

EXTENSIVE SALE OF LIMITS.

As announced by advertisement in the last issue of THE LUMBERMAN the big sale of the estate of Hamilton Bros., consisting of 1,700 square of timber limits and estates, at Hawkesbury, took place at the Russell House, Ottawa, on July 6th. Next to the recent sale of timber limits by the Ontario Government at Toronto, it was one of the largest gatherings of wealthy men ever brought together in Canada. It has been estimated that the combined capital of those present would foot up to the enormous sum of seventy million dollars.

Prominent among those present were: Messrs. R. Hurdman, G. B. Pattee, E. B. Eddy, E. H. McLaren, William Mackay, P. White, H. Conroy, Hiram Robinson, Alex. Fraser, Westmeath, J. Saxe, Albany, N. Y., John Monroe, Hawkesbury, C. F. Gedee, R. Klock, Geo. Perley, William Kennedy, R. Stewart, R. Nagle, Hugh Grant, P. Colton, Wm. Kennedy, Olive Latour, Thos. Mackie, H. K. Egan, R. L. McLaughlin, Arnprior, W. C. Edwards, A. Foster, A. McCormick, R. Cox, J. Gilmour, Sheriff Haggart, Chas. Reid and R. Rawley.

The property is divided into two districts one being 750 square miles on the Dumoine river and its tributaries, the Black and Schyan, and the other consisting of 935 square miles on the Gatineau and its tributaries. These limits have five farms, plants and stock in connection with them, in addition to which there is a large property at Hawkesbury, known as the Hawkesbury mills, used for manufacturing timber from above mills. These mills are situated on the Ottawa river, Ontario, mid-way between Ottawa and Montreal consisting of four saw mills with lath and scantling mill additions, driven by water, with sawing capacity of over 2,000,000 feet weekly. Extensive wharfs and piling space for forty million feet of lumber. Large brick dwelling houses with extensive grounds; ditto stone house, and seven good houses built of wood, and one hundred tenements now occupied by employees. Valuable farm in the vicinity of over 1,000 acres, a large portion of which is covered with excellent timber.

The Dumoine river limits proved to be the favorite property. Although worked for some twenty-five years there is still a large amount of valuable timber to be cut. The Gatineau limits have been worked for over fifty years, and were not looked upon with much favor.

The whole property was put up in a lump to start with, but as the only bid—\$200,000—came from Mr. W. C. Edwards, the property was taken down, the reserve bid being \$650,000.

The Gatineau limits were then put up in one parcel. W. C. Edwards made the first bid—\$15,000. Mr. Carter, agent of the Rathluns of Deseronto bid \$6,000. Mr. Edwards and Mr. Carter bid odd and even up to a hundred thousand dollars. Then E. B. Eddy bid \$101,000. On it went up to \$114,000 when John Gilmour bid \$115,000. Up it went still, until Mr. Edwards bid \$125,000. There was silence, and the Gatineau limits went to Mr. Edwards. The price included the lumber only, the plant, stock and provisions on the limits being extra, and having to be taken by the purchaser of the limits at scheduled prices. Following this sale the Dumoine limits were put up and after a lively competition were knocked down to H. K. Egan of the firm of W. R. Thistle & Co., for \$395,000, exclusive of plant and supplies, worth about \$30,000, which are to be taken at a valuation. It is said that Mr. Egan made the purchase on behalf of a syndicate composed of himself, W. R. Thistle, Hiram Robertson and Robert Blackburn.

Mr. Edwards, M.P., proposes to commence cutting operations this fall on the limit he purchased on Friday. Lumbermen say he has got a bargain.

The Hamilton Bros. estate, including mills, limits, farms, together with the private estate of the late Hon. John Hamilton, is valued at two and three quarters million dollars. There are seven heirs, among whom the estate will be equally divided. The youngest son of the late senator has obtained a commission in the Imperial service. He is applying to be appointed to the 13th Hussars, a crack English corps. His income, it is said, will be \$50,000 a year. The engagement of Mr. Caedon Childer, of Hawkesbury, one of the trustees of the estate, and Mrs. Hamilton, daughter of the late senator, is announced.

The townspeople of Hawkesbury are keenly agitated over the sale of the Hamilton Timber limits. Hawkesbury a pretty village of 2,000 inhabitants situated on the Ottawa opposite Arnprior, about half way between Ottawa and Montreal, has practically been built up in the Hamilton business. In the advertisement offering the Hamilton property for sale, it is stated that there are four sawmills, a farm of 1,000 acres, six or eight good houses and 100 cottages to be disposed of. Besides the inmates of these cottages, who have all been dependent on the Hamilton business, there are scores of other families dependent on the business. If the business is stopped there won't be much left of Hawkesbury. It is stated that

Hawkesbury people fully realize this, and the real estate is going a-begging in the place. There is little chance of any lumber business to speak of being now done at Hawkesbury. The timber limits have been sold to parties who do not seem to want the Hawkesbury mills. At any rate, no bid was received for them on Friday. Certainly Mr. Edwards, who has bought half the limits, does not, as he will work his timber at his own mills at Rockland. The syndicate which bought the other half of the limits, those on the Dumoine, does not seem to want the Hawkesbury mills either. In default of attached limits the mills will be of comparatively little value. The firm of Hamilton Bros., composed of the late Senator John Hamilton, of Montreal, and Robert Hamilton, of Quebec, started sawing lumber at Hawkesbury fifty years ago.

LABOR TROUBLES AMONG LUMBERMEN.

Following the celebration of "our natal day" throughout the North Shore, Georgian Bay, and Midland districts, there came a re-action in the form of a strike among nearly all the mill hands in those localities. The strike is for a reduction of the hours of labor from eleven to ten. It is said that although the mill operatives commenced work at the first of the season it was not their intention to continue on the same arrangement as last year; accordingly negotiations have been going on for a reduction in the hours, and wages to be paid fortnightly instead of monthly as before. The lumbermen, it appears, would not entertain the proposition. During the last week of June a representative of the Knights of Labor visited Gravenhurst and tried to effect a settlement of the difficulties, but did not succeed. As the above was the ultimatum decided upon by the local organization and concurred in by the brotherhood generally, the next move was to go out on strike, which was done on July 3rd.

From latest reports nearly 2,000 men are now out, and the situation still continues without much change. A few of the mills have given in but the majority refuse to do so. The ranks of the strikers seem firm, and every man seems confident of victory. The mill owners it is understood, have asked the government for police protection for the men they are bringing in from Quebec and Michigan. How long this trouble may continue it is impossible to determine, but even if a settlement is made at once the loss to the lumber trade must of necessity be very heavy.

ANOTHER STRIKE AT THE CHAUDIERE.

The following particulars of the labor troubles at Ottawa are furnished by the *Journal* of that city:

"A stir was caused at the Chaudiere this morning by the shippers, carters and some of the pilers in the employ of Mr. J. R. Booth, going on strike. The strikers, some eighty in number, assembled in front of the office of the firm this morning instead of going to work, and Mr. Wilson the shipping foreman conveyed the demands of the men to Mr. Booth. It seems that among the Chaudiere lumbermen there is no scheduled scale of wages. Each firm pay their men what they think they are worth. Mr. Booth was paying the men who struck \$6.50 a week and they demanded \$7 and \$7.50 a week according to their positions. Mr. Booth refused to comply with the demand and paid the men off.

"The strikers showed a disposition to be troublesome afterwards. They threatened the shippers and pilers who remained at work. This threat had the effect of making quite a number of men quit work. Mr. Wilson, the foreman, tried to induce them to go to work again, but the men were afraid.

"The strike is in a measure caused by the lack of an understanding among the lumber firms as to the rates of wages. Messrs. Bronson & Weston and Pierce & Co. are paying pilers, shippers and teamsters from \$7 to \$7.50 per week while Messrs. Perley & Pattee and J. R. Booth are only paying \$6.50 and \$7 for men doing the same work. The strikers have no complaint except as to wages.

"The ball was started rolling the day before yesterday, when the wheelers of the Perley & Pattee concern struck for \$7 a week, and after holding out for a day got what they demanded, with some exceptions. Then the pilers and shippers employed by Perley & Pattee and J. R. Booth, began grumbling about their wages, and announced their intention of demanding the same wages as Bronson & Weston were paying their men. The strike this morning was therefore not a surprise.

"The strikers although very much in earnest and most of them fighting drunk have no organization and cannot hold out any length of time, but the ringleaders who know that they will not be taken back are doing their best to influence the other hands to strike and make the affair as big as possible. The lumbermen fear that the strike may spread through all the mills which are not paying the following schedule of wages, which prevails with Bronson, Weston & Co.:—Teamsters and shippers, \$7 to \$7.50 per week, laborers, \$7; men in the mill from \$7 to \$10 according to positions; men in charge of

the gates \$9; edgers, \$10; saw-filers, \$10.50 to \$15.00 and millwrights, \$12 to \$18. The firms to which the strike may spread are Perley & Pattee, Pierce & Co., Hurdman Bros. and the E. B. Eddy Manufacturing Co.

Attention was directed to the mill gang by the organizers of the strike, and about two o'clock the 300 employees in the mill including sawyers, wheelers, loaders, edgers and carriers struck work. Mr. Levi Booth foreman of the mill asked the men if they were going to work. They replied they were not unless their demands were acceded to. The mill was accordingly shut down. The men fully four hundred in number then assembled on the street in front of the mill."

A Floating Sawmill.

Along the layons and lagoons of Florida grows some of the finest timber in the South, much of it in places considered entirely inaccessible until J. L. Maul & Son hit upon the plan of constructing a floating sawmill. This idea they carry into execution, and their mammoth mill, which now lies off the banks of Burton & Harrison's hammock, near Palatka, is, according to the *Southern Lumberman*, a marvel of mechanical ingenuity. It has a length of eighty and a breadth of forty feet, and is so solidly built that the motion of the machinery has no more effect on it than if it were built on solid land. Although it stands five feet out of water, its draught is only about a foot and a half, which permits it to be taken into the shallowest lagoons, where timber could not be floated. It is equipped with the latest machinery, planer, box heading, shingle saws, and a fine forty-horse power engine and boiler. On the hurricane deck is the office for the proprietor, while the cook house, where the men board, is in the corner of the deck, which is otherwise free for the piling of lumber, the machinery being all below it. This floating mill has so far proved eminently successful, exceeding the expectations of the proprietors in this respect, and is probably the pioneer of numerous craft of the same kind.

EXCHANGE ECHOES.

Chicago Timberman.

Puget Sound lumbermen are betwixt and between on the question of free trade in lumber. "They do not want free trade nor do they want a continuation of the war tariff." British Columbia has a large lumber trade in Australia, Japan, China and South America, with which the Puget Sound millmen seek to compete, but British Columbia lumbermen have the advantage in being able to sell at lower figures. These countries are the legitimate markets for Puget Sound lumber and the removal of the tariff would enable our millmen to successfully compete with their British neighbors. There is a strong measure of sensible reasoning in this, as these Puget Sound men cannot ship their board lumber east, so from this standpoint they are in favor of free lumber. On the contrary timber for car sills, bridge chords, etc., find a ready market in the western states and in consequence of the tariff prices keep up. So the dilemma presents the two horns, with the free trade in lumber one seemingly the easier of the two, but "you pays your money and takes your choice."

Chicago Timberman.

Our Manistee correspondent touches upon a feature of trade not commonly noticed in the lumber journals—the foreign demand which comes through Canadian sources. He speaks of a call for "longitudinals," an item not frequently discussed, but an important article in the list of material used for railway building in England, where the bed work of the road is often of solid masonry; and the necessity exists for something that will "give," on which to fasten the rail. The longitudinal lays on the stone work averages 32 to 34 feet in length; in dimension 5x7, as a rule, and has to be clear stuff—good lumber.

Northwestern Lumberman.

Last week mention was made in these columns of a man on a drive who was drowned because he could not swim. To follow the drives is a dangerous vocation for a man unable to swim. A treacherous log is liable at any time to give a driver a cold bath, in a deep and wide bath tub, and it is sometimes not only necessary for him to swim upon the surface of the water, but under it, in order that the swift running logs may pass over him. No man on the drives can be too much of a water duck for his own safety. Swimming is taught too little everywhere. Every boy and girl should be taught how to swim as well as to play base ball and the piano.

Northwestern Lumberman.

The reported let up in the movement of pine stumpage is the result of the dullness in the lumber trade, and the weakening of prices. With lumber at about \$2 a thousand on the average less than last season, and the awful apprehension of a still further decline in the thermometer of the market, there is a widespread opinion that prices for stumpage must also come down from the roof upon which they have been elevated by the speculative sentiment the last two years.