unusual stocks of lumber now on hand in all the western markets is an incentive to cautiousness on the part of wholesale buyers; yet there is still an appreciable desire to make contracts at present prices which indicates to a certainty that there is an almost undivided—although unexpressed—opinion that there must soon be a marked advance. Whether that advance, by the middle of the summer season, will be sufficient to pay fair interest on money now invested in lumber, remains to be seen. Indications, however, argue that money now invested in lumber at prices at which contracts can be made, will amply repay the necessary grit required to handle a pine board in face of the circumstances of unusual depression. The Wisconsin Lumberman reiterates its predictions that the season of 1874 will be at least fairly prosperous for lumbermen.

The Manitowoc Tribune says: "There is considerable complaint about the commissioners of swamp lands not giving an account of and paying over the amounts due to the several counties as the law prescribes. We do not propose to state particulars now, but hope that the democratic managers of those lands will do their duty like honest men. We have had defalcations enough all around us and we are taxed enough too already, that we could bear any more such doings without getting excited about it."

We notice that there is an unusual amount of wood being brought up in this market this winter, to be shipped for Milwaukee and Chicago at the opening of navigation next spring.—Manitowoc Pilot.

E. B. Ward and the Lumber Trade of Milwaukee.

Many wild and ridiculous statements concerning the operations and purposes of Captain E. B. Ward relating to the lumber trade in Milwaukee have been put forth by the local papers. Within the past four weeks a Milwaukee paper published a highly imaginative and entertaining description of the magical wonders that were expected—by its writer—to arise in the swamp of the surging Kinnekinick at a wave of the wand of the stern old Lake Michigan captain. This plan, we believe, included the instantaneous erection of a glass and iron building to supply which Captain Ward has been obliged to establish a glass factory at St. Louis covering an area of 350 acres, with a tower rivalling in altitude the thousand-feet Philadelphia centennial project, for a sash, blind and door factory. Here, according to our quoted authority—the Milwaukee Sentinel—Captain Ward is to give his personal attention to the production of everything within his line of manufacture (sash, blind and door) from a scarlet ribbon, or a political platform to a pair of eyelids. Captain Ward, it appears, owns all the dimension timber now standing in the known world, and New Jersey, and has besides the entire crop of logs for the last eight or nine years hung up in the town of Ludington and its tributaries. We will not attempt to follow the Sentinel man into his billions, since the Wisconsin Lumberman is a new and young publication, of as yet only moderate resources and dimensions, and cannot afford space for such enormous conceptions as the figures of some of its amateur lumber contemporaries involve.

As, however, the article we have referred to, with others of nearly equal extravaganza, was given to the public in apparent good faith, and as there are few subjects concerning which people outside
the trade are so easily mislead, as statistics about the production and manufacture of lumber, we will state exactly what Captain Ward has done in this direction in Milwaukee up to this date. The Wisconsin Iron Co. has constructed for him docks of 1,000 feet frontage. Five thousand feet can be added as soon as needed. Here 1,700,000 feet of lumber and a small quantity (170,000) of lath are already in pile. Mr. Ward has mills in Ludington claiming a capacity of 40,000,000 feet a year. His logging operations have been very much curtailed this winter by causes that are general and sufficiently apparent. He had a large crop of logs left over on the Pere Marquette and its tributaries last year, so that the mills will not be idle. It is Mr. Ward's belief that a good deal of the timber product of Michigan that is now sent to Chicago could be more profitably distributed from Milwaukee. He has therefore established these yards in Milwaukee, intending to do his share towards developing this market into something like its legitimate proportions. What this market does not require he will dispose of in Chicago on cargo sales.

Mr. E. B. Ward is one of the most sagacious business men in the west, powerful in resources, shrewd in apprehending opportunities, and successful in chosing and employing men. It was his wisdom that located the Milwaukee Iron Company, which in seven years has grown to be one of the first industries of its kind in the country, and which although one of the youngest came out of the late panic in excellent shape. What Mr. Ward undertakes is not likely to fail.

The step he has taken in locating his great lumber interests here cannot fail to give a new impetus to one of Milwaukee's most neglected and at the same time most inviting fields of commercial enterprise. All that is now needed to make the lumber interest of this city what it should be, is a thorough and prompt reformation of the policy and management of the Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad with reference to the transportation of lumber. Mr. S. S. Merrill has frequently declared that he "didn't care a d— whether he took a stick of timber out of Milwaukee or not." It is time for all this to be changed.

We inquired of Mr. J. C. Ricketson, of the Wisconsin Iron Company, whether Mr. Ward was to build a sash, blind and door factory right away. He replied, "Not at present. Probably not this year."

THE WISCONSIN LUMBERMAN.

What Its Exchanges Say About It.

We are in receipt of the WISCONSIN LUMBERMAN, a new monthly magazine containing fifty pages of valuable and instructive information concerning the lumbering interests of Wisconsin, and of the Northwest. The editorials embrace a great variety of topics relating to the lumber trade, and are remarkably well written.—Howard Co. (Kansa) Record.

We had a pleasant visit Tuesday, from E. B. Northrop of the editorial staff of that eminently wide-awake and valuable publication, the WISCONSIN LUMBERMAN. Glad to know it is meeting with flattering success. Although it has been in existence but a few months it promises to be by all odds the best of its class in the country.—De Pere News.

We are glad to note the rapid improvements in the WISCONSIN LUMBERMAN, of Milwaukee. The publication has reached its fourth month, and is now one of the finest periodicals in its department published in the country. The January number is full of fresh and valuable information and is very handsome printed. The LUMBERMAN is edited by E. B. Northrop and H. A. Chittenden, and subscriptions are only $2.00 a year.—Fond du Lac Reporter.

The January number of this valuable magazine is before us. Its pages are bristling with facts and figures pertaining to the lumber trade of the country. It is just such a publication as our lumbermen have long needed, as it gathers much of its news from the local papers of the lumber regions, from Canada to Florida, and from Maine to California, and publishes them in a neat, attractive form. It is published by the Lumberman Publishing