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WISCONSIN LUMBERMAN.

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INSPECTION OF LUMBER.

There is no stronger proof of lack of system in the lumber business than the great disparity of the inspection rules and laws of the different lumbering centers of the country. We can best illustrate the difference in rules of inspection by giving examples of those rules. For instance, the rules of inspection which were adopted last spring by the Lumbermen's Board of Trade of Chicago, declare that first clear lumber shall be:

“Not less than eleven inches in width, and no imperfections allowed unless fourteen inches wide or upwards; will then allow imperfections equal to sap one inch on one side extending the whole length of the piece, on pieces fourteen inches wide and well manufactured, but the face side must be perfect; as width increases will allow larger imperfections in proportion to the width, but not imperfections enough to decrease the value below the above-described piece.”

Chicago handles nearly or quite a billion feet of Michigan pine yearly, yet mark the Michigan standard of first clear.

“First clear lumber shall not be less than eight inches wide, twelve

feet long, and one inch thick, and at such width and up to ten inches wide, shall be free from all imperfections. If the width is twelve inches, defects shall be allowed that will equal knots in the aggregate of one inch in diameter, or sap that will be equal to one and one-half inches in width on one side. If the width is sixteen inches, defects shall be allowed that will be equal to knots in the aggregate of two inches in diameter, or sap that will be equal to two inches on one side. If the width is twenty inches, defects shall be allowed that will be equal to knots in the aggregate of two and one-half inches in diameter, or sap that will be equal to sap three inches in width on one side.”

In the Michigan inspection law allowances are also made for each additional half inch in thickness. Our readers will observe the wide disparity between the inspection law of Michigan and the inspection rules of Chicago, and by looking at their back numbers of the WISCONSIN LUMBERMAN they will, on comparing the two rules referred to, see that about the same difference runs all through the separate specifications. Wisconsin has no positive rules of inspection.

At the Mississippi markets inspection is hap-hazard. Philadelphia, New York and the eastern markets generally, hardly seem to realize that a definite inspection law ever existed in any locality. It is perfectly evident that if the great lumbering centers could agree upon uniform inspection rules and then that those rules might become the legal inspection guide by action of the different state legislatures, the business of lumbering would be vastly benefited. It is time that certainly lumbermen took some action in the matter of obtaining a law or laws that shall give some definite standard of inspection for the entire country.

THE LUMBERMEN'S CONVENTION AT WILLIAMSPORT.

The lumbermen who assembled at Williamsport, Pa., on the 23rd of June for the purpose of organizing a national association, were successful in their efforts. A national association of lumbermen has actually been formed. Thereby good has been accomplished. The convention was small in numbers, but powerful as the representative of wealth, business and energy. It was not expected that a gathering of lumbermen at Williamsport would result in greater good than in the laying of the foundation of an organization which is to eventually become powerful in its influence and protective of the lumbering interests of the country. The firm establishment of a great national association may and should result from the work now accomplished. Local and state associations are ab-

and solutely necessary to suggest organize measures which may subsequently be carried out through the force and power of the national association. A good beginning has been made by the convention at Williamsport. Let the work be encouraged. The amount of business transacted at Williamsport by the convention, although somewhat meagre in comparison to meetings of similar importance, seems to cover the entire grounds for which the convention assembled.

The convention met in pursuance of call, at 3 P. M., Tuesday, June 23rd, and was called to order by Edgar Munson, President of the West Branch Lumbermen's Exchange. In the course of appropriate remarks Mr. Munson nominated Hon. Ezra Rust of Saginaw, Mich., as temporary chairman of the convention. On Mr. Rusts taking the chair the active business of the convention commenced. The temporary organization was first perfected and a committee to nominate permanent officers of the convention was appointed; then the convention adjourned until Wednesday morning, June 24th, at 10 o'clock A. M.

The committee to nominate permanent officers of the convention reported as follows:

For President—Hon. L. D. Whitmore, of Warren, Pa.

Vice Presidents—Hon. J. G. Thorp, of Eau Claire, Wis. Hon. Ezra Rust, of Saginaw, Mich. C. T. Marston, Hartford, Ct.

Recording Secretaries — J. R. Smith, Buffalo, N. Y. H. H. Colquitt, Savannah, Ga.