

PETERBOROUGH.

SPERRY'S NEW SHINGLE MILL.

A few days ago a correspondent paid a visit to the new shingle mill of Mr. A. Sperry, which stands on the right bank of the Otonabee just above the locks. This establishment, which is one of the most perfect of its kind in the Province, was built last spring, and has been running but a few months. It has, however, turned out over three quarters of a million shingles in that time.

The mill itself is a two storey frame structure, 40 by 60 feet, with an engine-room wing on the south side, 25 by 35. A little bay running into the land is utilized for the purpose of holding logs for immediate consumption, and which would probably hold a drive of 2,000 logs. Further up the lake Mr. Sperry has other booms and enclosures sufficient to hold a whole summer's supply.

The machinery and appliances of this mill are all of the newest and most perfect kind. Beginning on the lower flat, the first feature is the huge engine—steam power is used alone, it being found necessary to burn up the waste sawdust and strippings. The engine is an Automatic Cut Off of seventy-five horse-power, with a driving wheel 8 feet in diameter, which, with a 16-inch double thick belt, drives the machinery. On the river side of the building is the slide, up which the logs are hauled by means of a strong chain winding round a shaft for the ordinary saw-mill principle. At the top of this slide, and but a few inches from it, is the cross-cut "drag-saw," where the rough timber is cut into convenient lengths and shipped per the revolving "elevator" to the second storey. The only other object worthy of note on the lower flat are the "conveyers." These are used for carrying the sawdust and strippings to the engine. The coarser waste stuff is pressed into bundles and sold for kindling.

On the second storey are five circular saws in all, and the lengths of log brought up the "conveyor" are subjected to four processes before they are turned over to the packer. They are first stripped of bark with axes, then trimmed, that is, reduced to the proper length—18 inches. From the trimmer they are taken, unless very small, to the "splitter," a second circular saw, when they are turned over, divided into quarters, and taken to the shingle machine. The shingle machine in Mr. Sperry's establishment is a very ingenious American patent called the "Hall" machine. It is greatly used in Michigan though not much in vogue yet in this country. The slant of the shingle is caused by a "fet-work" attachment by means of which the block is planted outwards and inwards as each strip is cut off. From the shingle machine the strips pass to the hands of the "edgers." Here two circular saws, hard at work, keep up with the pan of the shingle machine. The edgers put the last finishing touches on the shingles before they go to the packers—cutting off any frayed or bad part. The packing process is performed by boys with what are called "binders," which exert, by means of a lever, a tremendous pressure on the centre of the bunch, so that the binding cross-pieces can be firmly nailed with hoop iron.

The total capacity of the mill is 25,000 to 35,000 per day.

In reply to a question as to whether Peterborough was not rather far from the market, Mr. Sperry said no, he did not find it so. It was also very convenient to the point of supply. There is, he says, any amount of good timber for his purposes to be procured up the Otonabee.

The market for these shingles at present is Oswego. They are shipped at the mill on wagons to the Midland station, whence they are conveyed by rail to Port Hope and from that point per schooners to Oswego.

Mr. Sperry is going to add to his plant in the fall, and professes himself, so far, well satisfied with the success of his venture.

A FINE HARDWARE ESTABLISHMENT.

Peterborough has long been noted for having the finest stores, and its merchants for carrying the largest and best stocks to be found anywhere in the Province outside of Toronto, and it would seem that they now propose not only to outdo themselves, but eclipse the Queen city of the west. Quite recently Mr. George Stethem has

fitted up and moved into premises which we venture to think constitute the largest and best retail hardware establishment to be found in the Province—certainly there is none in Toronto to equal it. The store proper is 22 feet wide by 135 feet deep, with, like nearly all the stores in Peterborough, plate glass windows. The interior arrangements are as nearly perfect as one can imagine possible for the extensive business which Mr. Stethem's untiring energy and close attention to the wants of his various customers, have succeeded in building up. Some idea of the extensive character of the stock which Mr. Stethem carries may be formed when we state that not only is the main shop more than fully occupied, but that a good sized out-building has also to be used, while the large cellar underneath contained at the time of our visit about 70 barrels of different kinds of oils, coils of rope, &c. The second story was also fully occupied with the lighter goods kept in stock. In addition to keeping an unusually large and varied stock of ordinary hardware, Mr. Stethem is the sole agent in Canada for the celebrated Wetmore axes and scythes, Jewell's oak-tanned leather belting and Rangoon machinery oils. Having been brought up to the business, and giving the wants of his lumbering, agricultural and manufacturing customers his undivided attention for years, it is clear that what Mr. Stethem does not know about his line of business is not worth knowing. His thorough acquaintance with the wholesale markets and his connection with the manufacturers, enables him to buy closer and sell as cheap as any and much cheaper than most of his competitors. Everyone visiting Peterborough should take a run through Mr. Stethem's establishment even though they do not require anything at the time, and they will then realize how ample his stock is for filling orders on the shortest possible notice.

BLACK WALNUT.

A GLOOMY OUTLOOK FOR FURNITURE MEN.

A few years ago black walnut was a drug on the market, and was not at all popular with furniture manufacturers and dealers, but recently it has been so universally sought for and used so extensively for almost every kind of furniture, that latterly it has become very scarce, and now it is found next to impossible to obtain a sufficient supply to meet the increased demand, at almost any cost. An idea of its scarcity and value may be gained, when \$100 per thousand feet has been paid this year for the same quality and quantity of black walnut as could be purchased last year for \$70. The rapidity at which the supply has decreased is owing to the impetus the trade has received through the organization of a large number of extensive furniture companies in the United States. The immense number of sewing machines (the wood-work of which has been manufactured from black walnut) that have been annually turned out both in the States and in Canada, is one of the principal causes of the rapid consumption. A prominent dealer in the city stated to a *Globe* reporter that there are now ten anxious buyers distributed throughout the States to every one there was two years ago, and that there is more difficulty in procuring a few thousand feet of the precious lumber now than there was in securing half a million feet three years ago. When walnut first came to be used, it was obtained in large quantities from Port Stanley, the Counties of Kent, Essex and south Middlesex, and it also grew in abundance on the banks of the Thames River, Ont.; but now the Canadian supply is exhausted, and lately it has been obtained from the State of Indiana. There was such a great similarity between the wood of the two countries that manufacturers had no choice, and paid the same price for either. Since the Canadian supply has failed the immense drain on the forests of the State of Indiana has caused the supply to give out there, and now the walnut (which is of a lighter shade and consequently not so good) is obtained from the States of Arkansas, Kentucky, Kansas and South Tennessee.

Mr. Hay, of Toronto, states that when he first came to Canada walnut was used for

RAIL FENCES.

The principal value of walnut is that it is an excellent wood for furniture and is handsome

in appearance. It has a close grain, is not liable to be affected by changes of temperature, and at the same time is not hard to work, which renders it a very valuable timber economically. Another reason why it is so expensive is that it has to be hauled a great distance by teams before a railroad can be reached.

A SUBSTITUTE.

Butternut has been considered an excellent substitute for walnut, but as it can seldom be obtained without flaws, it will never fill the place of the time-honored walnut. Besides this it is also very scarce, and is gradually increasing in price.

Cherrywood, which is as enduring as walnut, and which has been rapidly growing in favor with furniture dealers, has doubled in price within the last two years on account of its scarcity.

THE REMEDY.

If walnut is not replanted at once, the outlook for good furniture in the future will be very dreary. If it were planted along the shores of Lake Erie or in the counties before mentioned, or in any part of the Province west of Ontario, in twenty years time it would pay 5,000 per cent., so says an old arboriculturist. In the meantime the prospect is gloomy in the extreme, and dealers look forward to a speedy and complete exhaustion of the supply.—*Globe*.

BUSH FIRES IN THE MICHIGAN PENINSULA.

There are fires in the woods along the entire route of the Jackson, Lansing and Saginaw railroad north of Kawkawlin, mostly light and smouldering, having burned out in many quarters without doing material damage to the timber, but at some points, where there had been lumbering operations last winter, or where there was considerable down timber, that which is standing has been so much affected that it will have to be lumbered during the coming winter. A strong wind coming from a different quarter than that which has prevailed for the past week would, unless we are favored with a heavy and general fall of rain throughout the burning district, result in immense damage to the timber in many quarters. As an experienced lumberman remarked, it seems as if there was a little fire on every section.

Standing upon Bald Hill, on the Manistee, a well known elevation in town 27, north of range 4 west, extensive fires can be seen both to the east and west. From Portage Lake, in town 26 north, range 4 west, heavy fires may be seen to the east, and immediately about the lake fires have swept through a considerable portion of the forest, doing much damage. Fires may be also seen both east and west from Grayling, on the Jackson, Lansing and Saginaw railroad, and one started up on Saturday in the immediate vicinity of that village, which threatened serious results, but was checked before it had made any considerable progress.

A fire was started on the Methodist camp grounds on Higgins' Lake last week by the men engaged in clearing up the premises, and it spread all through their twenty acre tract down into the lumber camps on the line of the Rose-common road, near the lake, and only by the hardest kind of work were the buildings saved. It spread also through considerable of the timber in the vicinity, is still burning, and a change of wind might make it decidedly warm for the sojourners, both at Saginaw and Burrows encampments, they having been already materially discommoded by the dense smoke, which for a week past has hung over that entire section.

Fires, seemingly in the heavy timber, could be seen on Saturday a long way to the east of Chequamegon, and at points all along the line from there to Terry Station; in some cases remote, in others in the immediate vicinity of the track, as at St. Helens, where the down timber in the marsh just beside the line is all burning up. There are fires at all points, and there is smoke everywhere. A good drenching rain would at this time be worth millions to the timber interest, as well as to all other interests in the lower peninsula of Michigan.—*Bay City Call*.

DR. FOWLER'S EXTRACT OF WILD STRAWBERRY cures all forms of bowel complaints in infants or adults. The most safe, pleasant and perfect remedy known. Purely vegetable and free from opiates or poisonous drugs.

BRITISH TRADE NOTES.

THE agents for one of the largest productions in the Baltic, we hear, have now received notice not to make any further sales just yet, as some doubts are entertained whether any further quantity can be delivered this year in addition to what is already contracted for. We understand the prices made by the stock in question—which was one of the first in the market to sell—compare most favorably with those now ruling.

We are pleased to learn that arrangements have lately been made between a house in Glasgow and a Canadian mill for a regular supply of pine doors and mouldings, this being a branch of the Dominion trade which we hope to see greatly developed.

We are informed that a largish parcel of Swedish lower Gulf whitewood battens was sold last week to a Hull firm, at £5 per standard, that had previously been offered unsuccessfully in the same neighborhood earlier in the year at £4 15s. This sale, we understand, cleared out the agent's stock for present shipment.

It is stated that the Continental demand has absorbed a good portion of the north of Europe stocks for f.o.w., and that the Colonial demand (including Australia and the Cape) has been unusually brisk this season. It is reported also that a much larger number of Swedish and Norwegian sailing vessels are taking wood to the north of France and other of the nearer ports of Europe this season than they have done heretofore. Most of these little ships, it seems, instead of calling at the coal ports to coal, proceed immediately after discharging the wood back to the Baltic in ballast. This relieves the freight market here of a good deal of tonnage.

Stocks of spars here are low, though prices continue somewhat weak; in comparison, however, they still show an improvement on those of last year. The sluggishness in the revival of these goods is partly attributable to the fact of their being much more come-at-able now than they used formerly to be, owing to the number of steamers engaged in the trade, which kept the port open during the winter, and render the chance of the market being run out very remote. Christiania are offering freely on the other side, and Petersburg are coming forward now, which will assist in keeping prices of this description from rising. The talk of a shortage on the supplies earlier in the season is hardly borne out in the result, and they seem to be forthcoming from somewhere as soon as ever there is an inquiry for them.

THE LAW IN NEW YORK.

The following law regarding the disposal of mill refuse, &c., has recently come into force in the State of New York, and will be of interest to all mill owners:—

CHAPTER 430.

An Act to amend chapter five hundred and thirty-four of the Laws of eighteen hundred and seventy-nine, entitled "An Act for the prevention of moose, wild deer, birds, fish and other game." Passed May 23, 1881; three-fifths being present.

The people of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:—

SECTION 1. Section twenty-five of chapter five hundred and thirty-four of the Laws of eighteen hundred and seventy-nine, entitled "An Act for the preservation of moose, wild deer, birds, fish and other game," is hereby amended so to read as follows:

SECTION 25. No person, association, company or corporation shall throw or deposit, or permit to be thrown or deposited, any dye stuff, coal tar, refuse from gas houses, sawdust, lime, or other deleterious substance, or cause the same to run or flow into or upon any of the rivers, lakes, ponds, streams, or any of the bays or inlets adjoining the Atlantic Ocean within the limits of this State. Any person who shall violate this section, or any member of any such company, association or corporation who shall authorize and direct any such violation, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and in addition thereto shall be liable to a penalty of fifty dollars for each offense. But this section shall not apply to streams of flowing or tide water, nor to the town of French Creek in Chautauque County, which constitutes the motive power of the machinery or manufacturing establishments, when it is absolutely necessary for the manufacturing purposes carried on in such establishments to run the refuse matter and material thereof into such stream.

IF YOU ARE SUFFERING with a cold do not fail to try HAYWARD'S PECTORAL BALM; it is daily relieving its hundreds throughout our Dominion. It is pleasant and palatable.