

plainly that it is possible to produce a great many valuable products from sawdust and waste material. At the present time the high cost of labor is an obstacle in utilizing such material. We know that some manufacturers have investigated the prospects for a factory to utilize short blocks cut off the lumber by the trimmers and pieces of slabs and edgings that are too small for lath, but when the expense incurred in picking out the material and curing it was considered, it was difficult to show a margin of profit in the present condition of the labor market. Other manufacturers have put in machinery to manufacture piece stock out of hardwood slabs, but as the highest price for clear piece stuff is about \$10 per thousand feet at the mill, little encouragement is offered and the manufacturer feels inclined to burn the material.

The waste is proportionately greater in the manufacture of hardwoods than of the coniferous woods, but there seems to be a larger field for disposing of by-products of hardwood waste. Many hardwood specialties find a ready market both at home and abroad. In Michigan hardwood slabs are converted into slack barrel staves and heading to advantage. The slabs are dropped over a slasher, which cuts them into lengths corresponding to the desired length of staves, which is from 30 to 35 inches. The short slabs are then bored, and by means of a conveyor are forwarded to the stove machine, which works automatically and makes staves any width from 1½ to 3 inches, depending upon the width of the bolt. The heading for these barrels is also a slab product; the slabs are sawed to the proper length, and an ordinary slab resaw makes the heading.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

In compiling statistics concerning the lumber industry the United Government has evidently been no more successful than has the Dominion Government. Many of the statistical tables issued from the Government bureau are of a misleading character. The United States census of 1900 undertakes to give figures representing the value of the timber stumpage of the country. The highest average given to white pine is \$4 per thousand. This is somewhat below the actual value, but fancy a price of \$5 per thousand being placed on walnut stumpage. Reliable statistics are doubtless valuable, but it seems almost impossible to make correct estimates by means of any system that has yet been adopted. The consumer of lumber who per chance glances at the figures representing the stumpage values of the different woods, as given in the census returns, will indeed conclude that he has contributed too much to the prosperity of lumbermen.

The news comes from Berlin that the German customs authorities will in future require certificates of origin in the case of American grain. This is regarded as a retaliatory slap at Canada for having granted preferential duty on British goods coming into this country. The Dominion should now demand a certificate of origin in the case of all imports from Great Britain. This would have the effect of shutting out large quantities of German goods which now

find their way into Canada as British imports and get the benefit of the preference which was intended to apply only to British manufactures. The statement is made on what appears to be good authority, that many German manufactured goods are shipped into England, where the assembling of the parts is done, after which the goods are exported to Canada and receive the benefit of the preference. At present there is nothing to prevent such a practice either by Germany or other countries. Means should be adopted to prevent the preference being accorded to any but bona fide British goods.

The insurance companies have contended for some time that the premiums paid for fire insurance by the lumber and shingle mills of British Columbia were too low in comparison to the risks. Several prominent European and American companies, unable to secure unanimity in raising the rates, recently refused to renew their risks. The remaining companies have issued a new schedule, under which well-constructed and properly-protected mills will be accepted at the old rate and higher premiums charged for faulty construction. It is said that the increase will in some cases be equal to 50 per cent. The mill men are not opposed to the proposed method of grading the risks, but they claim that the average premium is excessively high. It is not improbable that some of the mills will either carry their own insurance or take out a policy with one of the lumber mutual insurance companies in the Eastern States. The National Wholesale Lumber Dealers' Association some time ago made an investigation regarding the ratio of losses to premiums paid on lumber risks, and they were shown to be only about 17 per cent. Lumbermen in the United States have also encountered higher rates of insurance. The question was discussed at a meeting of the Box and Box Shook Manufacturers' Association in Milwaukee last month, when it was pointed out that the rates had been advanced so that for a risk taken last year at \$3.50 a rate of \$5.10 was now demanded. Reference was made to the Lumber Underwriters, of New York, and the Lumbermen's Mutual, of Boston, which have paid large dividends to their stockholders, sentiment being in favor of taking insurance with these companies.

#### RULES FOR LUMBER CAMPS.

The regulations to govern employers of labor and employees in unorganized districts of Ontario, with a view to preventing another smallpox epidemic, have been issued by Dr. Bryce, Secretary of the Provincial Board of Health. The regulations follows:

Shantymen, miners and other employees of lumbering camps, mining camps, saw-mills, smelting works and other industries or any railway construction camp, are hereby notified and cautioned by the Provincial Board of Health, under the Act respecting the sanitary regulations in unorganized territories. It is required:

1. That all owners, managers, agents or foremen, or other persons in charge, employ only vaccinated persons; that all employees

are equally required to comply with the regulations.

2. That all employers of labor shall contract with a medical practitioner for their employees and works and are authorized to deduct from the pay due to any employee a sum not less than 50 cents and not exceeding \$1.00 per month.

3. That a hospital for the care of the sick must be provided by every employer, and that the men are entitled not only to regular treatment therein, but also to have the camps and surroundings inspected regularly and maintained in good sanitary condition.

That failure on the part of any person to comply with any regulation of the Provincial Board of Health renders him liable to the penalties provided in the Act.

#### THE TRUE SITUATION.

Unless the signs fail the mill men of British Columbia may confidently look forward to no distant time when the local demand and the demand from the eastern portions of Canada will take from them all their output. One who looks over the great areas yet undeveloped in Canada cannot fail to be impressed with their promise for the future. With a population of less than six millions, but with a country capable of sustaining ten times as many, nothing but rapid growth can be anticipated. These vast unsettled areas will be peopled by a class of heavy timber consumers. It is in the northern latitudes that lumber is a necessity. In the warmer climates it is more of a luxury. The great timber belts of British Columbia and Eastern Canada will prove valuable preserves for their owners. The legislation that now prevents the logger in British Columbia from exporting his logs—though instigated by selfishness—will by time be proven to be wise and beneficent. The restrictive laws in the United States will doubtless be continued and will be offset in a great degree by kindred laws in Canada. The spirit of independence in Canada is growing and the desire for annexation dying out. A future day may develop a more liberal policy in the exchange of trade, but now trade seems to set toward selfishness in national law. In the growth of the cargo trade of this coast the British Columbia lumberman must always share. It is probable that an over-production will soon be felt and some time may be needed to re-adjust the demand to the supply, but that condition is always to be anticipated and is, perhaps, in a measure wholesome and curative. The British Columbia mill man is, as a rule, more conservative than his competitor south of the great international divide. He is not slow to invest, as many large plants attest. He is loth to adopt new methods until they are no longer new. The logging engine and the band mill he accepts after mature and lengthy consideration. But the leaven in the lump is at work, and the spirit of the new century is permeating the land from the Crow's Nest to Comox.—West Coast and Puget Sound Lumberman.

A buyer can always be found for your lumber product, second hand machinery, or logging equipment by offering it for sale through the CANADA LUMBERMAN. The Wanted and For Sale Department is for this purpose.