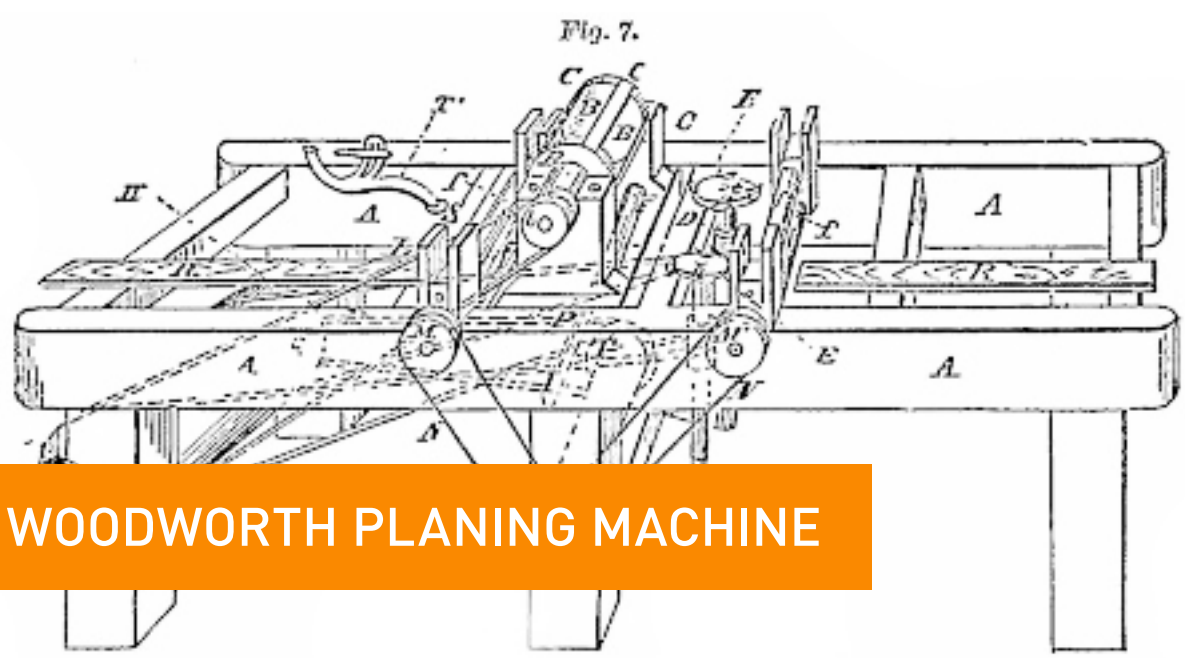


ZEBEDIAH SISSON

IMPROVED PLANING MACHINE



Bentham, later Inspector General of the Naval Works of London. His invention was developed while on a research trip in Russia but was first patented in England in 1791.

In 1828 in the United States, a **William Woodworth** invented what was described then **as the most successful planing machine to date**. It consisted of a rotary cylinder on which were fastened cutter blades placed above or laterally to a rack and pinion platform or carriage on which the board to be planed was placed. The **cylinder revolved opposite to the movement of the board** with the cutter blades bearing down on the upper surface.

Over the years various adaptations, including Sissons', were introduced and patented. In 1835 in France, M. Roquin and M. Manneville sought a patent for a planing, grooving, tonguing and moulding machine.

Zebediah Sisson was a Cobourg carpenter who received a patent in 1832 for **a machine to plane and groove floors**. Early attempts had been made in Europe and the United States. The first planing machine for wood was invented in 1779 by Samuel

JOHN HELM

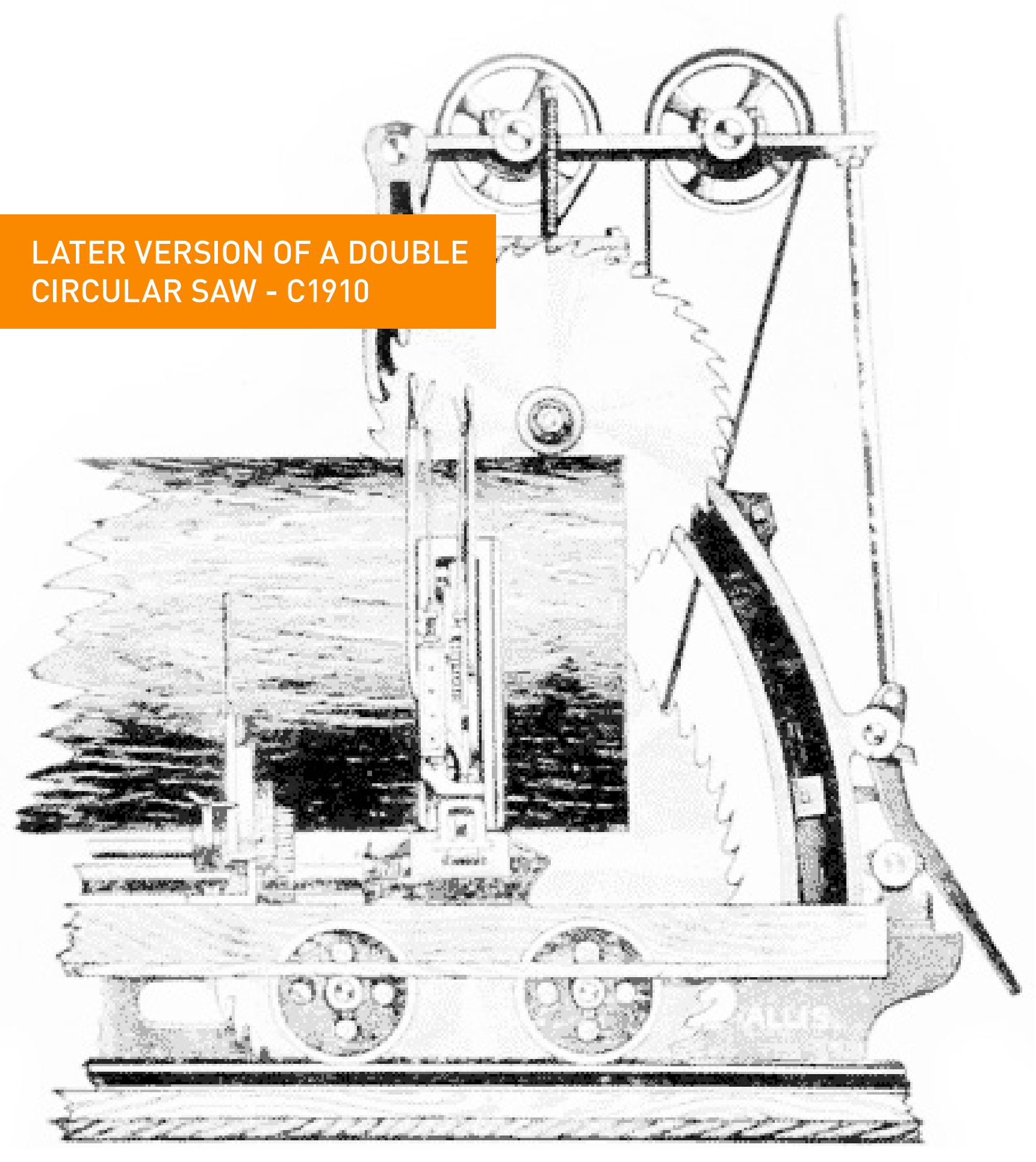
IMPROVEMENTS IN THE USE OF CIRCULAR SAWS

John Helm was **owner of the foundry where James Crossen began his training** as a teenager. Helm invented **improvements in circular saw bases** for the manufacture of lumber in mills. The circular saw was a recent invention, probably from the late eighteenth century.

In 1848 Helm described three improvements, **firstly** in altering and regulating the feed of lumber by the use of a winch, pinion and rake, **secondly** by dogging the log or fastening it upon the blocks of the carriage and **thirdly**, in setting logs so that they could be gauged for width or thickness of the manufactured board.

Patents of Canada records Helm's improvements as,

Each level end had a mitred wheel corresponding and working into one another on the screw that moves the upright standard, which rod runs lengthwise of the carriage and is worked by means of a crank or hand wheel. One of the mitred wheels is loose from the rod when the pinching screws are detached, and moveable at pleasure enabling the block to be moved to answer for various lengths of logs.



Edwin Guillet was unsure regarding the ultimate usefulness of these inventions. However, another author looked beyond their immediate and practical uses and wondered whether **they showed an attitude which encouraged others to come to our town**. In *Canada's First Bank*, Merrill Denison writes:

The Bank of Montreal came to Cobourg in 1840, attracted possibly by the resourcefulness of its inhabitants who had received several patents during the 1830s for inventions in the fields of transportation, carpentry and agriculture.

It takes us all to make a town great.

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