

If those of our subscribers who are in arrears would only be a little more prompt in sending their remittances they would confer on us a great favor. The amounts are mostly small, but they are scattered all over the Dominion, amounting to many thousands of dollars. We could use the money to good advantage in getting out a better paper, if they would only send in the amounts due us. We dislike to be "duhning" but then it has sometimes to be "dun" you know.

AFTER a close investigation of the Henderson Lumber Company, of Montreal, the firm has been declared to be insolvent. In view of the circumstances Mr. Justice Wurtle has granted the petition for a winding up order. The liabilities of the firm will not exceed \$180,000, the Ontario Bank being the principal creditor. At a meeting held May 30th, Mr. F. Riddell was appointed liquidator and Mr. W. W. Chipman for the Ontario Bank, Mr. Rowley for the Eddy Manufacturing company, of Hull, Mr. John Ostell, Mr. C. H. Walters and Selkirk Cross were appointed inspectors.

THE black birch which is rapidly coming into favor, is a close-grained and very handsome wood, and can be easily stained exactly to resemble walnut. It is just as easy to work, and is suitable for nearly if not all the purposes to which black walnut is at present applied. Birch is of much the same color as cherry, but the latter wood is now very scarce, and consequently dear. When properly stained, it is almost impossible to distinguish the difference between cherry and walnut. In the forests throughout Ontario birch grows in abundance, especially if the land is not too boggy. There is a great difference in the wood of different sections. Where the land is high and dry the wood is firm and clear, but if the land is low and wet, the wood has a tendency to be soft and of a bluish color. In all the northern regions it can be found in great abundance, and as the trees grow to a great size, little trouble is experienced in procuring it in large quantities.

WE are pleased to note that the affairs of Smith, Wade & Co., of Quebec, are in a fair way of settlement, and that the firm will be permitted to continue business. The following letter has been published by Mr. Powis, one of the principal creditors: "Inasmuch as certain statements with reference to Messrs. Smith, Wade & Co's financial position have appeared in the public press, I think it right, as representing one of the largest secured creditors and as charged with negotiating an arrangement, to say that any embarrassment of the firm arises from excessive purchases preventing the completion of their usual arrangements. A draft agreement has been prepared providing for the business being carried on as usual and affording means of realizing the stock and assets, which, at cost, exceeded the liabilities, in the usual course of business, and the distribution of the proceeds among the creditors. The leading financial institution of the country and the leading local bank have signed the agreement, and the largest private creditors have given their adhesion to it, but for the last week it has been awaiting the signature of the Union bank, which though not refused, has not been given, and with them must rest the responsibility of the stoppage of the present negotiations and the widespread distress and loss that would result to the Quebec trade and probably the needless liquidation of this old established Quebec firm."

A LARGE and representative gathering of northwestern lumber manufacturers convened at Minneapolis, Minn., last week, to discuss the situation of trade with especial reference to prices. Some fifty or sixty firms were represented at the meeting, and it was voted to advance prices on common grades ten per cent. The most important action of the meeting was to commence the work of securing for the northwest and Mississippi valley uniformity of grades, uniformity in the nomenclature of grades, and uniformity in the thickness that listed lumber shall be cut, as a means that would ultimately bring about a better condition in prices. There was a strong feeling that the situation might be improved by withdrawing the traveling men from the road for a period of thirty or sixty days, and the com-

mittee to whom was entrusted the work of attempting to secure uniform grades, was also charged with the duty of attempting to secure the signatures of three-fourths of the manufacturers in a prescribed territory to withdraw their traveling men, the action to be binding when the signatures of the requisite number is secured. It is evident from the action taken, that the lumber industry in the northwest is not in a healthy condition, and that the price of the manufactured product is out of all proportion to the cost of production and the price of stumpage.

#### HARDWOOD INSPECTION.

The lumber section of the Toronto Board of Trade, at a meeting held during the past month, adopted the hardwood inspection compiled by the committee appointed for that purpose. The members of the committee have devoted much time and thought to the preparation of this inspection, and it is to be hoped that it will be generally accepted by the trade throughout the country as a basis for determining the value of the various grades of hardwood lumber placed on the market. The pine inspection, which has been compiled by the same committee, has also been submitted for approval, but will not be taken up by the lumber section until June 2nd. The following is the report as adopted, touching upon hardwoods only:

It is impossible to make rules that will govern every piece of lumber, there being no two pieces of lumber exactly alike; it is therefore expected that the Inspector shall be a person of experience, and use his best judgment—based upon the general rules given; making no allowance for the purpose of raising or lowering the grades of a piece.

The Inspector must not favor either the buyer or seller, but take lumber as he finds it, and pass upon each piece the grade to which it belongs. Inspectors should examine all lumber on the poorest side, except flooring. All lumber must be measured in even lengths, excepting stock that is cut to order, for special purposes, when it shall be measured for the full contents. Bark or wane pieces shall be measured inside the bark or wane. All tapering pieces will be measured one-third the length of the piece from the small end.

All badly cut lumber shall be classed as Cull, or placed one grade below what it would be if properly manufactured. All lumber shall be sawed thick enough to meet the required thickness when seasoned. Lumber sawed for newels, columns, balusters, axles, or other specific purposes, must be inspected with a view of the intended use of the piece, and the adaptability for that purpose, as in most of cases it cannot be utilized for other purposes. Heart pieces are excluded from all grades above Cull. Worm holes are considered one of the most serious defects. Gum spots in Cherry is a defect, and if excessive, will lower the piece one or two grades. Warped, twisted, stained and stick-rotten lumber shall either be classed as Cull or Mill Cut and refuse.

The standard lengths of Whitewood to be 12, 14 and 16 feet, admitting 10 per cent. of 10 feet lengths; Walnut and Cherry, 10, 12, 14 and 16 feet lengths, admitting 10 per cent. of 8 feet; 8 feet to be admitted as No. 1, must be 12 inches wide and upwards; to grade as No. 2, 8 inches wide and upwards.

A standard knot must not exceed 1 and 1-2 inches diameter, and must be sound. Log Run shall be the unpicked run of the log, Mill Cull out. Lumber sold on grade, and without special contract, will be measured according to these rules. The Inspector will be required to keep a correct copy of all measurements, and give duplicate of same, to both buyer and seller if required.

In all grades mentioned as combined in No. 1 and 2. All pieces less than 8 inches shall be considered as seconds.

#### RULES FOR INSPECTION OF HARDWOOD LUMBER.

**Black Walnut.**—Combined grade of first and seconds, Rejects and Shipping Culls. No. 1, from 8 to 10 inches, shall be clear of all defects; 10 to 16 inches wide, may have 1 and 1-2 inches bright sap or 1 standard knot; 16 inches wide and upwards, may have two inches bright sap or two standard knots, showing on one side only. Seconds.—6 inches wide and upwards,

must be clear of all defects at 7 inches; at 10 inches will admit 1 and 1-2 inches sap, or 2 standard knots, 10 to 16 inches wide will admit of two inches sap, or 2 standard knots; 16 inches wide and upwards, may have 3 inches sap, or 3 standard knots; 12 inches wide and upwards, will admit of a split, if straight, 1-6 the length of the piece, provided the piece be equal to No. 1 in other respects. Not over 10 per cent. of seconds will be taken with splits of the above character.

**Rejects.**—5 inches wide and upwards; at 7 inches, may have 1 inch sap or 1 standard knot, 7 to 12 inches wide, may have 2 inches sap or 2 sound knots, 12 to 18 inches wide, may have 4 inches sap or 4 sound knots, above 18 inches, may have 5 inches bright, sound sap. **Shipping Cull** will include all lumber not equal to the above, that will average and work 2-3 its width and length.

**Cherry and Butternut.**—Will be graded and inspected according to the rules given for Black Walnut, with the exception of gum specks in Cherry.—See instructions.

**Whitewood, Cottonwood or Balm of Gilead.**—Will include the combined grade of first and seconds—No. 1 Common, No. 2 Common, or Shipping Cull. The combined grade of first and seconds shall not be less than 65 per cent. of No. 1. No. 1 shall be 10 inches wide and upwards and clear of all defects at 12 inches, 12 to 15 inches may have 1 and 1-2 inches bright sap or 1 standard knot—showing on one side only, 15 to 18 inches, may have 2 inches sap; 18 inches and upwards may have 3 inches sap or two standard knots, showing on one side only.

**Seconds.**—8 inches wide and upwards, clear of all defects at 9 inches, at 10 inches wide, may have 1 standard knot or a split not over 12 inches long, 15 to 18 inches wide may have 2 standard knots, or 3 inches bright sap, 18 to 22 inches may have 3 standard knots or 4 inches bright, sound sap.

**No. 1 Common,** shall be 6 inches wide and upwards, bright, sound and clear sap, not a defect in this grade, 8 to 12 inches wide, may have 3 standard knots, 12 to 16 inches wide, 4 standard knots, 16 to 24 inches, 5 standard knots, or may have straight heart cracks not showing over 1-4 the length of the piece, if it have no other defect excepting bright sap.

**No. 2 Common or Shipping Cull,** will include lumber with more defects than the No. 1 Common. Pieces will be counted where 2-3 of the piece will be available for use for rough manufacturing purposes, stained sap or other defects will be counted in this grade, dotted and rotten sap, and other lumber than as above named, will be classed as Mill Cull or refuse, and have no standard value.

**Basswood** shall be inspected the same way as Whitewood, Cottonwood or Balm of Gilead, with the exception that Seconds will take lumber 6 inches wide and up.

**Ash and Oak** shall be graded as first and seconds, and 6 inches and over in width. Boards or Plank 8 inches wide will admit of one standard knot or one defect; 10 inches and over wide will admit of two or more defects, according to the width of the piece; bright sap is not considered a defect.

**Culls** include all widths, lengths and sizes, except such stock as will not work one-half without waste. Other than the above are classed as Mill Culls, and have no value in this market.

**Chestnut** shall be 6 inches and over in width, and clear up to 8 inches. Pieces 9 inches wide may have 3 standard knots, over 12 inches wide 4 standard knots. This grade must be absolutely free from worm or pin holes. Culls shall constitute all lumber below the above grade that will cut one-half without waste.

**Sycamore** shall be inspected the same way as Oak and Ash.

**Hickory** shall be inspected the same as Oak and Ash.

**Rock and Soft Elm** shall be 6 inches and up wide, and up to 10 inches shall be perfect. Beyond that width shall take the inspection given to Oak and Ash.

**Hard and Soft Maple** shall be inspected for first and seconds in the same manner as Oak and Ash.

**Clear Maple Flooring** shall have at least one clear face and, two edges also clear. Common Maple Flooring shall be of the same general character as clear, may have one or two small sound knots of not more than 3-4 of an inch in diameter, or a small wane on one edge, which, will not injure it for working its full size without waste.

**Birch** shall have the same inspection as Hard and Soft Maple, with the exception that sap is considered a defect more than in Maple.