

by years of prosperity; and then having begun in this career of self-reliance we shall shall not require outside assistance.

Indeed, the happy conception of the three-foot gauge has placed it in the power of every town to build and own its own road, and thus be relieved from continued contributions to outside parties, which becomes such a devastating drain upon any community.

In conclusion we ask the confidence of the people in this enterprise, and trust that our appeal for funds to iron and equip the forty or fifty miles already graded, will meet with such a cheerful and ready response that the work can at once be entered upon, and the first division completed the present season while labor and material can be obtained at such a low figure.

It will not be denied that Chicago makes a successful bid for a large amount of Wisconsin trade through her Northwestern and other roads, and we greatly mistake the temper of the business men of Milwaukee if they do not accept this offer and opportunity to make reprisals from Illinois and Iowa; for it must not be forgotten that the first twelve or fifteen miles of this road is the beginning of the Milwaukee and St. Louis Air Line, which will run southwest through the whole state of Illinois.

#### Black Stains for Wood.

A German trade circular describes two kinds of black stains for wood: (1) The ordinary black stains for different kinds of wood. (2) The black ebony stain for certain woods which approach nearest to ebony in hardness and weight. The ordinary black-wood stain is obtained by boiling together blue Brazil wood, powdered gall apples, and alum, in rain or river water, until it becomes black. The liquid is then filtered through a fine organzine, and the objects painted with a new brush before the decoction has cooled, and this repeated until the wood appears of a fine black color: It is then coated with the following liquid. a mixture of iron filings, vitriol, and vinegar is heated (without boiling), and left a few days to settle. If the wood is black enough, yet for the sake of durability, it must be coated with a solution of alum and nitric acid, mixed with a little verdigris, then a decoction of gall apples and logwood dyes are used to give it a deep black. A decoction may be made of brown Brazil wood with alum in rain water, without gall apples; the wood is left standing in it for some days in a moderately warm place, and to it merely iron filings in strong vinegar is added, and both are boiled with the wood over a gentle fire. For this purpose soft pear-wood is chosen, which is prefer-

able to all others for black staining. For the fine black ebony stain, apple, pear, and hazel wood are recommended in preference for this; especially when these kinds of wood have no projecting veins they may be successfully coated with black stain, and are the most complete imitation of the natural ebony. For this compound 14 oz. of gall apples,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  oz. of rasped logwood,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  oz. of vitriol, and  $1\frac{3}{4}$  oz. of distilled verdigris are boiled together with water in an awell-glazed pot, the decoction filtered while it is warm, and the wood coated with repeated hot layers of it. For a second coating a mixture of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  oz. of pure iron filings dissolved in three-quarters of a litre of strong wine vinegar, is warmed, and when cool the wood already blackened is coated two or three times with it, allowing each coat to dry between. For articles which are to be thoroughly saturated, a mixture of  $1\frac{3}{4}$  oz. of sal-ammoniac, with a sufficient quantity of steel filings, is to be placed in a suitable vessel, strong vinegar poured upon it, and left for fourteen days in a gently heated oven. A strong lye is now put in a good pot, to which is added coarsely bruised gall apples and blue Brazil shavings and exposed for the same time as the former to the gentle heat of an oven, which will then yield a good liquid. the pear-wood articles are now laid in the first named stain, boiled for a few hours, and left in for three days longer; they are then placed in a second stain, and treated as in the first. If the articles are not then thoroughly saturated, they may be once more placed in the first bath, and then in the second.

#### Decision of the Michigan Supreme Court Relative to Log Running.

The case of Speechley & Lee vs. Thunder Bay Boom Company, taken from Alpena circuit, was decided in the supreme court against the Boom Company and affirming the decision in the lower court. The principal question involved was the right of a boom company to flood a stream in order to enable it run a large quantity of logs of certain rapids in the Thunder Bay river, interfering with the property of Speechley and Lee below. The court held that the Boom Company had no such rights—that the question of such use being a reasonable one was a question of law for the court and not one of fact for the jury