MICHIGAN ITEMS.

Mr. W. R. McCormick read a sketch of the settlement and early history of Bay City and Portsmouth, at a meeting of the executive committee of the Pioneer Society at the Fraser House, East Saginaw, on New Years Day. We are indebted to it for several interesting items in this column.

The various members of the Pioneer Society are cordially invited to be present at its annual meeting in the court house of East Saginaw, Saturday, Feb. 21, at 2 p. m.

Judge Albert Miller at the meeting of the committee of the Pioneer Society related an incident of 1847. In that year he was doing business at Portsmouth. His wife, who resided at Saginaw City, soon expressed a desire to remove there, that she might be with her husband. Accordingly he purchased the old Marsac house and began to repair it. He hired a carpenter by the name of Smith Dodge to help him for one week, he paid him for his services in lumber. Dodge purchased a lot where the Campbell House now stands, for $75, removed his lumber thereto, and so rapidly did the pile grow that he soon had lumber enough to build a public house.

The late James McCormick removed to Portsmouth, in 1841, with his family from above Saginaw. He and his son, the late James J. McCormick, bought an interest in the old Portsmouth saw mill, the only mill at that time there, and commenced the manufacture of lumber. They shipped the first cargo of lumber that ever went out of the Saginaw river. The late James McCormick died in 1864. and his son, James J., died in 1872. He has one son, still living in Bay City, Wm. R. McCormick.

Still no snow! The season is advancing and no logs in for the summer campaign! This beautiful weather which delights everybody else only serves to lengthen the faces of our lumbermen as the prospects for an active season grows more and more dubious.—Montague Lumberman.

At Water's lumber camp, on the Gratiot, about seven miles above Alma, some 30 to 35 men are employed at from $18 to $25 per month. The force will be increased during sleighing to 40 men. About 3,000,000 feet of logs are expected to be got out there the present winter.

The St. Louis (Mich.) Herald, speaking of lumbering operations in that vicinity, says:—If the weather proves favorable, the indications are that there will be more lumber camps in operation in this part of the state than the first shock of the panic promised.

In the mining regions the latest industry is said to be an attempt to dry snow and make salt of it.

The Marquette Mining Journal calls this a "Local Cinder," Menominee lumber dealers are figuring on the conundrum whether it pays to plane lumber before shipping it. To tell the plain truth, we don't know anything about it. It's a rough question at present, but we hope they will be able to smoothe it all out. In this connection we might state that some of our hash consumers are decidedly averse to the plain board now being furnished.

John McEachine and Robert McHaffy, were recently loading logs on a sleigh at Frazer's lumbering location at Cherry Creek, when one log rolled off and caught both men beneath it. McEachine had a leg broken, and the other man was considerably jammed.

A dispatch from East Saginaw, Mich., reports a sad catastrophe by the burning of a dwelling. The dwelling house of Mr. McManagle, in the township of
East Dayton, five miles east of Mayville, Tuscola county, took fire from some cause not known, and was completely destroyed, burning to death the entire family, consisting of Mr. McManagle, his wife, and child. The particulars of this awful catastrophe will probably never be learned, as none were left to tell the tale.

The *Margaretta Mining Journal* has a paragraph which will serve for a great many latitudes at this time: The man who will make the cry of hard times an excuse for not paying his bills, when he is abundantly able to do so, is meaner than—well, we can think of anything mean enough but what it rises to a virtue in comparison. But there are lots of just such people in this country at the present time. Men who have money stored away out of sight, and who go about with long faces and dejected countenances, whining away at the scarcity of currency. You mean, dishonest, soulless sneaks, it is just your presence in the community that makes times hard. You who have money, and cling to it like grim death to a sick nigger, and then wonder where all the money is! Pay your debts, and thus enable others to pay theirs; then get up and leave the country. No one will shed tears at your departure. We have sympathy for the honest, unfortunate man, be he rich or poor, who is unable to meet his obligations, but these vampires in human form, who can pay, but take advantage of every means to make creditors wait, are deserving of no sympathy, and certainly will not get it.

The *Farwell Register* says, from parties just down from the Muskegon, we learn that lumbering is going on along that stream unabated. Scott Garrish some days ago had in 1,000,000 feet, and had as many more skidded, and still hauling, though snow was a pretty scarce article. On Monday logs were going over the “plains” with snow about two or three inches deep, but with excellent bottom Lumbermen believing that an open winter is a sure thing this time, are sending outside for all the teams they can hire, and appear determined to rush things while snow enough remains to make a sleigh track.

About two years ago Stone & Seeley, a lumber firm at Sand Lake Station, 26 miles north of Grand Rapids, on the Indiana Railroad, lost their mill by fire. It was then supposed that an incendiary fired it, but no trace of the villain could be gained. Afterwards their logs were “dogged,” that is spikes, etc., were driven in them to break the saws. This was probably done by the same villain. On the night of the 9th ult., their lumber in the yard was discovered to be on fire. They had 3,000,000 feet burned, and Beaver, Miller & Co., adjoining, had rather more destroyed. At one time the fire threatened to destroy their mill, and help was asked from Grand Rapids, but could not be sent, as engines are not allowed to go from there except upon requisition from the authorities of a village or city in danger of a general conflagration. The mill was saved, but the total loss is $100,000, on which there is but $80,000 of insurance, about equally divided.

The annual meeting of the Bad River Boom Company was held at Saginaw City on the 12th ult., at which time the following officers and directors were elected for the ensuing year: President, E. J. Ring; Secretary and Treasurer, R. J. Carney; Directors, E. J. Ring, R. J. Carney, J. F. Burnham, J. T. Lyons, N B. Bradley. The quantity of logs rafted by the Bad River Boom Company for the past year amounted to 37,000,000.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Tittabawassee Boom Co., was held on the 14th ult., in the office of the company. The meeting was called to order by the president. The roll of the
stockholders was then called and stockholders representing 769 shares were found to be present. The president then presented his annual report which was read by the secretary, and which was accepted. The following directors were chosen: A. W. Wright, John Moore, Sewell Avery, W. R. Burt, C. H. Davis, Newell Barnard. The new board then met and proceeded to elect officers. President, A. W. Wright; Treasurer, John Moore; Secretary, C. H. Davis.

The people of Eagle Harbor are again before Congress with a petition, asking an appropriation of $150,000 for improving the entrance to that port, and rendering it accessible to vessels of all descriptions.

The total amount of lumber cut in western Michigan during the year 1873 is stated at 1,106,876,763 feet—including the Saginaw valley the cut is estimated at 2,350,000,000 feet.

The Kirby Carpenter Co., of Menominee have given the subject of planing lumber before shipping a very thorough trial during the past year, and have decided it in the affirmative. In the first place the work is done at Chicago prices, and there are men who will contract to plane all the lumber manufactured on the Menominee at the same figures. They thus save about 3/4 bulk in freighting, they save in dock room in Chicago, and their product is ready for market when it reaches the yard. The company mentioned, estimate that they save from 55 to 50 cents per thousand on all lumber planed here this season, and if this can be done on the entire product, it is certainly worth looking after.

Thus far this winter we have been spared the recording of the list of accidents in the lumber regions, owing to the limited operations. Still there is occasionally an accident, and one of the most painful that we have heard of occurred yesterday at the lumber camp of Tim Nester, on the north branch of the Tobacco River. Edward Casey, the unfortunate victim, was engaged in cutting a pine tree, when it lodged against a dead tree, which breaking off fell, and before Casey could get out of the way, it struck him on the head, crushing him to the earth and producing instant death.—East Saginaw Enterprise.

GLYCERINE FOR STEAM BOILERS.

The manufacture of glycerine has of late, in view of the constantly extending importance in the arts, been greatly expanded. During the past year the production of the United States alone reached 2,000,000 lbs., of which one firm in Cincinnati manufactured one half. In a communication addressed to the French society of civil engineers, M. Austin has highly recommended the employment of this substance as an anti-incrustator in steam boilers. Glycerine, which is soluble, in all proportions, in water, appears, according to M. Austin, to increase very notably the solubility of lime salts, to which the evils of incrustations in boilers are mainly ascribable; indeed, according to the author, it really forms with them a soluble compound. When the lime salts accumulate to such an extent as to be no longer soluble in the glycerine present, they are deposited in the form of a gelatinous sediment, which does not adhere to the boiler surface. M. Austin recommends the employment of one pound of glycerine to every three or four hundred pounds of coal burnt. From actual trials made with the material, it is declared in the communication that the employment of glycerine for this purpose, and in the manner above described, proved successful.—Technologist.

The amount of lumber now on hand in the Milwaukee Market is at least 50,000,000 feet.