do it well. You would get best results by not using over 130 degrees, and from 115 degrees to that for a few days, then increase at the last as the lumber gets dry enough to stand it, when it may be raised to 160 degrees. The steaming must be regulated by judgment and examination of the lumber, but it would be safe to use a light steam bath once a day for about half an hour for three or four days. The first bath must be to thoroughly steam the lumber; the others merely to keep the outside from drying too fast—only to moisten the air. If a hot blast kiln, where a thorough steaming is not practicable, you can have a steam jet come up in front of each blast pipe so as to moisten the air as it goes through the lumber. This tends to sweat the lumber and draw out the sap, although not as thoroughly or quickly as a thorough steaming.

"I have dried thousands of feet of 4-inch maple this way, in twenty days, free from checks, and bright as a dollar. The old tight-box kiln with heat pipes is not to be considered, because

that only bakes lumber as hard as a brick and checks it if at all green, unless dried very slowly. One of the best kilns for green, heavy stock is where you can run a track through it long enough to hold, say eight or ten cars from 4 to 6 feet wide so as to pile the lumber with edge to the blast. Load your cars outside and start at extreme end from entrance of blast, then let cars down each day until the kiln is full, when by proper management you can take out a car each day and put one in; thus the green stock is not subjected to the heat until it is laden with moisture and the degree of heat reduced. Much care should be taken to pile the stock to insure free ventilation.

"There is one thing I fear is a drawback to the best results in drying lumber, and that is most people think any man about the place can operate a kiln. But that is a mistake. If you want best results get a man of good judgment who understands something of the nature of wood and the effect of heat on the fibers. Another thing that is very injurious, especially to hardwood, is the cooling down of the kilns. If drying green lumber, the



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heat should be kept on it constantly until dry. Lumber nearly dry will stand it, and some soft woods will stand it, but not green hardwoods. By careful watching and care the time might be reduced to eight days, but that can be determined only by practice.

"I hope this may prove satisfactory to your correspondent. If it is not clear I should be pleased to explain more in detail if he will give conditions and the results he wishes to attain, since what is dry enough for one is not always right for another."

There is reason to believe that a large pulp mill will be established in British Columbia in the near future by Toronto capitalists. The carrying out of the enterprise is said to be dependent upon a satisfactory arrangement with the Government regarding the acquisition of the land, and it is thought that the Government will meet the wishes of the promoters. The proposed site is on the main-land opposite Queen Charlotte Sound, and the initial output will be 100 tons per day. One of the chief promoters is Mr. J. J. Palmer, president of the Toronto Type Foundry Company, who is represented in Vancouver by Mr. S. F. McKenzie.

QUESTIONS FOR BAND FILERS.

THE questions submitted have been taken upon from time to time, either directly or indirectly, but there are many bright, well informed filers that can add their quota to the sum of general information of these matters if they will do it, and it is hoped these questions will serve to draw out the practical experience of a number:

1. How best to cool and dress a brace; is, whether to gauge of saw or thinner, and why?
2. How to locate and remove a line twist?
3. Under what conditions are speeds of 3,000, 9,000, 10,000 or 11,000 feet per minute advisable for log bands?
4. What are reasonable limits for hook and pitch of back for hardwoods; and what for soft woods?
5. How near to each head of band-saw is expedient to tension?
6. Do you buy emery wheels to suit the speed of your sharpeners, or adapt the speeds of sharpeners to the grade of emery wheels, or pay no attention to the matter at all?

7. How do you shape the face and edge of your emery wheels, and why?

8. In what parts of your work does it pay you best to "work close?"

9. What has been your experience as to the comparative merits of file side-dresser and swage shaper?

10. To what extent do you depend upon use of cross-feed or tilt?

11. How much tension do you back do you run in your saws, say for 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14-inch widths?

12. What devices do you employ for cleaning the wheels?

13. What defects do you observe in saws fresh from the makers?

14. When you increase or diminish the hook or depth of spacing of teeth or speed of

saws, why do you do it?

15. When does a band saw become unprofitable to run; that is, what is its limit of life?

16. What do you consider the best material for guide pins?

17. When does a band resaw outclass a circular resaw?—Millman, in Wood-Worker.

THE GLASGOW EXHIBITION.

The following information regarding exhibits at the forthcoming Glasgow exhibition will be of interest to intending exhibitors: There will be no charge for space to exhibitors. Accepted exhibits, packed in strong cases, must be delivered at the exhibitor's expense at the exhibition board, not later than March 15th, to be shipped to Glasgow by the Canadian commission, free of charge. An exhibitor will be permitted to transfer his allotment or allow any other than his own duly accepted exhibits to be placed thereon. All goods must be exhibited in the name of the person or firm who signed the form of application. Space not occupied thirty days previous to the opening of the exhibition will be forfeited, and allotted at the discretion of the commission. No stand, including signboards, may exceed twelve feet in height, without special permission. The commission will bear cost of transportation of all exhibits from the ports of Montreal, Quebec, Halifax, St. John and Portland, direct to Glasgow by steamer.