

STANDARD LUMBER.

From the Boston Lumber Trade.

There is no complaint more general—we might with propriety, perhaps, well say universal—among manufacturers of lumber than in reference to inspection or survey. Their merchandise is rated, they say, too low and the returns to them are, consequently, not what they might fairly expect and claim. We are not prepared to say that there is not in many cases too much ground for this complaint. In this locality, it is claimed by those who ought to know, that, under the operation of the Massachusetts law and its administration in this district, the inspection bears more heavily on the interest of the manufacturers than is true of the inspection in any other district or point of manufacture or sale throughout the country. Wherever there are interests so conflicting, as exist in this case, there will of necessity occur difference of opinion and often dissatisfaction for which there is really no occasion. In this connection, it may be proper to say that the disappointment of the manufacturer may arise from his own methods of manufacture, resulting both in lower ratings and a less salable quality than should have been secured from timber, of such size and quality before it was sawed. By want of proper adjustment, or of sufficient skill and attention on the part of the operator, there will be frequently a variation of an eighth of an inch in thickness from that called for by the schedule, so that either it will not plane up to the standard thickness called for, or will necessitate waste or extra labor in working it down. It not unfrequently even occurs that the same piece of board will vary in thickness, by nearly or quite an eighth of an inch between the two ends. There are other respects, also, in which a careless method of manufacture may very much depreciate the value of lumber. To use the expression of a

prominent operator, "there is a science in the manufacture of lumber" as truly as in that of many articles less bulky and of much finer texture. This science, as he assured us, was thoroughly understood by the lumbermen of one locality, partially so by that of another, and quite ignored by that of a third. Another large commission merchant stated to us that, within a few years, the style of manufacture of a whole region had been so modified and improved that, while previously the lumber had stood very low in the estimation of purchasers and could hardly be sold at all, it now stood well, and that this marked, and to the manufacturers very profitable improvement, had been secured by the directing their attention particularly to "style," he, with the operator previously quoted, averring that the term "style" is applicable to this as to many other kinds of manufacture to which the term might seem more appropriate.

Another matter, somewhat kindred to that just referred to, is the special want of a particular market. For example the demands of the New York and of the Boston market are not the same, and what would be adapted to one and would sell readily, in an ordinary season in one, would in a corresponding season, find no demand in the other. The manufacturer should, of course, be acquainted with the special demand of each, and prepared to adapt the quality and style of his production to the wants of the locality in which he seeks a market.

Our conclusion from the above is that, while it is for the interest of manufacturers of lumber to seek by concerted action for the necessary modification of the inspection laws of the various states as soon as this may be secured, and such checks on the administrations of the laws as may be needed, they should individually bring the quality of their production to the highest standard of which the material on which they work is capa-

ble. For this, as we have illustrated in another article on this page, they will find that it is their true interest to employ the most skillful men attainable, and the highest wages will be a judicious investment. It should be their aim to thoroughly train workmen, from boys up, in the most careful and thorough habits so as to supply the want which must exist, if the policy of first-class workmanship is to be everywhere adopted.

We have only one more suggestion to make on this general subject of the standard of lumber. It seems to us that one single check on the administration of inspection laws, in the hands of surveyors, may properly be demanded. It is this, that at the same time that the number of feet in a plank or other piece of lumber is marked upon it, a figure, letter or other device, indicating the grade or quality, should also be marked upon it. The result would be that the dealer would not be able, under an inspection, paid for and possibly influenced by himself, to purchase lumber as refuse and to sell it as merchantable. This would, in a measure, remove the temptation to undue influence in the inspection to the detriment of the manufacturer. An illustration of the present possibility of wrong done to somebody occurred in this district. Of 100,000 feet of 2 inch spruce plank, 16,000 feet were classed as refuse, having been purchased by a dealer on one of our lumber wharves. A party, who knew that the plank so classed as refuse was still in possession of the purchaser, and wished to obtain 2000 feet at a low price, went expecting to supply himself from this lot, but was told that they had no refuse two inch spruce plank. Either the inspection was wrong, or they intended to sell refuse lumber as merchantable. Such a transaction would not be possible, if the above suggestion, which only corresponds to the practice in the inspection of other kinds of merchantable should be adopted.

THE TREE THAT DESTROYS MALARIA.

From the San Francisco Bulletin.

The eucalyptus globulus, or Australian gum tree, is favorably known to all residents of California, where probably not less than 1,000,000 trees are planted. In this city, in front of handsome residences, you will find it with its magnificent drooping branches making an effective and graceful shade tree. In Oakland the broad avenues are lined with them, eucalyptus forests are planted in the country surrounding Oakland, and in fact, in every county of this state where the cold weather will permit it to live, the eucalyptus will be found growing.

The wonderful properties of this tree have only within the past few years been discovered and appreciated. It is justly claimed that when the tree flourishes in low, marshy, and feverish districts, all miasma will cease. It destroys the malarial element in any atmosphere where it grows, and is a great absorbent of moisture, draining the subsoil almost as thoroughly as a regular system of piping.

The eucalyptus is an evergreen, and is found in its native country (Tasmania) in boundless forests, both on the hillside and in the lowlands, under extremes of climates, both as to heat and cold, ranging from 130 deg. to 20 deg. Fahrenheit. Whether it will endure a greater degree of cold we think has as yet been undetermined. It is, however, worthy a trial.

Its remarkably rapid growth is a matter of much surprise, attaining, as it does, a maximum height of about three hundred feet, with a circumference of from thirty to fifty feet. For timber and fuel it is exceedingly useful, being hard and easily worked, and very serviceable for such purposes as the keels of vessels, bridges, etc., where strength and durability are essential. It is estimated that from \$4,000,000 to