

PATRONIZE HOME INDUSTRY.

A Glance at the Planing Mills of Omaha.

SENDING AWAY FOR BUILDING MATERIAL.

The Cause of Home Patronage Making Steady Progress—The Manufacturers Wide Awake to Everything Going On.

A few weeks ago The Bee devoted considerable space to a description of the iron works of the city, and it was noted that business in that line had suffered a heavy falling off on account of the small amount of building the past summer.

Another industry which has suffered from the same cause is the manufacture of sash, doors, blinds and all kinds of woodwork turned out by the planing mills and sash and door factories.

Any one who has made a trip around the city and noted the number of planing mills that have been closed down for want of work can only believe that it has been a hard time in this line of business.

The factories at present operated are those of Cady & Gray, John F. Cook, A. J. Rosenberry, H. H. Harewood, Gate City Wood Works, Miller & Gardner, A. Meyer, R. Stevens & Son, Vogel Bros., Manufacturing company, and Hall Bros.

The first factory consisted of that of Cady & Gray, which is located near the river bank, between Dodge and Howard streets. Considerable timber was cut and stored some 7,000,000 feet of lumber.

The lumber to be used in the factory is already dry lumber when it arrives from the sawmills, but before being made up it is loaded on the trucks and run into the dry house. From there it passes to the mill proper, which is divided up into numerous departments fitted up with machinery for turning out the different kinds of work desired.

For example, one part of the building is devoted to the manufacture of doors. In another blinds are made, still another turns out window frames, and in another rooms where stair work is done and other where counters, office railings, etc., are made.

Only a few days ago this firm shipped three car loads of window frames, intended to be used in the electrical building for the World's fair. They are now at work on office furniture for several Omaha houses, including Black, Bruce & Co. and the American Express company.

The machinery in a plant of this kind is very extensive when it is all in operation the sight is a most interesting one. Work that would require at least half a day to be accomplished in the home workshop is done in a very few minutes by the aid of some machine. Window frames are cut and mortised, door panels are sawed out and shaved down to the desired shape, and posts are turned out and all the other interior finishings for buildings are made by machinery.

Many different kinds of wood are worked up and it is very interesting to visit the yards and have pointed out the different pieces of lumber with the history of their origin. There is pine from the north and pine from the south, oak from one part of the country and sycamore from another.

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IN THE THEATRICAL WORLD.

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Mr. Florence was dressed in a dark gray frock suit, and his clean shaven, jolly face was wreathed in smiles. He was in excellent condition with all the evidences of good living. An English monocle was screwed in his right eye, and he wore a moustache and a pair of whiskers, which were as twinkling and was unmistakably Irish.

The three men whose lives stand for so much of human achievement found in the stage and the press common ground for genial discussion, and drifted into a reminiscent mood of delightful interest. In the course of the talk Mr. Florence spoke of his first experience as Colonel Mike Sheridan that day and learning for the first time that he was a brother of general Phil Sheridan. That reminded the actor of a story of a student of his.

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Thanksgiving services for half a dozen of the most prominent churches of the city will be held at the First Congregational church.

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The playing mill men, like most other business men in the city, are very much interested in the cause of home patronage. It is advocated by The Bee, and some of them are quite enthusiastic as they discussed its merits. One says "I think it is the best season like the present with little work there would be given to the local manufacturers, and so it would in most cities, but not in Omaha."

"Why," said one proprietor of a planing mill, "the only building erected in my part of the city this fall was out of the local lumber, doors and sashes. An Omaha mill will give the job of fitting out and repairing some of the frames so that they would fit, and that is all that is to be gained."

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It would seem as if the contractors, who certainly must be most deeply interested in keeping the money at home, where it will enter into general circulation and by making times good stimulate all kinds of building operations, would give all their orders to some mills. Some of them do, but others take contracts for buildings and purchase their materials from distant mills, which takes the money clear out of the state and to some distant point from which it is likely to return.

Why should not parties intending to build construct when they take the contract, their materials be purchased from local mills. Would it not be to the interest of parties building houses for rent to insist that the contractor buy his supplies from home mills, as in that way he would be increasing the number of workmen in the city, who in their turn would increase the demand for houses.

HOME PATRONAGE CHIT CHAT.

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There is one Omaha lady at least who proposes to reform her husband in this respect. One day the lady in question went to a local cigar factory and asked for samples of the best brands of cigars, explaining that her husband was an inveterate smoker, but that she always bought his cigars from the store, and she proposed to convince him that Omaha cigars were just as good and that she should keep her money in the city.

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