

It is equipped with hand brakes, sand box, steel cab and spring drawheads. This locomotive can be built to suit any rail gauge from 36-inch to broad gauge. Weight of the entire outfit is 7,000 pounds and its hauling capacity is 50 tons on level track; on four per cent. grade it will haul 15 tons and on a nine per cent. grade five tons."

We feel sure that if this form of traction could be introduced into this country it would fulfil a long-felt want among a great number of saw-millers, and to this end the writer had made many enquiries from time to time during the past two years regarding the possibility of converting a tractor or motor-car for use on rails; but the above is the first definite information received regarding a tractor being converted to this purpose. Should any of our readers wish to secure further information concerning this form of tractor such could probably be secured for them by the Sawmillers' Federation.

Beech and Timber Tree Fungi.

Plants are subject to "disease," due to the attacks of lower organisms, but many people would hesitate to regard a fungus growing on a tree trunk as a very deadly thing. Various fungi, however, do serious injury to forest trees. In his lecture at Wellington, Dr. L. Cockayne referred specially to the "shelf" fungus—that curious growth which stands out from a tree like a fairly level and sometimes ornamental bracket. The "shelf" is a very solid structure, but it is really only the portion of the fungus which bears flowers. The main part of the plant (mycelium) is within the wood of the tree, and, according to the lecturer, this fungus is important among the killers of the beech. He argued that the timber containing mycelium was probably much altered and injured for use, and this fact probably accounted for failures that had been experienced when the beech—properly a durable timber—had been used for railway sleepers. The relation of fungi to timber trees was one that should be the subject of special inquiry. As an indication of the durability of beech, the lecturer showed a photograph of a house. It was, he said, forty years old. It had been painted, he believed, twice; it had been looked after as badly as any house ever was looked after. Yet it was still perfectly sound; and it was built entirely of red beech.—*Wyndham Herald*.

It will be news to most New Zealanders that kauri timber grows on Frazer Island, off the coast of Queensland. Mr. Bartholomew said at Feilding recently that kauri pine was being taken from that island 50 years ago.

Your cost statistics should keep you constantly in touch with each phase and with all phases of your business. By using them you should be able to learn instantly the profit or loss of any department, and if a loss—where the fault lies.

Companies Registered.

Takapuru Timber Co., Ltd. (The).—Regd. as a private company September 9th, 1921. Office: Company's Mill, near Ohingaiti. Capital: £2,001, into 2,001 shares of £1 each. Subscribers: Ohingaiti—A. F. McKenzie 667, L. J. Vile 667, T. R. Vile 667. Objects: To carry on the business of timber merchants, sawmillers, builders, woodworkers, and deal in timber, etc., and general incidental.

West Coast Sawmillers' Mutual Accident Insurance Co.—Regd. September 10th, 1921. No fixed capital. Office: Mackay Street, Greymouth. Subscribers—Wellington: J. W. Brownlee. Kahikatea: W. T. Ogilvie. Kumara: J. Gilbert, L. Thomas, J. E. Watson, J. Murphy. Potara: A. Blair. Greymouth: D. Tennent, Jack Bros., Ltd. Christchurch: W. Goss, D. Reece. Auckland: Stuart and Chapman, Ltd. Kaiata: E. Stratford. Ngahere: J. F. Jack. Hokitika: D. S. Stuart, J. W. Butler, R. F. Perham. Objects: Insurance of workmen, etc.

Halliday's, Ltd.—Regd. September 9, 1921. Office: Invercargill. Capital: £9,000, into 9,000 shares of £1 each. Subscribers—Invercargill: J. T. Carswell 693, J. C. Thomson 1,038, G. J. Yule 692, W. Carswell 692. Mataura: A. W. Halliday 2,250. Waikiki: P. C. Thomson 692. Limehills: G. Halliday 2,941. Objects: Saw-milling and timber merchants.

Ponakai Minerals, Ltd.—Regd. as a private company October 3, 1921. Capital: £2,000, into 2,000 shares of £1 each. Subscribers—New Plymouth: E. Whittle 250, J. R. Cruickshank 125, A. L. Humphries 125, T. Bransgrove 93, T. A. Pruden 250, W. H. Skinner 125, T. Bransgrove 32, G. Tweedie 210, A. E. Watkins 40, B. R. Leech 143, J. W. Davies 107, J. McLeod 125, E. R. C. Gilmour 125, H. W. Kirkby 125, C. H. Croker 125. Objects: To purchase certain lands, explore and search for all kinds of minerals and oils, carry on business as timber-millers and saw-millers, to farm, carry on business as carriers and taxi proprietors.

According to *Yates Quality*, many manufacturers do not realise that they are really paying for a needed piece of machinery although not purchasing it outright.

Low production, poor quality of product, excessive cost of repairs and high labour costs enter as factors that are buying that machine—buying it in a way that will never mean an actual installation in the purchaser's plant.

Costs are the dollars and cents proof of manufacturing profits.

Next year will find some with the old piece of equipment and minus the price of a new one. Does this apply to your plant? Think it over.