

SHAKY LUMBER.

MR. EDITOR:—If the question, as to the cause of lumber being shaky, was put to one hundred men, probably nine-tenths, if not ninety-nine hundredths, of them would say it was caused by the wind swaying the trees when frozen. This answer or reason seems so plausible, that but few give the matter more thought. All lament the fact that lumber is shaky, but take no pains to investigate the matter, and to inquire if that answer is correct or not. Having given the subject much thought, I have arrived at a different conclusion; I am satisfied that the wind has nothing to do with it. Shaky timber never grows in places particularly exposed to the wind, and the heart of white pine never freezes unless it is shaky. It usually grows on low, wet, cold land, and if found on a high land, it is in or on some depression or valley, that is undrained on that high land. If the land on which shaky timber grows is cleared up, and sown to grasses, the spot on which the shaky timber stood, will grow a wild grass, and until it is drained, cannot be made to produce any other. Now my theory is, that there is a substance that is soluble in water, in the cold, wet places where the timber grows and it is taken up in the sap of the tree, being a little heavier than the sap, it is left in the grain of the wood, and coats it over, and this coating is so smooth that it prevents the grains of wood from adhering to each other. As proof that this soluble solution is heavier than the sap, we always find the butt of the tree shaky, if any part, and never the top. As proof of the coating of the grains of wood, those grains that are shaky, as we call it, will not rot; after shaky pines has all fallen to pieces, as it were, they grains themselves, are found perfectly sound and bright, showing that this coating is impervious to water, and the fact that it takes three

or four times as long to season or dry shaky lumber than it does sound lumber, this shows to us that this coating prevents the sap leaving the wood. The above are the reasons for my theory. What this substance is I am not enough of a chemist to tell. I have no doubt if one would burn some shaky timber, and analyze the ashes, he could tell us all about it. What would be of more value to the public would be to find a remedy. If it is the same substance, as my theory holds, as the one that causes the wild grass, no doubt draining would be a remedy, if it was done before the trees grew, but that will not help the grown timber. I submit this, hoping that it will attract the attention of some one that can tell us more about it. CANADA.

—*Boston Lumber Trade.*

**THE WILLIAMSPORT MANUFACTURERS AND THE
WOODBURY CLAIM.**

At the close of the recent national convention of lumbermen at Williamsport, a meeting of the planing-mill owners of that city was called by J. T. Drew, Esq., of the counsel of the executive committee of planing-mill owners, for the purpose of bringing before them the matter of the demand of Joseph P. Woodbury, and those associated with him in the ownership of his patent, for a royalty on all planing and moulding machines, using the "pressure bars" claimed to be covered by said patent. Mr. Drew explained to the gentlemen present the effect of the sustainment by the courts of the validity of the Woodbury Patent, and the consequent enforcement of the demand of the claims of the Woodbury Patent Planing Machine Company, and the importance to each of them of uniting in the organized effort, now being made by more than a thousand leading firms throughout the country in combination, to resist the claim. The assurance was given that