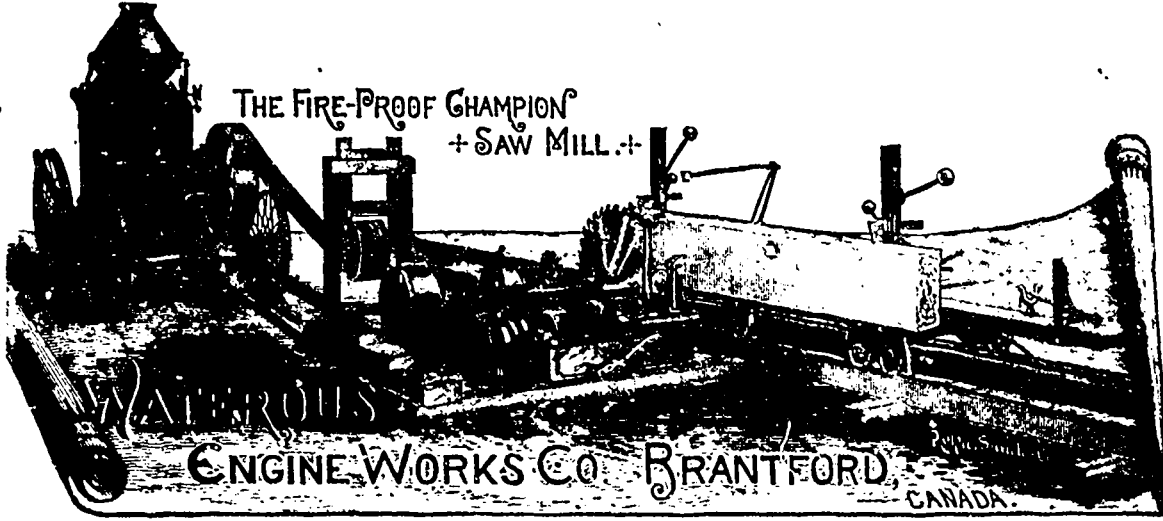


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themselves without the aid of any suggestions. They carve out of wood almost every kind of fancy articles, such as nutcrackers, inkstands, jewelry cases, cuckoo clocks, ladies' work boxes, and a large number of other things too numerous to mention. The tools they use are very simple, the carving being done by hand. The articles they carve are ingeniously ornamented with leaves and flowers, and some of their designs are extremely odd; they are always artistic. Here is a piece of carving in the shape of a nutcracker. It is a lifelike representation of a bear on its haunches. Of course it is made more for ornament than use, but its artistic merit is worthy of careful study. The Swiss have a knack of turning the most simple article into a real work of art. Take this book rack, for instance," and the dealer produced a very simple form of book holder for the library table, having two side pieces on a sliding base, "see how artistically the side pieces are carved, showing in bold relief a double rose surrounded with a mass of leaves and vines.

"One advantage the Swiss have is the wood which they use. This is remarkably fine, and free from knots, and a tool cuts it as easily across as with the grain. The kind mostly used is known to the trade as peach wood, which it closely resembles in every respect. Another kind of wood which is largely used is called satin wood. This has a pure white color, and, like the other variety, is entirely free from knots, and peculiarly even in respect to hard-ness.

"The art of the Swiss in carving wood first attracted attention about fifty years ago. It was not, however, until years afterwards that it was turned to account in a commercial point of view, and even then the sale of Swiss carvings were restricted to tourists in the summer season, who made their purchases through the intermediary of hotel porters. Hence the trade was for a long time very small and unremunerative. But in the course of time local capitalists took the matter in hand, opened workshops and

began an export trade. The business of wood carving now finds employment for several hundred persons. In fact, in one establishment three hundred persons of both sexes are employed. The women have great delicacy of touch, and their work in certain branches are preferred to that of men. Each artisan employed in the workshops has his or her speciality, the choice of which is left to individual taste. Some have an aptitude for and excel in the modeling of groups of animals; others refer to carve various fancy articles with floral patterns, and some build miniature chalets. The latter is one of the most popular articles of Swiss handiwork. As usually made, it is composed of different colored woods. The thatches with the ropes and stones to hold them on, and the deep roof are prominent features. The lower storey shows a stable, while the upper storeys are made to indicate the family dwelling. The surroundings, including the fence, courtyard, pump and spring are also given. The roof is so constructed that it can be raised like a lid, and the part which represents the upper stories is lined with plush, and is intended as the receptacle for jewels. A movable partition divides this also from the first storey, which contains a music box, which is set going by lifting the top cover. The price of these articles range from \$10 to \$35.

"Few people make a speciality of Swiss carvings, for the reason that the production is very limited, owing to inability to turn out the goods fast enough by hand. Besides, all the rare bits of carving are made by the peasants at their homes in the Alps, who work only during the winter season. In the summer they are occupied in tilling the soil and tending their herds of goats on the hillsides, a pursuit which they love so much that no amount of money could entice them from it."

A REBELLION is said to have broken out in Venezuela.

LORD Rothschild took his seat in the House of Lords on Friday.

FURNITURE WOOD.

Noticing the changes in the styles of furniture the Boston Commercial Bulletin thus refers to the wood used:

In chamber sets also the change towards a better class of goods is seen in the increased demand for ash finished with oil and shellac in natural colors. The principal woods used for furniture are walnut, cherry and mahogany. Walnut has been and may be still regarded as the most popular wood, though in the last two or three years the demand for cherry has increased very rapidly, and fully as much of it is now used as walnut. It is stained and finished up in imitation of mahogany, its natural color being a dull, light shade. The supply of cherry in the country is small as compared with that of other woods. The demand for it during the last few years has caused firm and advancing prices, its cost being now about the same as walnut.

Mahogany is becoming more popular every year also. It is a beautiful wood, but costs from one third to one half more than walnut and only about one third as much of it is used. The three principal varieties are the Mexican, Cuban and San Domingan. The Mexican logs are the larger but the San Domingan has the better grain. Most of the mahogany used in this market is Mexican. Ash is sometimes manufactured up into chamber sets and is finished in natural colors. Ash, maple and beech are sometimes stained and finished to imitate mahogany and are used more generally for this purpose in the west than in this section. Should the price of cherry advance, owing to the increasing demand, it is very probable that the use of these woods as imitation mahogany would be largely increased. In the east, ash, maple and beech are obtained in New Hampshire, Vermont and Canada. In the west they are obtained in Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and the Virginias. Cherry and walnut come from the last mentioned states. Michigan, however, furnishes very little.

THE QUEBEC TRADE

QUEBEC, July 3. The following transactions have transpired during the week in the export of freights from Quebec: The Clyde, 16s. 6d.; Fleetwood, timber, 20s; Liverpool, timber, \$21; Cardiff, timber, 20s, deals \$2s 6d. The timber market is dull. Some drams of waney of about 20 inches have been placed 35 to 35c. with timber a year older at 33c. for about 19 inch. Third class deals, all regulars have been sold, ex barge, at \$46.50, and with 25 per cent. oddments at \$32. There are no transactions in spruce deals reported.

The recent heavy rains have done much damage to the dams and booms on the rivers around Quebec which will retard the sawing considerably, besides which a large number of logs have been lost. These summer floods are the most serious within memory.

Since the opening of navigation 273 seagoing vessels have entered and 103 cleared at this port.

Boiler Explosion at East Boston.

A boiler used for a hoisting engine was blown into the air at the wharf of the national Dock and Warehouse Company, East Boston, Tuesday. The boiler was close by the ship Agenor, where it had been placed to unload a lot of sugar consigned to E. Williams, of State street. The engineer said after the explosion that he had only 120 pounds of steam pressure at the time of the explosion, which was twenty pounds less than the boiler usually carried. When the explosion occurred, the boiler was seen shooting into the main rigging of the Agenor, and then striking the main rigging on the port side, it fell on the wharf again about four feet from the edge and twenty feet from its original position. When the boiler exploded it sent large pieces of iron flying in all directions. Several persons were injured.

THE number of books registered in the Toronto Free Library is 34,704.

THE compact between the Tories and Parnellites is said to be weakening.