

MY TOOTHPICK.—It may be a surprise to most people to know that the manufacture of toothpicks is controlled by an association of manufacturers. This association has contracted for enough toothpicks to be made in **Maine** the coming year to load a train of fifty cars with nothing but toothpicks. Before next June, **Maine** will supply 5,000,000,000 toothpicks. **Maine** furnishes the larger portion of all the toothpicks used in the country. The association above mentioned controls of trade. It regulates the price and output of toothpicks as the big trusts regulate the prices and output of oil, cotton seed, or rubber goods. The association controls a mill at Belmont, N. Y., one at Harbor Springs, Mich., one at Fond du Lac, Wis., besides mills in **Maine** at Strong, Farmington, Canton, and Dixfield. There is a small mill at Mechanic Falls and one in Massachusetts which have not joined the association.
