INSPECTION OF LUMBER IN MICHIGAN.

The Saginaw Weekly Courier passes the following remarks upon the occasion of the retirement of the late inspector-general of Michigan:

The resignation of Ed. Y. Williams as inspector-general of lumber, will leave a vacancy to be filled before navigation opens. When it was rumored that Mr. Williams would resign last winter there was a lively strife for the office, but somehow or other there is now not much fighting after the office which sustained a loss of over $500 the past season. The Courier has advocated the law from the start, but it now insists that the law is useless unless there is a disposition on the part of manufacturers and shippers to observe it to the very letter. If this had been the case there would be no deficiency, but on the contrary a large surplus to apportion back. It rests with those interested in the lumber business to determine whether they will stand together for the enforcement of the law or not. There should be no privileged classes. These things should be considered in council before a successor to Mr. Williams is recommended, and if necessary an agreement between manufacturers should be entered into.

A correspondent, "A. H. M." of the same paper makes the following valuable suggestion:

Would it not be a good plan, now, while no lumber is being shipped by water and the inspectors have ample leisure for examination and instruction, to see to it that they all have the same schooling, to the end that our qualities are made uniform? The reason the office is not self-sustaining may be a lack of confidence both by buyer and seller. A little lot of about four thousand feet of upper quality lumber has been inspected by four inspectors, all regularly licensed, and a Saginaw City man, making 2,800, first clear. A Bay City man 1,000. An East Saginaw man 800, and another, 4,600.

Almost as marked a difference occurred in the quality of culls in another lot. There is no good reason for this great variation. Can't it be equalized so that all will inspect alike?

MORTISING.

From the Operator's Handbook.

It was remarked of jig saws that they should only be used when no other machine could be employed for the work. It will not be far wrong, and for similar reasons, to say the same in reference to reciprocating mortising machines.

In no other country except America have reciprocating machines been applied to all kinds of mortising, and there is nothing strange in the reaction we now see going on by the return to rotary machines for car building and other heavy work. All reciprocating machines, no matter what their character, if run at a high speed are open to serious objections—from wear, breaking, jar, and vibration—but when we add a kind of duty that consists in heavy blows, like mortising, it amounts to a culmination of these troubles, and explains why the mortiser in a wood shop is generally out of order and requires more repairs than all the rest of the machines.

We therefore suggest a thorough investigation of this mortising question to see whether the reciprocating mortising machine has not been applied to many kinds of works which could have been as well or better done by rotary machines. All the mortising in France, and the greater part in England, is performed by rotary machines, that cut clean true mortises without vibration or noise; the question arises, suppose it takes a little longer to cut a mortise, is it but a small part of the operation in making up work, there are no breakdowns to hinder and derange other things, the work is better done, the tools are not half so expensive, and finally, is it not worth a great deal to get rid of the clashing and banging of a reciprocating machine, as a matter of order and comfort about the works? But even this argument need not be used alone, for some car builders from careful statistics prove that rotary mortising machines effect a saving of time in the end, from the better facilities they afford in presenting and handling long or heavy lumber.