

Tribute Paid to Arno Mereen as Expert Manufacturer

American Lumberman Prints Interesting Account of General Superintendent of the C. A. Smith Companies—Some of His Accomplishments.

A RECENT issue of the American Lumberman of Chicago, the leading lumber paper of the United States, contained the following interesting and complimentary article of a well known Coos Bay man, Mr. Arno Mereen, general superintendent of the C. A. Smith Co. The article was given place of honor on first page and was accompanied by an excellent portrait of Mr. Mereen.

A WEST COAST SPECIALIST.

This is concededly an age of specialists, and in the lumber industry they are to be found as well as elsewhere. There are those who specialize in timber, others in logging or manufacturing and still others in marketing lumber products. During the last decade a marked advance has been made in designing, manufacturing and using machinery and devices for economically manufacturing lumber, which means, of course, with the least waste. The subject of this sketch, Arno Mereen, of Oakland, Cal., vice president of the C. A. Smith Lumber & Manufacturing Company, one of the world's largest lumber manufacturing concerns, has devoted thirty-five years of his life to the study of making lumber, and in doing so he has worked out many problems that have resulted in great saving not only by means of specially designed machinery but also in the ingenious adapting of machinery to certain uses and in the utilizing in original ways of electricity in the handling of lumber.

As the readers of the American Lumberman well know, at Marshfield, Ore., on Coos Bay, the C. A. Smith Lumber & Manufacturing Company has a lumber manufacturing plant that is a model of its kind. Arno Mereen's was the master mind that carried out the ideas of C. A. Smith and made possible the modernized methods in operation there. Mr. Mereen is a native of Whitneyville, Me., and was born March 31, 1858, the son of John Mereen, who passed away in Minneapolis in 1893, at the age of 87. The senior Mereen was a merchant and from his store furnished loggers with supplies, taking in return their logs, brought them down the river in the spring and had them manufactured in a mill at Whitneyville. The custom in those days when a person had logs was to rent one or more of the ten up-and-down saws in this mill for the sawing of his logs. The lumber was taken on a railroad seven miles long to Machiasport, where it was loaded on vessels and shipped to market at Boston or elsewhere on the east coast or beyond.

The family was of French descent, as the name indicates. Arno Mereen went to school and between spells worked in the store. When he was 18 years old he left home and spent one year on the Kennebec River driving logs, and the following year was with his brother-in-law in the coal and ice business in Massachusetts. In 1878 Arno Mereen went to Minneapolis and there he began his experience in making lumber, securing work tending gang in the mill of Cole & Hammond on the west side, and for several years he held jobs about the mill, including that of circular (then hand) sawyer, and in the winter he worked in the woods as sealer when not doing mill-work. Being naturally of a mechanical disposition, he took to the work of millwright and in this way acquired an extensive knowledge of the mechanical workings of the machinery in sawmills.

While hand sawyer for J. B. Bassett & Co., at the Falls at Minneapolis, the foreman quit and Mr. Mereen was given his job by the late Major Bassett until another man could be secured, but the other man was never hired and Mr. Mereen remained with this concern until the mill was burned, in 1896. He then went to St. Hilaire, Minn., as mill superintendent for the St. Hilaire Lumber Company, remaining there three years, the last two of which he was in charge of all the operations, including the marketing of lumber.

In 1899 Mr. Mereen returned to Minneapolis and took charge of the manufacturing interest of the C. A. Smith Lumber Company as general superintendent, and since then he has found the opportunity to put into practical use the ideas he obtained during years previous in operating sawmill machinery. As an illustration

of his aptitude in this direction, when he took charge of the C. A. Smith Lumber Company's mill at Minneapolis, as with other mills at that time, there was a great deal of waste in manufacture. This did not please Mr. Mereen and he gradually made changes in the mechanical arrangement and added resaws and thinner gauged saws to economize in sawing, with the result that in 1903, after he had had charge of the mill four years, it turned out 167,189,000 feet of lumber from \$7,237,000 feet of logs. Four years previous, before Mr. Mereen took charge, the mill that year had made 108,237,000 feet of lumber out of \$1,111,500 feet of logs. In other words, in 1903 the mill made within one million feet of the same amount of lumber out of nearly 13,000,000 feet less than four years previous, and as logs were worth \$19 a thousand in the Minneapolis boom in 1903, the saving was nearly \$120,000 that year in the cost of logs required to make within one million merchantable feet of as much lumber.

Preparatory to the construction of the great plant at Marshfield, Mr. Mereen made several trips to the Pacific Coast, studying conditions and in January, 1906, he went to Marshfield and bought the Dean mill, that was the nucleus of the plant there. It is now known as the East Side Mill and has been entirely rebuilt within the last year and the capacity has been doubled. In the spring of 1906 work was begun on the construction of the main sawmill, and on February 15, 1908, the big sawmill engines were started and on February 29 the mill began sawing.

Economy here is the keynote of all the operations, and when the lumber is taken from the mill on the long sorting platform, such of it as is to be remanufactured passes to the remanufacturing plant and is then taken on cars by electric transfer system to the docks and by electric cranes, in unit packages. It is quickly put aboard the company's big vessels especially designed for this purpose, the Nann Smith and the Adeline Smith, and transported to the large storage yard planing mill and box factory at Bay Point, California, for shipment to the trade. This is the plan at present, but when the Southern Pacific

completes its railroad now under construction from Eugene, Oregon, to Marshfield, such of the lumber from the Marshfield mills as is intended for the Eastern market will be loaded on cars and shipped direct. The purpose of this article is not to go into the mechanical details heretofore fully described in the American Lumberman, but the express desire is to give credit to Arno Mereen for the working out of the mechanical details of this immense plant as well as the plant at Bay Point, to which he has devoted seven years of his life.

Mr. Mereen makes his home in Berkeley, Cal. He married, January 8, 1883, Miss Mary Dunning, who died fifteen years ago, leaving one son and two daughters. The son, John D. Mereen, has charge of the electric operations at the Marshfield plant. The oldest daughter, Miss Edith, is attending Smith College; the younger daughter, Derris, is a pupil in a private school at Berkeley.

Mr. Mereen is a director in the C. A. Smith Lumber Company, as well as general superintendent and vice-president of the C. A. Smith Lumber & Manufacturing Company. He is also president of the Terminal Railway Company, at Marshfield, which constructed a steam road along the waterfront and had a franchise for an electric line. The steam road and its terminal facilities were recently sold to the Southern Pacific Company.

Mr. Mereen, although his home is in Berkeley, spends much of his time on Coos Bay, but when he is at the general offices of the company in Oakland he delights in devoting his spare time to his home and his children, and his wishes do not lie in the direction of club life, although he is a member of the Athenian Club of Oakland and the Marshfield Commercial Club, as well as of Hoo-Hoo. His tastes are simple and his demeanor is unostentatious. Such, in brief, is the genius who has done so much to make the C. A. Smith lumber manufacturing interests on the Pacific Coast famed far and wide. He is the able lieutenant of a great leader and has been doing his full share in maintaining and perfecting the Smith organization.

NOTICE.

No. 2885. In the District Court of the United States for the District of Oregon. In the Matter of S. T. Levine, alleged bankrupt.

It appearing to the satisfaction of the court that a petition was filed in this court on the 3rd day of June, 1914, praying that the above-named S. T. Levine be adjudged a bankrupt, and that a subpoena directed to said alleged bankrupt was duly issued out of the court to the marshal of the district, that said subpoena has not been served; that said alleged bankrupt is not now within this district so that personal service may be made upon him, and that diligent efforts have been made to ascertain the whereabouts of said alleged bankrupt, but that he is not now within the jurisdiction of this court;

It is, therefore, on application of the petitioners herein, ordered that the above-named, alleged bankrupt plead, answer or demur to the petition filed here on or before the 16th day of July, 1914, and in case of his failure so to plead, answer or demur, adjudication shall be made according to the prayer of said petition;

And further, that this order be published in the Coos Bay Times, a newspaper of general circulation of Coos County, Oregon, once a week for two consecutive weeks, said publication to commence not later than the 2nd day of July, 1914, and that a copy of this order be mailed to said above-named alleged bankrupt at his last known place of residence at the City of Los Angeles, State of California, on or before the date of the first publication hereof, and that the proof of such mailing be filed in this office before the time to appear and plead.

Witness the Honorable Robert S. Bean, Judge of said Court and the seal thereof, at Portland, in said District, on the 22nd day of June A. D., 1914.

A. M. CANNON, Clerk. Last publication, July 10, 1914. First publication June 26, 1914. By F. L. BUCK, Deputy.



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