

THE LUMBER BUSINESS IN NEW YORK.

New York city is the greatest retail lumber market of the country and probably presents a greater diversity of trade and interests than any other market in the world. The white pine from the north, the yellow pine from the south, walnut from the west, the usual variety of hardwoods from different localities, and foreign woods from all portions of the globe, make the lumber business of New York as cosmopolitan as is the heterogeneous population of the great city. The trade, which sustains over one hundred yards and handles hundreds of millions annually, is purely local in its character. The builders and contractors of the city use by far the greater portion of the lumber sold, while the balance is consumed by the various manufacturing establishments of cabinet and wood-work, and by the ship-builders. Yellow pine is very largely dealt in; we should judge to even a greater amount than white pine. Woods which are almost unknown at the west as material for lumber may in New York be considered standard commodities. Large quantities of spruce and hemlock are handled, and even cypress is coming into considerable favor. Should the white pine forests of the country be suddenly swept away, New York would miss them but little; so entirely are other woods made to take the place of the favorite of the west. Comparatively little common white pine lumber finds its way to New York, that which is used coming mostly from Albany and first

through the dealers in that city. In fact, dealers in New York buy more lumber from the wholesale dealers at Albany than they do direct from the manufacturers. Western lumbermen, as a rule, have long believed that the upper grades of their lumber would some day find its most profitable market at New York and the east. We believe that before transportation becomes low enough to enable very profitable shipments east, the great and growing west will absorb, at larger profits to manufacturers, every clear-stuff board that comes from the pineries of the northwest. The west uses, proportionately, much more lumber than the east uses, and the ratio is daily increasing in favor of the west. The great eastern establishments which manufacture sash, doors, mouldings, etc., complain that the western factories of similar kind have so competed in the market as to render their business of little or no profit. Probably the most prosperous lumbermen at the east are those engaged in handling exclusively foreign and hardwoods and veneers. Inactivity in the trade is complained of on all sides, yet the lumber business is more prosperous and active than the majority of businesses in the east. If dealers are making slow sales they are at least making some profit on the time, labor and money invested, which is more than can be said of many branches of trade. Inspection of lumber seems to be governed more by individual caprice than any settled and definite rules of inspection. As before hinted, a lumberman's exchange or board of trade in

Philadelphia and New York would be of incalculable benefit to the trade in those cities, and if so thoroughly systematized as that of Chicago, would do away with the huckster business complained of at the east and also result in permanent good in a number of important ways.

BIG DAY'S WORK BY A CIRCULAR MILL.

The largest day's work by a circular saw mill, of which we have ever heard is vouched for by one of the principal firms at Ionia, Mich. In order to record the matter for future reference we append the following letter describing the achievement.

IONIA, Mich. May 25, 1874.

STEARNS M'FG. CO., ERIE, Pa.

Gentlemen:—We cut at our mill on May 16th, with one circular saw and patent edger, 91,528 feet of lumber in eleven hours and thirty minutes. 75,000 feet of it was inch boards; the balance 1½ and 2 in. Nothing thicker. All well manufactured. One man edged it all. We call this a big day's work. Do you know of any better? We used a "Stearns Mill and Edger".

Yours Respectfully,

E. COLBY & Co.

This letter from the firm of E. Colby & Co., is certainly a valuable indorsement of the Stearns mills. We can look back only a few years and remember that a sensation was produced from the fact of Hon. W. D. McIndoe's mill on the Wisconsin river having cut 28,000 feet in eleven hours. At that time this exploit was considered wonderful, and was supposed to be about the extent of man-

ufacture to which a circular mill could possibly be put. But improvement is the order of the day, and we see it fully exemplified in this great day's work of one of the Stearns Circular Saw Mills. When it is considered that of the 91,528 feet sawed, 75,000 feet were inch boards and that the balance was 1½ and 2 inch stuff, the record is truly marvellous. Messrs. E. Colby & Co. have a first-class reputation, and we are therefore compelled to accept their statement without a doubt.

CHEAP MINNESOTA LUMBER FOR NEBRASKA.

The *Omaha Bee* is doing for the consumers of the Missouri valley and the manufacturers of Minneapolis what the WISCONSIN LUMBERMAN is doing for consumers in Illinois and Milwaukee dealers and manufacturers. It is trying to bring the railroad managers to a realizing sense of the importance of giving the lumber interests adequate and steady accommodation at reasonable rates. Our exchange says :

The want of cheap lumber has been felt in Omaha and Nebraska ever since the first white man set his foot upon our prairie soil. The want of cheap lumber has, in a great measure, retarded our progress as a city and state, and does even now prevent the inauguration of many public improvements and private enterprises. With cheap lumber we might be able to construct cheap dwelling houses, and cheap dwelling houses would result in a reduction of rents to the working classes. Such a reduction, coupled with our ability to procure the raw material at reasonable figures, would enable many of our small capitalists to undertake the