

The Tie Industry Was the Main Source of Revenue During the Past Year



A view of some of the timber from which ties are hewn.

Enough ties to build 136 miles of standard railroad track, 475,000 ties to be exact, were made within a radius of 12 miles of Bandon, hauled to the docks and shipped from this city during the first 11 months of the year now closing. The total value of this immense output was \$209,000 and 5 ships, with carrying capacities of from 250,000 to 1,000,000 feet of lumber, were kept busy almost continually carrying the ties to California.

Imagine nearly half a million ties all in one pile, if you can, and you will have some conception of the importance of the industry in this section. Most of the ties manufactured here this year were nine foot lengths, made of white cedar and all were hewed by hand. Placed end to end this number of ties would reach 645 miles, or more than across the state of Oregon. That is to say that the "tie-hackers" in this vicinity, hewing four sides to every tie, literally chopped their way through 2500 miles of lumber in less than a year.

In no other industry perhaps, does so large a percentage of the total value of the product go to the actual

producers as in the manufacturing and marketing of hewed ties. Of the \$209,000 derived from the ties here, \$105,000 went to those who hewed them from the timber, "tie-hackers" as they are called. Their work consists of felling the trees, sawing them into the right lengths and fashioning them into their final shape. To be a good "tie-hacker" is equivalent to being a good judge of timber, for as a cog in the process it is up to these men to decide what will make acceptable ties and what will make "culls." An accurate eye and steady arm are also fundamental requisites, as culling will result if the ties do not measure fully up to the size, 7 by 9 or whatever the size ordered calls for. To the "yarders," those who gather the ties from the woods and assemble them in the receiving yard, \$15,000 was paid and \$57,000 went to the teamsters who hauled the output to Bandon, leaving but \$34,000 to pay for the timber used. These figures do not include \$11,000 paid for piling and poles, which brings the grand total for the year up to \$211,000.

This sum represents the local busi-

ness of three firms, the Dollar company, Geo. M. Laffaw, dealing in ties alone, and the A. F. Estabrook company, which purchase piling and poles as well as ties. All of the Dollar ties, 75,000 in number, were shipped on the steamer Grace Dollar, the largest vessel that has ever entered the local port. The Speedwell, with a capacity of 800,000 feet, and the Bandon and Fifield, each carrying 500,000 feet, handle the output of the Estabrook company, while this year Mr. Laffaw chartered the Acme (480,000 feet) and the Phoenix (250,000 feet capacity) to take his output to San Francisco.

During the year the tie industry has provided steady employment for 420 men at good wages and there will be no let up in the business for years to come, as there is sufficient timber within the 12 miles radius that has supplied the Bandon market this year to last for at least three years. When that is gone it is but a matter of building roads to the material that lays farther back.

The ties are made exclusively of Port Orford white cedar. This is a fine-grained, pure white wood carry-

ing a high per centage of oil of cedar which acts as a natural preservative. The railroad companies after much experimenting have found that ties made of this wood hold spikes well and are of practically lasting qualities, being good for an average of 18 or 20 years. To date the ties have practically all been made of fallen timber, it having been found that the dead timber is ready cured, works better and makes a much lighter piece, hence more economically handled. The result has been that instead of depleting the local cedar supply the business has merely opened an avenue for saving the large number of cedar logs lying in the woods, which under former conditions would have been a clear waste in the course of time. The Port Orford, or white cedar as it is commonly known is a native of this section of the Oregon coast, this being the only section in the United States where it is found in commercial quantities—a local monopoly.

"I look for next year to be better than this has been, in the tie business," said Mr. Laffaw, when questioned regarding the future of the industry.

The business during the past year has been divided as follows:

Robert Dollar Company:	
75,000 ties	\$35,000
A. F. Estabrook Company:	
250,000 ties	\$100,000
Piling and poles	10,000
George M. Laffaw:	
150,000 ties	\$65,000
Piling	1,000
Total	\$211,000

Langlois Is a Dairying Center

Langlois, the center for the rich dairying and farming region of northern Curry county, is one of the leaders among the hustling towns of the county. From the many fine ranches in the vicinity all of the produce is gathered here for shipment to Bandon, 16 miles to the north, with which place regular freight, passenger and mail service is maintained.

Five creameries turning out thousands of pounds of butter and cheese every year are located within a radius of a few miles of Langlois and two or three small sawmills furnish employment for a number of men. Mining and prospecting parties often outfit here. A good graded school is liberally supported and a water distribution system furnishes the 250

inhabitants with pure mountain stream water.

So extensive is the dairying industry in this section that locally the town is better known as "Dairyville", and the surrounding country as the "Dairyville country." Along Floras creek are some of the largest and most modern dairies on the Pacific coast and blooded stock is the rule rather than the exception. The Star Ranch, until recently operated by Dr. J. R. Wetherbee, has been the home of cattle and hogs boasting pedigrees a yard long, while the fields of this ranch yield two and three crops of fodder stuff a year. Nothing new in the way of equipment escapes the critical eyes of the progressive ranchers here and the property of such owners as the Cappe Bothers, J. A. Cox, and others show ample evidences of prosperity.

The scenery around Langlois is beautiful and the numerous streams and lakes nearby afford exceptionally good trout fishing, while deer, bear and other game is plentiful in the heavily timbered hills.

CHRISTMAS EVE.

THE snow is white
On the roofs tonight,
The moon looks down with
her silvery smile,
And the wind blows free
Through bush and tree
And whistles along for mile on mile.

And, ah, hark there!
On the midnight air
Comes the faintest tinkle of fairy bells.
They are coming near,
They are coming here,
And their sweet sound swelling of joy foretells.

It is Santa Claus,
And he cannot pause,
But down the chimney he quickly
slides,
Each stocking fills
Till it almost spills,
Then gayly chuckles and off he glides.

How happy he,
The saint to be
Of all the girls and all the boys!
He hears his praise
Through the holidays
As they eat their sweets and break
their toys.

So still he smiles
And the time beguiles
Concocting schemes our hearts to cheer.
He loves us all,
And great and small
Regret that he comes but once a year.
—William Barclay Dunham.

The Orange Pharmacy announces some startling specials in their ad this week.

Christmas Dreams and Christmas Eve

CHRISTMAS DREAMS.

SOME tiny elves one Christmas grew mischievous, it seems, and broke into the storeroom where old Santa keeps his dreams

And gathered up whole armfuls of dreams all bright and sweet And started forth to peddle them down the village street.

Oh, you would never, never guess how queerly these dreams sold. Why, nearly all the younger folk bought dreams of being old, And one wee chap in curls and kilts, a gentle little thing, Invested in a dream about an awful pirate king.

A maid who thought her pretty name old fashioned and absurd Bought dreams of names the longest and the queerest ever heard, And, strange to say, a lad who owned all sorts of costly toys Bought dreams of selling papers with the raggedest of boys.

And then a dream of summer and a barefoot boy at play Was bought up very quickly by a gentleman quite gray, And one old lady, smiling through the grief she tried to hide, Bought bright and tender visions of a little girl who died.

A ragged little beggar girl, with weary, wistful gaze, Soon chose a Cinderella dream, with jewels all ablaze. Well, it wasn't many minutes from the time they came in sight Before the dreams were all sold out and the elves had taken flight. —St. Nicholas.

You'll be interested in what Sidwell tells you in his ad this week.

CLOSING OUT!

Everything goes by January 1, therefore
beginning

Saturday, December 18th

we will sell all our Wines and Liquors at

ONE-FOURTH OFF

Beer \$2.00 per Dozen Bottles

Rasmussen Bros. & Tuttle

"No More" after January 1

Bandon, Oregon