

**WOODWORKING SAFEGUARDS
FOR THE PREVENTION OF
ACCIDENTS IN LUMBERING AND
WOODWORKING INDUSTRIES**

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Woodworking Safeguards for the Prevention of Accidents in Lumbering and Woodworking Industries by David Van Schaack

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DAVID VAN SCHAACK

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WOODWORKING SAFEGUARDS

For the Prevention of Accidents
in Lumbering and Woodworking
Industries : : : :

BY

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HARTFORD, CONN.

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PREFACE.

This pamphlet undertakes to offer a few practical suggestions for safeguarding workmen engaged in lumbering and woodworking industries. It necessarily confines itself chiefly to machines, operations and conditions which are more or less common, but it is hoped that the suggestions contained herein will aid in impressing upon manufacturers possibilities in safeguarding which with some variation will be applicable to many of the special machines and operations that cannot be even touched upon in a work of limited extent.

There are of course many patented as well as home-made safety devices other than those mentioned herein, which could well be included did space permit, but an effort has been made to show as representative a collection as possible. We shall be very glad to render any assistance at our disposal to anyone who may be interested in obtaining further information about the methods of safeguarding to which we have called attention.

In preparing this book, the author has received invaluable assistance from the inspection force of the **ÆTNA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY**, from many makers of woodworking machinery, from a large number of manufacturers in the various woodworking industries and from other concerns actively engaged in promoting the safety of their employees, from both foreign and domestic makers of safety devices, from various publications both in this country and abroad dealing with methods of guarding against industrial accidents, and from individuals who have aided him with both advice and criticism. He takes this opportunity of tendering grateful acknowledgment to one and all.



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GENERAL.

The many varieties of work included in lumbering and woodworking industries are among the most dangerous of modern employments. This is perhaps only natural in view of several facts. In almost all methods of working wood, once the tree has been felled and cut up into logs, the comparative lightness of the material makes it easier to bring it to the tool than the tool to it. Again, good work requires the use of instruments sharpened to the extreme and run at very high speed. In the third place, this high speed and the lightness of the material make it possible for waste pieces to be thrown about in a dangerous manner impossible in the case of metal or stone.

For these reasons, among others, it is peculiarly essential that every possible precaution be taken to safeguard workmen against injury. In subsequent chapters of this book an effort is made to suggest some specific mechanical and material safeguards applicable to woodworking plants, and also to call attention in some measure to the matter of safe methods in operating machinery. It is impossible to prevent all accidents, or even the greater number, by merely installing safeguards. Carefulness alone can avoid the great majority, and this can be secured only by proper organization and discipline, together with cordial co-operation on the part of both foremen and workmen.

Foremen. Foremen are such essential factors in the prevention of accidents that they should be carefully selected for their caution and ideas of discipline and should be thoroughly imbued with the employer's earnest desire to prevent accidents. It should be impressed upon them that they are personally responsible for prevention of accidents as well as doing of work, and that success in each will be duly taken into account. Foremen should make it their business to see that the rules of the plants are obeyed, and that repeated infractions of them are suitably punished. They should see that machines are not overspeeded, that safety devices are used on all work possible, that warning signs are properly placed and kept in position, and that discipline generally is preserved. No intoxicated person, whether workman or visitor, should be allowed to remain in the plant. An important part of a foreman's duty is to see that accidents are thoroughly investigated with a view to avoiding recurrence. For that reason he should insist that every accident, however insignificant, is reported to him at once.

When men are first put to work at dangerous machines, they should be fully instructed how to operate them with the greatest safety to themselves and others. To avoid familiarity breeding contempt, they should subsequently be warned from time to time to follow the instructions given them. Specially dangerous machines, such as saws, jointers, etc., should be operated only by men engaged for this work and qualified by experience, or by men who have