

## Chips.

OAK is stronger than iron, both pieces being of equal weight.

Those who pretend to know predict a busy and therefore prosperous season for the owners of vessels during 1881.

LUMBERMEN in Pennsylvania have been compelled to suspend work on account of too much snow in the woods.

The number of boiler explosions in saw, planing and woodworking mills in 1880, was 47, and every explosion killed, on an average, one man and a half.

SINCE national banks were founded in the United States, the Government is the gainer by the single item of the loss in circulation notes of the banks to the extent of at least \$3,500,000.

According to the *Lumberman's Gazette* St. Louis is making rapid strides as a lumber market, and says that its receipts and sales for 1880 entitles it to rank as the third if not second lumber market in the United States.

THE new mode of manufacturing flour is being introduced into the Guelph, Ontario, mills, and promises quite a revolution in the trade. Iron rollers and muddlings purifiers are the order of the day, and a very superior flour is the result.

During the last ten years the tonnage of Antwerp has increased 212 per cent. against an increase of 110 per cent. at Hamburg, and 36 per cent. at Liverpool during the same time. This does not look as if protection were killing the trade of Antwerp.

It is doubtful if the iron foundries and machine shops in Montreal were ever so actively employed as at present. They are all working extra hours, yet unable to fill orders rapidly enough. A great deal of the work is for Manitoba and the North-West.

E. BUNN, of Hamilton, Ont., has been asked by a British company to act as agent for the purchase of timber lands either in Canada or the States. The company is prepared to invest \$500,000; it is proposed to manufacture the lumber, and ship it direct to England.

It is anticipated that the supply of peaches in the Western and Southern markets next season will be very scant. Not many peach buds are likely to escape the frost at some points. At some places even as far south as Arkansas it is feared the trees are killed as well as the buds.

THERE are many kinds of popular possessing qualities in some cases of no inconsiderable value when properly employed. Flooring boards, for instance, very tough and lasting, are made from some of the kinds, and are said to be all but fireproof, naturally, therefore, very unsatisfactory firewood.

THE lumber dealers of Chicago are agitated by the provision of a peeling city ordinance requiring keepers of lumber yards to take out special licenses annually. They not only object to paying the fees but to being classed with distillers, brewers, billiard hall keepers and pawnbrokers.

A DEPUTATION of lumbermen from the Upper Ottawa waited on the Hon. Mr. Chapleau to protest against the imposition of the additional taxes which have lately been placed on the lumber by the Quebec Government. Mr. Chapleau promised to lay their grievances before his colleagues.

THE state of Nevada has a remarkable timber, known as mountain mahogany. The trees are not large, averaging less than a foot in diameter. The seasoned timber is said to be as hard as boxwood, of a very fine grain, of a rich red color, very heavy, and a fine material for the wood carver.

QUITE a lumbering business is springing up at Rat Portage, at the head of Lake of the Woods, a number of large saw mills are being constructed there. They are surrounded by considerable forests of pine and more extensive tracts of poplar. The Canadian Pacific railroad crosses the Winnipeg river at Rat Portage, and a town of some importance is likely to result.

JAMES SMITH & Co., of Liverpool, in their annual circular say: "The year 1880, just closed, has, with few exceptional circumstances, been the first fairly satisfactory year the wood trade has enjoyed for many years past, and there is a strong opinion, expressed by many experienced

buyers, that it is the commencement of several prosperous years.

THE new departure in the mode of bringing square timber down the Ottawa Valley promises to be successful and remunerative. A special train of twenty cars containing square timber from Mackay station on the Upper Ottawa arrived at Ottawa the other day. The trip is now done in about twelve hours with no loss of timber. It formerly consumed several weeks.

MR. WATSON, in his *Mechanical News* says that the best packing he ever used for faced joints, either steam or water, is common drawing paper soaked in oil. After a short time the heat of steam converts it into a substance like parchment, so that it is practically indestructible. It has the advantage of stripping readily from surfaces when it is desired to break a joint.

THE Chicago lumbermen have instituted a system of weekly lunches at the rooms of the exchange, some member furnishing the spread and presiding as host. After disposing of the viands a business meeting is held and matters of interest to the trade are discussed. The attendance at the meetings of the exchange is said to have increased since the new order has prevailed. Lumbermen love to eat, no doubt.

THE *Guelph Herald* says that Mr. James Campbell, of East Williams, drew into Strathroy recently, with one team (one of which was his champion plough horse and the other a horse 24 years old), a stick of square oak which the culler scaled at 216 feet. He handled two other sticks which measured respectively 168 and 110 feet, the three making 516 feet. It was pretty generally supposed that the timber in this region was about exhausted, but these sticks do not point that way.

### THE PROSPECT FOR BUSINESS.

If there is not to be a continuation of the business activity throughout the present year, and a large increase therein, the signs are very misleading. The flow of specie to this country continues, and the amount coming on account is not the whole sum, by any means. The stream of immigration is still pouring into this country, and the thrifty Germans coming are bringing with them no small amount of money, one train load which passed over a Michigan railroad the other day being reported as carrying westward more than one hundred thousand dollars. There has not been, at least since 1873, such an amount of railroad building done as is proposed this year, and never such gigantic enterprises on foot. Railroads are projected in every direction, and the money for their construction is at hand. Such grand enterprises as the world never saw since Rome built the Appian way, are under construction. The Canadian Pacific railroad, to cost some \$90,000,000, and traversing the wilderness of the north to bind the British possessions in a closer union. The Northern Pacific, which is being pushed with remarkable energy and will be finished in 1882, although it was once considered a "dead duck." The Central and Union Pacific railways are spreading themselves out northward to mineral regions, coal lands and agricultural and grazing districts. The Union will soon have 3,000 miles of roads tributary to it, and the Central, destined to become a part of a line under one management extending entirely across the continent. The Southern Pacific railroad only lacks a few miles of completion, and will unite the Atlantic at Norfolk with the Pacific at San Diego as well as San Francisco. The new south-western system planned by Jay Gould is the ancient city of Mexico as an objective point and will probably be extended to Guaymas on the Pacific. Then there are the several schemes for crossing the isthmus of Central America, one of which will probably break ground this year and go forward until completed. There is no end of lesser railroad enterprises, which at other times would have been great undertakings, but are now mere bagatelle beside those above named. There is money for all, and the dirt will fly in a lively manner on all this year. Business is bound to be good while it lasts. Labor will be in good demand, money will be plenty and more building and repairing will be done, making an additional demand for lumber. This is going to be a good year for the trade, and no mistake. — *Lumberman's Gazette*.

### THE QUEBEC TIMBER DUES.

On Tuesday of last week an influential deputation, representing the lumbering interests of the Ottawa District, Quebec and Montreal, waited on the Hon. Mr. Chapleau at his office in this city in reference to the proposed increase in the timber tariff in the Province of Quebec. The deputation was composed of Messrs. Alonzo Wright, M.P., John Rochester, M.P., John Poupore, M.P., Peter White, M.P., Col. Allan Gilmour, J. K. Ward, Mackey and several others. The timber dues heretofore have been levied upon each saw log according to its dimensions, and the tariff has been for every log 13½ feet long and 16 inches in diameter and under 10 cents, and for every log of 13½ feet in length and 17 inches and over in diameter, 15 cents. To this rate the lumber dealers never objected, but by a recent order in council it appears that the Government propose to increase the tariff very greatly. It is now proposed to levy a tax of 12½ cents upon the smaller class of logs and 26 cents on the larger. This rate the lumbermen consider exorbitant, and ask that the dues be levied in the same manner as in Ontario, viz., that each log be taxed in proportion to its contents, superficial or board measure. In Ontario the tariff is 75 cents upon every thousand feet, and this mode of levying duties is found much more equitable for all concerned. The lumbermen ask for a reduction in the proposed duties, as they consider that to put such a tariff in force as proposed would seriously hamper the whole lumbering business of the Province, and result in a great waste of timber, and calculate that under the proposed tariff instead of 75 cents per thousand as in Ontario the duty in Quebec would amount to about \$1.50 per thousand. The Premier informed the deputation that the Province was sadly in need of an increased revenue, and that other sources of revenue being almost exhausted, it had been decided to increase the timber dues, but he would bring the matter before his colleagues in the Government, with the recommendation that the Ontario system of levying dues be adopted. — *Montreal Witness*.

### PUGET SOUND TIMBER.

A correspondent of the *Chicago Times* writes as follows concerning the fir tree growths of Puget Sound, W. T. — He says the trees average 200 feet in height, and asserts that some specimens have been cut down in his presence that were 320 feet in length by 12 feet in diameter at the base, having a straight and well proportioned log length of 90 feet to the first limb, and being 2 feet in diameter within 20 feet of the top. The cedar trees are in like proportion, and are most valuable for wooden wares of all kinds, while the fir trees are the best for spar and ship timber yet found in any country, and there are but few maritime nations in the world that do not use it in their ship building. One-fourth of the wealth of San Francisco was culled from the firs of Puget Sound while the Government slept, and to-day all the principal large mill owners who saw and prepare for the market from 100,000 to 200,000 feet per day to each mill — and there are 30 or more mills — are all residents of San Francisco, where they invest their profits to the perpetual hurt of Puget Sound residents. A cedar and fir forest is, of itself, a great curiosity; so dense are the tree growths in some places that the sunlight of heaven never reaches the earth at their base. One monarch after another will be found grouped together like an immense barricade. When one of these huge firs is felled by the woodman, the crash, bound and concussion that resounds over the earth remind one of heavy peals of distant thunder, or the explosion, miles away, of some great powder magazine. There is, apparently, no exhaustion of the timber, and 100 years will possibly pass away before the Puget Sound forests will be cleared of their immense resources of various tree growths; hence, that wealth alone far exceeds that of the entire state of New York.

### To Fix Pencil Marks.

To fix pencil marks so they will not rub out, take well skimmed milk and dilute with an equal bulk of water. Wash the pencil marks (whether writing or drawing) with this liquid, using a soft flat camel hair brush, and avoiding all rubbing. Place upon a flat board to dry.

### A FOREST MONARCH

Mayor Sleeman, of Guelph, having bought the oak timber rights on the property of Mr. Bosley, near Kessonth, county of Waterloo, had brought home the ten feet butt cut off a certain tree to his brewery, where it was much admired by the members of the Local Legislature during their recent visit. Desirous of obtaining a specimen of tree growth, Professor Brown and some students of the Ontario Agricultural College, by kind permission of Mr. Sleeman, went to Kessonth last Saturday. They found an easy slope of free clay loam, having a south eastern exposure, and covered all over some 200 acres with rare samples of maple, beech, ash, birch, elm, bass, and oak, in all their glory of height, girth, and plenty; a rare bush for the older townships of Ontario, and well worth \$200 per acre.

About the year 1505, one of these oaks appeared above ground probably from the dropping of an acorn by a previous monarch long deceased, and may now be growing fine wheat in the immediate neighborhood. In 1881 the proceeds of this acorn are being made into beer barrels, and part reserved to adorn a museum.

This tree is the *Quercus Rubrum*, or Red Champion Oak of America, and in the example now felled stood 135 feet from top to toe, girthed 17 feet 9 inches inside the bark, two inches from the ground, the bark being four inches thick ten feet up. The stem was straight and branchless for 65 feet, and gave measureable timber fifty feet above that. Not a flaw, nor rotten hole of any sort disfigured this magnificent specimen. It grew fresh wood all around last year, as much as it did three hundred years ago, and by careful calculation the students made the age 375 years. The contents of the stem proper are 530 cubic feet, and 90 for top timber — in all 620. We do not know what Mayor Sleeman paid for this "stick," but laid down at Liverpool it is worth \$450. Weight 15 tons. Made into inch boards it would floor the largest hall in Canada.

It was a flourishing seedling only fifty years after the discovery of the American continent by Columbus; was seven inches in diameter when England's Virgin Queen reigned. It could tell of the time when the Niagara falls were a quarter of a mile further down stream than now, and at the declaration of American Independence would have made a shed to cover four hundred men.

Nevertheless, it may never have sheltered a red man, as being out of the usual paths, though hungry bears must often have been served with acorn dinner.

What a pity somebody won't try to rouse our national pride towards legislating something to conserve even individual specimens of our forest wealth and beauty. Everybody appears to be so well off, and so busy, that a few strokes of the axe wiping out of existence a four century monument calls for no lament, and certainly calls to no action. When will Canada know what a tree is in all its relationships? — *Guelph Mercury*.

### Two Thousand Dollars.

The easiest, cheapest and best way to secure the above amount is to apply for membership in the Mutual Benefit Association of Rochester, N.Y. Pay Dr. S. B. Pollard, 56 Bay Street, one dollar for four medical examinations, he will send your application to the head office, if you are accepted as a member they will issue a certificate of membership, which, on payment of eight dollars, entitles you to full benefits as a member, should you die to-morrow, next day, next week, next month, or any time within three months, this Association will pay to your heirs or assigns, the sum of two thousand dollars. At the expiration of the three months all you have to do is to pay your pro rata amount, which is from 20 to 75 cents on the death of some other member, who has done nothing worse than to die during the three months just past. By paying your assessments on deaths, you keep your certificate alive, and at the commencement of the second year you are assessed two dollars per thousand to keep up office expenses, etc., for the next year. No easier, surer or better schemes to carry two thousand dollars has ever been devised than the Mutual Benefit Association, of Rochester, N.Y. b-10