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CAREER OF A PROMINENT LUMBERMAN.

It may be interesting for the readers of the CANADA LUMBERMAN to know something of the personal history of one of the members of the new lumbering corporation which recently started operations at Sarnia, a full description of whose plant was given in the January issue. He is a thriving American who has come to live on Canadian soil, bringing with him Yankee hustle and push. This is truly an age of specialties, and the successful men of to-day seem to be for the most part those who devote their entire ability and attention to some one line of work, as in this case it might be said Mr. J. M. Diver has been raised in the lumber business, having spent his whole life in its different branches.

Mr. Diver was born at Cleveland, Ohio, on April 15th, 1859. He received a common school education. At the age of sixteen he left Cleveland and went to Lewiston, Ill., where he obtained employment in a combined saw and grist mill. After remaining there for a period of six months, realizing the fact that there was a saw mill in his own town, he concluded that he would return there and try and obtain employment. On his journey he stopped at Fort Wayne, Ind. The country being thickly covered by oak timber, he secured a position and went to work in the woods about twelve miles from that city, where he remained until the following June.

Still clinging to the thought of the saw mill being in his native town, and being urged by his father, Mr. Diver returned to Cleveland on June 6th, 1876, going direct to the saw mill owned by the Cleveland Saw Mill and Lumber Company and asking for employment. He was given a place and went to work as a slab carrier. In the course of a few weeks he was put to work on the lath mill, where he continued for a period of some three months, being then called into the office by Mr. R. K. Hawley, then president of the company, to act in the capacity of office boy. The following spring he was put into the yard to tally lumber under an inspector's eye, where he soon learned the value of lumber and was given a position as inspector. In the year 1880 he was asked to come back to the office and act as assistant book-keeper, which position he held until in 1881 he was given entire charge of the books and made secretary and treasurer of the company. This position he held for some eleven years, when he was advanced to secretary and general manager of the company.

In the year 1900, the company had the misfortune to lose a large raft of logs on Lake Huron, which raft finally went ashore near Goderich, Ont. Mr Diver took the train to Port Huron, Mich., crossing over to Sarnia on July 12 of that year en route to Goderich to superintend the wrecking of this raft. While at Sarnia his attention was called to Sarnia Bay as being an ideal place for a saw mill. He looked over the bay and proceeded on his journey. He had always been told that the Canadian pine was scrubby, that is to say, that the limbs were from the ground up on the trees and that there was no long bodied timber in Canada. After he had reached Goderich and had made arrangements to wreck the raft, he concluded that he would go north in the pine regions of Canada and

MR. J. M. DIVER,
Manager Cleveland Sarnia Saw Mills Company.

see for himself the quality of timber the Dominion contained. He went north in the Algoma district and spent some four weeks in tramping timber lands, and, needless to say he saw some excellent timber. Getting into a very fine tract and finding the owner, he went directly to Bay City and closed a contract for a winter's output of some thirty million feet.

Returning to Cleveland after fixing up the regular routine of business in his office, Mr. Diver went to Sarnia to secure options on booming grounds and a site for a saw mill. These options were closed in the forepart of April, 1901, and on April 15th of that year the company, under his direction, began the erection of the plant already described in this journal.

In the meantime Mr. Diver has secured options on several tracts of timber, which the company have taken up. The company have purchased thousands of acres of timber lands, and the plant for which the ground was broken, so to speak, on April 15th, is now in commission and turning out daily in the neighborhood of 100,000 feet. Mr. Diver moved to Sarnia on August 1st, 1901, and is giving the operations in hand close attention.

If a thorough knowledge of the work in hand, combined with untiring effort, merits success, surely a bright future may be predicted for him and the company with which he is associated.

TESTS OF DOUGLAS FIR.

Builders are familiar with the fact that Douglas fir is among the strongest woods in the world, but figures such as have been prepared for the British Columbia Mills, Timber & Trading Co., of Vancouver, are of especia value to those interested in the subject. This company sent five fir logs to the testing and experimental works of David Kirkaldy & Son, of London, England, to be subjected to the severest bending and thrusting tests, and full data to be returned. The results show in detail that fir is in every respect satisfactory to those who have always insisted that it was one of the best varieties of wood.

The specimens give the bending test 12x15 and 16 inches in dimensions, cut to a length of 13½ feet, with a distance of 12 feet between the supports and the load applied at the center. The mean total stress in pounds and deflection in inches are shown in the following table:

Weight.	Deflection.	Weight.	Deflection.	Weight	Deflection
10,000	.027	34,000	.365	58,000	.663
14,000	.119	38,000	.414	62,000	.726
18,000	.170	42,000	.461	66,000	.804
22,000	.219	46,000	.511	70,000	.911
26,000	.269	50,000	.561	74,000	1.070
30,000	.317	54,000	.613	*78,000	1.203

*Only three pieces were given this strain.

The ultimate weight borne by the pieces was 78,714 pounds, or 35.1 tons, which was equivalent upon the beam of 93,162 pounds, or 41.6 tons. The timbers were beat to a deflection of five inches and removed.

Those tested to ascertain the resistance to depression were 12x12 and 100 inches long, with the ends faced true in a lathe. The total stress in pounds and depression in inches were as follows:

Weight.	Depression	Weight	Depression.	Weight	Depression
40,000	.027	220,000	.114	400,000	.195
60,000	.038	240,000	.122	420,000	.205
80,000	.048	260,000	.130	440,000	.214
100,000	.059	280,000	.139	460,000	.225
120,000	.069	300,000	.149	480,000	.243
140,000	.078	320,000	.157	*500,000	.238
160,000	.088	340,000	.165	*520,000	.253
180,000	.097	360,000	.175	**540,000	.250
200,000	.106	380,000	.184	**560,000	.267

*Only three pieces subjected to this strain **Only two pieces subjected to this strain.

The average ultimate strain of the five pieces before they were crushed was 531,656 pounds, or 3,680 pounds to the square inch, although two of the pieces withstood a stress of more than 4,000 pounds to the square inch.