

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

east at exorbitant figures. The opening of the through all rail route to the Minnesota pinery regions promises eventually, if not immediately, to supply Omaha and Nebraska with cheap lumber. Our readers are doubtless aware that the recent railway excursion to that region was mainly improvised for the purpose of acquainting the people of the Missouri valley with the advantages offered by the direct trade with the lumber makers of the Upper Mississippi. The *Bee* takes pleasure in placing the observations and conclusions of its envoy before the people of the state. They contain much valuable and interesting statistical information touching the manufacture of and traffic in lumber.

That Omaha is deeply interested in a direct importation of lumber from the Minnesota pine regions is evident from the fact that Omaha buys and distributes almost double the quantity of lumber annually purchased and distributed by St. Joseph and Kansas City. It now only remains to be seen whether the railroad lines between Omaha and St. Paul will pursue a liberal policy to encourage the building up of this traffic. It is gratifying as it is significant, that an Omaha lumber firm has already taken the initiative step by investing in a heavier bill of lumber than any purchased by the representatives of the other cities in the Missouri valley. It is to be hoped that the experiment will prove remunerative.

In this connection, we may as well also call attention to the superior inducements offered by the extensive manufacturing establishments of Minneapolis & St. Paul, in the quality and price of certain articles of merchandise, heretofore imported by Nebraska merchants, and small manufactures from the far east.

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THE DECISION IN THE LOG SUIT OF GEO. COOK VERSUS THE U. S.

The readers of the WISCONSIN LUMBERMAN will remember that in the May number of this publication there appeared an eloquent argument, by Messrs. Smith & Stark, of Milwaukee, in a suit of replevin brought by the United States to dispossess Mr. Geo. Cook, of Green Bay, Wis., of certain logs purchased by him from Indians of the Oneida reservation. The case has been decided in the Supreme Court of the United States, and we are now enabled to give our readers further information on the subject.

The substance of the decision is to the effect that the fee of the Oneida reservation is in the United States, while the Indians have the right of occupancy, that this right of occupancy is unlimited, and to be exercised in the discretion of the Indians. If they desire the lands for the purpose of agriculture, they may clear off the timber to such an extent as may be reasonable under the circumstances. The timber taken off by the Indians in such clearing may be sold by them. But to justify any cutting of the timber, except for use upon the premises, as timber or its product, it must be done in good faith for the improvement of the land. The improvement must be the principal thing, and the cutting of the timber the incident only.

Any cutting beyond this would be waste and also unauthorized. The timber can rightfully severed for the purpose of improving the land, or the better adapting it to convenient occupation, but for no other purpose.