

Canadian Woodworker

A MONTHLY JOURNAL
FOR ALL CLASSES OF WOODWORKERS

Vol. 1

TORONTO, JUNE, 1908

No. 4

CANADIAN WOODWORKER

A Monthly Journal for all classes of
Woodworkers.

Subscription: Canada, United States and Great Britain, \$1.00 per year; Foreign, \$1.25, payable in advance. Advertising rates on application.
SAMPLE COPIES FREE ON REQUEST.

BIGGAR-WILSON, Ltd., Publishers

Offices: 79-80 Confederation Life Building, Toronto, Ont.
Telephone, Main 6377.

Canadian Woodworker is published by the first of the month. All changes for advertisements, news items and other matter must be in hand by the 15th of the preceding month. Cuts should be sent by mail, not by express.

Practical men are invited to send to the Editor signed articles or paragraphs upon any subject of interest to their fellow woodworkers.

SYSTEM IN MILL ARRANGEMENT.

Plan before acting is a good motto to remember, not only before undertaking any particular piece of work, but at the time a mill is built and when putting in machinery. An awkward, left-handed relation of stock to machine, or of one machine to another, may sometimes save half a dozen square feet of floor space and at the same time waste one step in six, or three or four minutes every hour of the machine-man's time. And time and labor are just as valuable as space. But floor space, too, can often be saved by a careful thinking out of the details of mill arrangement beforehand. Often these details, in a big plant or where the operations are of a multifarious character, are a very complicated matter to arrange together in proper order; so that much thought and careful mapping out to scale have to be devoted to it before the equipment is installed.

In some mills the most conspicuous feature which strikes the visitor is the entanglement of its various departments, the general disorder which prevails throughout. The thoroughfares are continually getting obstructed, the men constantly getting in one another's way. The slightest hitch in one department means a general disorganization of the whole. One thing in the wrong place often means that it becomes a nucleus for a dozen other things which accumulate around it, making the confusion worse confounded.

The first necessity in building a mill is, of course, to see to the structure itself. The constant vibration of the machinery is going to try the permanence and solidity of the best material to be obtained. The foundation must be reliable, and arrangements made to place the heavier machines in the best position with a view to

their doing the least damage possible. Every attention should be paid to the kind of floor, so as to have it as substantial as possible. A floor in a planing mill is not over-durable at the best; it is good policy to build it so as to make renewals as infrequent as possible. Do not forget the roof and overhead work. Posts among the machines are a nuisance and generally in the way. Skylights are generally the best means of lighting the building, in addition to ordinary side windows at any rate. The constant endeavor to get at the right angle for light to reach a machine from the latter alone is a vexation to the spirit when doing a delicate woodworking operation or fixing up a machine; and it is one that wears a man out sooner than an equal amount of time spent in hard work. The lighting arrangements, not only those of an artificial character, but the superior one emanating from Nature's sunshine should be carefully considered. Remember that good light is a factor all the time, and that a very little falling away from the best possible has, in the aggregate, an immense influence over the quality and the quantity of the work done. The same applies to fresh air and ventilation, and to heating arrangements. In some mills, the men may be shivering with cold, while at the same time there is enough potential heat going to waste in badly-fitted boilers, etc., to properly heat two or three such buildings.

Above all, keep an eye on the conveniences for handling and rehandling the stuff that comes in and goes out of the mill. The time sometimes spent in double handling of material would often represent a fair profit in itself. In building, arrangements should be made for running all finished work out of the mill itself, preferably into an adjoining room or watertight shed. As to the plan for receiving material, it should be such as will allow the man who first uses it to feed it in a natural way to his machine, not left-handed, or having to make awkward turns. The position of the next machine should be such as will most naturally take advantage of the position in which the material was taken off from No. 1. The man who feeds a matcher has quite enough to attend to without having to go all over the place getting wood. Paths or thoroughfares between the various machines should be as straight as possible, and wide enough to allow passing along without having to waste time drawing one's limbs and clothes out of the danger line. In all these things there is a point of scientific reasonableness quite easy to reach with a little thinking out and experience. The aim should be to have all the space necessary to get around quickly without using up so much as to lose dividends on that unit of floor area.