

### THE GOOD MACHINIST.

As the workman who operates the machine or any other part of a woodworking plant is more essential to the welfare of the business than the machines themselves, it might be well to discuss his merits and his failings just as we discuss the good and bad features of a machine. The workman in some respects is very similar to the machine. His behavior, like the machine, depends to a great extent upon the handling he receives.

Put a foreman over him who is incompetent in the handling of men, and no matter how good material there is in the man and how willing he may be to do his duty, it won't be long till he is ready for the scrapheap, so to speak. First, the keen edge of his aspirations begins to wear off, then he gets loose in his bearings or his habits, and the fact that he is out of order soon shows in his work. Instead of a little adjustment of some difficulty in one place and a little oil where something is running dry, he gets nothing but the tight belt of fault-finding, and he grinds away for a time, and finally goes all to pieces and is discarded for another, to be used in the same manner.

The ideal workman, finding himself in the hands of a reasonably good employer and a sensible foreman, will show the material there is in him. You will find him on hand about ten minutes before the whistle blows in the morning, with his working clothes on, ready for business when the power starts, instead of coming in about a minute after the whistle stops blowing, and getting his things on and his machine started about ten minutes after seven.

When he commences a job, what is he thinking about? Is it that little racket he had last night? Not a bit of it. He devotes his mind to studying as he goes on with his job, to see if there is not some method by which he can do that work a little easier, quicker and better. He reasons in this manner: If I use my head to save my hands, I will be making it easier for myself, improving myself as a workman and making my work more profitable for my employers, and if they are like the majority of employers they will notice and appreciate it.

We frequently see our man turn out twice the amount of work in an hour that another man does at the same price, simply by placing a truckload of material right close at his hand and running two pieces at a time, while the other man doesn't care if he runs 500 pieces in a day or 50. He would much prefer to run only 50, as it would save him so much. As long as he gets his pay for to-day he does not know enough to look forward to his chances for to-morrow, so he places his truck 6 feet away and runs one piece at a time, any way to get his time in. If he is allowed to stay any length of time he soon begins to think he must be getting very valuable to his employers, so asks for a raise of pay, and is much grieved when he is told to watch out or he will not have what he is already getting very long.

The ideal workman goes about his business and keeps his mouth shut. He does not consider it his duty every time a fellow-workman comes near where he is at work to hold him up in order to talk and visit. If there is anything he wishes to know concerning the work he goes to the foreman instead of going to some of the men and stopping them from their work to ask their opinion on the matter. The foreman can always find him steadily pegging away at his work any time that he takes the trouble to look for him. In other words, he is entirely reliable, and if the foreman is obliged to step down to the office for an hour, or for any reason his back is turned, he has the satisfaction of knowing that this man, at any rate,

is attending to his business. When the foreman comes back he does not find him gone from his job on a tour of investigation and visitation to some part of the works where he has no business.

The ideal workman will devote his mind to improving his work, both in quality and quantity. If he feels that he is not getting as much pay as he ought he will ask for an increase, and if, for any reason, his employers are not able to grant the same, he will not say, "Well, I won't tear my shirt; if they won't pay me but a dollar I guess I won't earn but a dollar." He will continue to do his best just as long as he remains in the establishment, and if he sees that there is no prospect of improvement, then he will begin a still hunt for a better position. When he has located one he will give his employers a week's notice and go quietly away to his new place.

Before making a change, however, he will be sure that he is making a change for the better, as it is poor policy to go traveling about the country unless there is opportunity for improvement by so doing. Each time that he changes, if he is observing, persevering, and applies himself to the principal end in view, he will gain experience and knowledge that is more valuable than money, for it makes him independent and self-reliant. However, it is easy for him to make a mistake if he is not on his guard, and think because he has had some experience and acquired some little proficiency in his profession, he can command any price or condition that he may demand, with the assurance of getting it.

In order to be successful he must put all egotism behind him and bear in mind that, although he may have had years of experience, yet he is only beginning to learn a little about his business. Quite frequently some shop boy or helper will tell him something he never thought of before, thereby convincing him again that he does not know it all. It is frequently the case that there are men employed at the same work who are getting more pay than he, and are not doing as much work, but are inclined to shirk. This fact, however, must not take him on his feet; he must continue to do his best, and not think that he is doing himself harm by doing more and better work for less pay than some other man, for instead he is improving himself and making himself a more valuable man to himself and his employers.

He must bear in mind that it is only by such methods as these that he can fit himself for a successful foreman, and by this means to the position of superintendent, and from that to general manager and partner or owner. He must continually look forward to something better and remember that the Lord helps the man who helps himself.—Exchange.

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### GOVERNMENT TESTS FOR COMMERCIAL WOODS.

It is doubtful if any of the laboratories maintained by the Government for scientific research are more unique in character, and yet bear promise of more important results than one which has just been established in Washington by the United States forest service for investigating the structure of commercially important woods.

Laymen will not understand the significance of the proposed investigations carried on in this laboratory so quickly as architects, builders and other wood users, who in these days of growing scarcity of the more valuable woods, are seriously preplexed in identifying substitutes. Mistakes of this kind in identification have, in the last few years, in several instances, meant the loss of thousands of dollars and many embarrassing lawsuits.