

Westwood, Calif.
Dec. 15 th, 1930.

Mr. Schoening,
Portland, Ore.

Dear Sir:

In thinking over the statements and suggestions which you made regarding tension in saws, also considering the fact that I have used many, very many saws which other filers have tensioned, the question comes again to my mind: "I wonder if these saws ran on the mill and sawed lumber because of the work we put on them or in spite of it"?

I have concluded that at least part of it is unnecessary, I thought I would try your suggestions on some of my old saws but have decided to try it on the new ones, of which I have four and as they are much wider than the others try to keep them on the job all the time.

My experience now, as well always, bears out your statement, that a painstaking job of leveling must be done when running a saw with little tension, partly perhaps because the saw lays on the slab better and it is easier to find the uneven spots.

Since your visit here I have not heard a word about snakes or thick-and-thin and there is not 'juice' enough in the saws to snap when we carry them or when they are being ground, but my helper often says: 'just listen to Mac, he is going after them hard'. you know there are times when the logs are fairly clean that the sawyer seems to warm up to his work till it is almost a mania, that is the way I like to have him saw, my helper does not know either of the experiment I am working on so his remarks are absolutely uninfluenced.

Yesterday the sawyer sent word for me to come up, said he wanted to see me, well knowing he is a reasonable sort of fellow also a very good sawyer I went prepared to make the call as pleasant as possible but knowing the amount of tension in the saws you perhaps know I felt rather guilty. You can imagine my surprise when I stood beside him and he said: 'do you see that carriage wheel'? I looked and saw it was three eighths of an inch from the carriage frame, he then finished the cut ahead and when he started back the wheel was snug against the frame, then he told me that was causing many thin ends on the boards, and I believed him.

I looked at the axle at noon and found the spring on it had an inch and a half end play and the second one had half an inch, so you see the tension has not been criticised yet.

Chadwick came in this afternoon and I asked him, as usual, if he was laying off, he said he was and asked if I was doing the same, I told him I had been asleep but would perhaps bench a couple of saws before night, he says: Huh' no use for you to put them on the bench, you wont do anything to them if you do, you see he has kept his eyes open and knows what I have been doing, I mention this to corroborate my statement to you that he wanted to know everything that was going on.

But he is a real fine fellow and would not abuse a trust, though it is not safe to tell everyone about an experiment for they would make note of every bad cut made by my mill and lay it all to the freakish idea.

In comparison will say my friends are smashing the 'juice' into their saws to cut the FROST and I am running mine as flat as a board and 'everything is lovely' but I am hoping my superior officers wont find it out, at least not now for I know they like tension and lots of it, even though they would not recognize it if they saw it going down the road.

The heavy tension idea though may be the means of selling one of your grinders here so we will just make the best use of the opportunities that we can, might sell more than one.

Now, that I have got this off my chest I think I can go to bed and get a good sleep, it is not hardly fair to you since you cant defend yourself, but one thing in your favor is the fact that you cannot know what you will have to endure as you wont get it for several days.

However I am hoping that you are well and that business is moving satisfactorily, then with sincerely wishing a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to yourself and Mrs. Schoening, I am,

Yours truly,

L. G. Randall.