

NEW KIND OF STONE SAW.

A new sort of a saw for cutting stone is described in *La Semaine des Constructeurs*, which seems to have advantage over those now commonly in use, and is easily and cheaply made and operated. In place of the ordinary long steel blades, supplied with sand to enable them to grind their way into the stone, the new machine presents only a slender endless cord, composed of three steel wires twisted together, which is stretched over pulleys in such a way as to bring the lower portion horizontally over the stone to be cut. The frame carrying the pulleys is moveable, so that the cord can be brought into contact with the stone, or lifted away from it at pleasure, and the whole is kept in rapid motion, while water falling in drops from a reservoir above serves to moisten the stone. The three wires which form the saw differ from the ordinary kind in being square in section, and by twisting into a cord they are so turned as to present a succession of oblique cutting edges, which act, when set in motion, in nearly the same way as so many small chisels, while the rapidity with which the blows follow each other probably adds to the effect.—*Mississippi Valley Timberman*.

WOOD-WORKERS AND THE FIRE RISK.

Some months ago we made some comments on the enormous destruction of property entailed by fires throughout the United States, and since then many other journals have taken up the same subject as text for editorials. But it does not seem as if the warning or advice of the press has had much effect, for our monthly record of fires in saw mills and woodworking establishments is as long as ever, and as regards other lines of industry, the latest statistics show that the fires of the first six months in 1884, have been even more numerous and destructive than those of the preceding year. The losses by fire in the United States and Canada during September amounted to \$9,200,000, a larger loss than ever before recorded for the month. There were seventeen fires where the loss reached or exceeded \$100,000, among them being the \$1,000,000 fire in Cleveland. So far, the fires of 1884 have been at a rate which, if kept up until the end of the year, will make the year's fire loss foot up \$111,000,000.

A prominent manufacturer of woodworking machinery recently informed us that at least 30 per cent of his business consisted in replacing machines that had been ruined by fire.

And a very large part of this enormous loss is due to nothing but sheer carelessness in owners of property or their employees. In the list of fires given in this issue at least eight were palpably occasioned by such heedlessness, and if wood-workers, aware that they are surrounded by combustible materials, are yet so careless, it is likely that persons engaged in other industries not so obviously exposed to the fire risk are still more reckless.

The special feature of fires in woodworking establishments is that when once started they are rarely extinguished while anything remains on which the flames can feed. This is the rule even in the large cities and towns where the fire departments are most efficient, but the majority of woodworking factories, saw mills, etc., are situated in places where the means of extinguishing fire are only such as are provided by the owners of these establishments. Yet, as we have pointed out, the city woodworker is not much more secure from fire than his fellow in the country—when the flames have once started, and with both main reliance should be placed, first on precautions for preventing fire, and second on handy appliances for extinguishing a small blaze before it gets much headway.

Among the means of averting fires may be mentioned the enforcing of strict discipline among employees, the use of asbestos or other fire-proof compositions in places exposed to heat or sparks, and care in the arrangement of the furnaces and boilers, and in providing a good water supply.

But when in spite of these precautions the fire breaks out, the woodworker's handy appliances for promptly extinguishing the blaze must come into play. If provided with automatic

sprinklers and hand grenades or other portable weapons for fighting the flames, his property may be saved; but if his sole reliance in such an emergency consists in a few buckets that may or may not hold water, the chances are that his establishment will be converted into smoke and ashes before outside assistance can arrive.

It therefore seems to us that the woodworkers can find no more useful occupation for leisure hours than the examination of the various devices for extinguishing fires that are now in the market. There are many of them, and it is not our attention to call attention here to any one in particular. We are willing that he shall pay his money and take his choice, but we think the time has certainly come for making this choice.

Such at least is the impression we derive from the lengthening list of fires and the proposed general increase in insurance rates on factory property.—*Saw Mill Gazette*.

WARPING OF WOOD.

It is said that the wood on the north side of a tree will not warp as much as that from the south side, and that if trees are saved in places that run east and west, as the tree stood, it will warp less than if cut in the opposite direction. However this may be, it is certain that the tendency to warp when sawn into boards is much greater in green than in dry wood, and that the convex side of the curve was always toward the heart. This warping, due to unequal shrinkage, and to the more open texture of the external portion of the tree, is not found to occur in the middle plank or board of the log, excepting as it may in a slight degree reduce the breadth. This quality of not warping, which is in many cases indispensable for certain uses, as, for example, in the sounding boards of pianos, is secured in the case of spruce timber by first quartering the logs, and then sawing them with the angle downward. It is then sawed into boards very nearly at right angles with the line of annual growth, and a small triangular strip must be taken off to make the board square edged, but qualities of stability and strength are secured that could not otherwise be had.—*Canadian Manufacturer*.

QUEBEC CULLERS' OFFICE.

The following is a comparative statement of Timber, Masts, Bowspits, Spars, Staves, &c, measured and culled to date:—

	1882.	1883.	1884.
Waney White Pine.....	2,780,325	3,366,019	2,198,453
White Pine.....	7,080,997	7,124,101	3,688,744
Red Pine.....	1,446,674	475,601	327,735
Oak.....	1,149,452	1,851,024	772,042
Elm.....	701,026	309,261	658,812
Ash.....	263,481	257,023	410,458
Basswood.....	1,348	2,244	4,121
Butternut.....	2,639	1,028	1,260
Tamarac.....	51,788	7,409	19,113
Birch & Maple.....	268,333	138,603	201,289
Masts & Bowspits.....	53 pcs	— pcs	— pcs
Spars.....	51 pcs	— pcs	41 pcs
Std. Staves.....	368,112.27	677,30.15	93,61.12
W. I. Staves.....	1171.0.17	619,23.20	269,80.19
Brl. Staves.....	75,43.23	115,30.16	97.1.0

JAMES PATTON,

Quebec, Oct. 31.

Supervisor of Cullers.

ALGERIAN FORESTS.

The forests comprised in the colonized parts of Algeria include at the present time some 14,000,000 of trees, viz.: 6,019,011 large forest trees and 8,373,566 mulberries, resinous and ornamental trees. According to the official returns there are 278,325 hectares covered with cork oak, 605,622 with evergreen oak, 42,742 with cedar, while the remainder of the forest area is occupied by the tree known as oak-zeen. Aleppo pine, thuya, wild olive, eucalyptus, pistachio, locust bean, broom, etc. The majority of the cork trees are in the province of Constantine, fringing the coast line of La Calle and Bougie. Here also grows the oak-zeen, peculiar to Algeria, which resembles the white oak, but has a leaf like a chestnut. Some of these trees, and especially in the forest of Skira, on the Tunis frontier, grow to a colossal size, and are excellent for shipbuilding purposes. The chestnut flourishes in the forest of Edough, near Bona, while the plains in the neighborhood of the coast contain elm and ash, and the river

valleys willow, elder and poplar. The lower chains of the Atlas range are covered with evergreen oak, mingled with broom and sweet acorn oaks. On the ranges above are the thuya, Aleppo pine, and maple, though these latter are limited in their localities, such as the Aurès hills and the environs of Bathna, where the summits of the mountains are thickly planted with cedar. Toward the coast of the province of Algiers are the forests of Sahel and Mazarran, near Koleah, the latter possessing huge ash trees interlaced with the wild vine; but the true forest country does not commence until we reach the Atlas mountains, where are the forests of Ak-Fordoun, with very large oak-zeens, the forests of Beni-Menasser consisting principally of wild olive, the forest of Ourensonia, of thuya and Aleppo pine, and the venerable forest of Teniet-el-Haad, where the cedars are from 15 to 18 feet in circumference and from 45 feet to 100 feet in height. The province of Ouran is erroneously said to be bare of trees, but, though they are rather scanty in the coast section, the plateaux of the mountains are heavily timbered, especially beyond Mascara as far as Seboud. The forests of Duya, in this neighborhood is at least 40,000 acres in extent, principally of evergreen oak, thuya and Aleppo pine.—*London Times*.

STORY OF A LUMBERMAN.

The following story is told by a writer in the *St. Paul Pioneer-Press*: "I heard a man suggest that Capt. Tainter, one of the heaviest stock holders in the firm of Knapp, Stout & Company, and worth individually millions, in all probability had been a sort of mascot to the big firm. He worked for them first until they owed him \$600. He was a big, strapping, energetic fellow, who had looked after their drives and logging operations. He had a hard time in collecting the sum due him, but succeeded in securing payment. But the firm then known as Knapp, Stout & Co., got pinched and wanted just that \$600. So they made a proposition to young Tainter to give him a fourth interest in the concern for that amount. He thought it a risk, but took the chance. Since then the big lumbering firm—the biggest in the country—has multiplied its possessions rapidly. Capt. Tainter lives in a baronial mansion in Menomonee, a feature of which is a bathing tank 60 feet long, and proportionately wide."

The Northwest.

Our attention has been called in various ways to the forest wealth of the Canadian Northwest, and recently we published some account of it given by the *Calgary Herald*. Its extent is not yet fully known. Mr. W. C. Van Horne, General Manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, has lately been over the mountain section of the line, and thus remarks about the country it traverses:—"In addition to the agricultural possibilities of the many valleys of British Columbia, and its great mineral wealth, its magnificent forests alone will furnish a large and remunerative traffic for the railway."

A Busy Saw.

We learn from Mr. Louttit, manager of Gilmour & Co's saw mill above this village, that his operations in lumber this year will amount to a cut of about one million feet, and this work has been done by one circular saw. This exceeds last year's business by 400,000 feet. Up to the present time he has turned out close on to 900,000 feet. Since the 1st of July he has disposed of 500,000 feet, the largest record ever made there in the same number of months. In this trade alone, many thousands of dollars have changed hands during the summer.—*Camden Herald*.

Bridges on Canadian Pacific.

A special from Ashland, Wisconsin, says that twenty carloads of lumber have been received at the Wisconsin Central Railway dock there from the Omaha road, for shipment to McIntyre, Wood & Co., north shore, to be used in constructing bridges on the Canada Pacific. McIntyre, Wood & Co. have also purchased over 2,000,000 feet of bridge timber from the Superior Lumber Company of Ashland. It is now being shipped by boat to the north shore as fast as possible.

SCHOONER LOST.

PORT COLBORNE, Nov. 1.—The schooner sunk off Gull Island turned out to be the schooner *New Dominion*. A tug went to her yesterday evening and examined her sails and got some articles off her which have been identified as belonging to the *New Dominion*. The *New Dominion* was laden with about 300 tons of coal for the gas works, St. Catharines, having loaded at Cleveland. She registers 152 tons, and was owned by Capt. James Griffith and Capt. John J. Daly. They were both of them aboard the ill-fated vessel. Griffith served as master and Daly as mate. A sailor named Daniel Murray and the captain's sister-in-law, who served as cook, formed part of the crew. There can be no doubt now but that the crew have all lost their lives. Capt. Griffith and Daly are well known along the lakes, having commanded a number of different vessels in the past twenty years. The former leaves a widow and family in St. Catharines and the latter leaves a widow and family in Hamilton, but formerly lived in St. Catharines. He sailed the schooner *Laura* before buying into the *Dominion*. The vessel was valued at \$3,500 and insured for \$2,500.

TRAPPED BY FLAMES.

HUNTINGTON, Pa., Nov. 3.—A dwelling house, occupied by Jas. Holt and Geo. Rogers and families, the former having a wife and four children, and the latter a wife and three children, was burned this morning. The fire originated in the lower storey, immediately beneath the occupants, who were in bed. Before they were awakened the usual means of egress were cut off, and they were obliged to escape through the upper windows. Holt threw out a chaff bed and then threw his wife and children out on it. Rogers assisted his wife to a short ladder which leaned against the house, and before she reached it the fire burst out of the side of the building and burned her hair and clothes completely off. He then threw his children from the second story window and followed himself by jumping. The house together with its contents were totally destroyed, and the escaping inmates seriously injured, the children of Holt fatally.

The Greenwich Meridian Accepted.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 1.—The international meridian conference held a final meeting to-day. Minutes of the proceedings were submitted and approved. An official copy of the proceedings will be delivered to the Government of the United States, and will no doubt be made the basis of a treaty upon the resolution adopting the meridian of Greenwich for a universal initial meridian. Only one nation voted in the negative. San Domingo, France and Brazil abstained from voting. The proposition defining a universal day was almost unanimously supported.

Worshipping Trees.

"The ancient people of India" says Quintus Curtius, "had a profound veneration for certain trees, before which they were in the habit of kneeling in the attitude of devotion, and the most terrible punishment awaited the sacrilegious transgressors who dared injure one of them." There are two kinds of trees in Persia that are worshipped to this day. The one is the divakeh-i-fusel, or tree that surpasses the rest, the other the dir-dar, or the tree of the genii. The true believers decorate these trees with strips of precious stuffs. The ancient Persians had a particular veneration for the barrom, a gigantic tree over which the sun, as they believed, kept watch in an especial manner.

THE tie business seems to be dull this season and it will not take much trouble to fill the contracts—when we consider that there are only 20,000 wanted, while last year, we understand, Mr. Gould took out over 50,000. We are sorry that this is the case as we looked forward to having a lot of Mr. Gould's money scattered through the back country this winter, particularly as the lumbering is going to be dull.—*Minden Echo*.

THE Superior Lumber Company, of Ashland, Wis., has decided to put in 10,000,000 feet of logs this winter.