

# THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

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## NOVA SCOTIA LUMBERING FIRM.

Prominent among the exporters of lumber in the province of Nova Scotia is The S. P. Benjamin Company, Limited, of Wolfville. This firm have a band saw mill at Falmouth, on the Avon river, about ten miles above the town of Windsor. It was built in 1896 on a large limit which the firm purchased tributary to the Avon river, and has a capacity of about five million feet per year. The firm pay particular attention to the South American and West Indian trade. The lumber from the mill is transported in a water sluice several miles to tide water, where it can be put on scows and taken to Hantsport for shipment. The mill is steam power, and was built completely by the Waterous Engine Works Co., of Brantford, Ont.

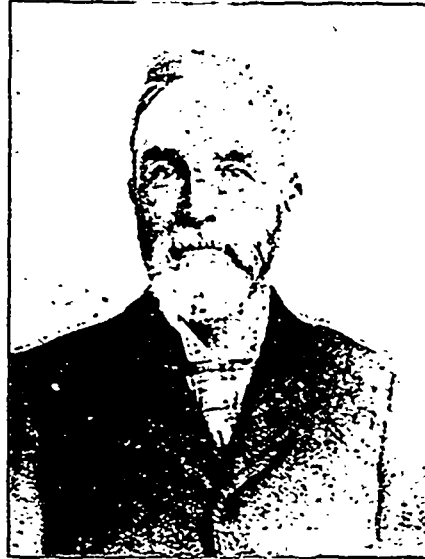
Messrs. Benjamin also have a water power gang and rotary mill at White Rock, a few miles from Wolfville, where until lately they carried on a lumber business of from four to five million feet per year. In both mills the company's present operations amount to about eight million feet annually. All their lumber for export passes through the Basin of Minas into the Bay of Fundy. Mr. S. P. Benjamin, the president of the company, whose portrait we print, is a veteran lumberman, and perhaps no man in the business understands the conditions prevailing in the South American trade better than he. Illustrations of the two mills of the firm appear on this page.

## THE SMALL MILL IN HARDWOODS.

It is to some extent a disputed point whether hardwood lumber can be most satisfactorily made with a large or small plant. It is contended by some that to make good lumber you must have the best of modern tools—band saws, edgers, trimmers, and all the auxiliaries of a modern and

possible to find them, but, generally speaking, such locations are already occupied, and the possibility of finding other similar ones is very remote.

In point of fact, the bulk of the hardwood product has already come from the small mills, and there seems to be no reason now to doubt that it will continue to do so. The main reason



MR. S. P. BENJAMIN.

of this is that the growth of hardwood is everywhere so scattered that it is difficult to bring it to the mill so exceedingly difficult, indeed, that in most cases it is found cheaper to move the mill to the timber, and, as the near-by supply is cut out, to move it again within reach of the fresh stock. This is practicable, of course, only within the small mill; hence the small mill is, and must continue to be, the chief reliance of the average producer of hardwoods.

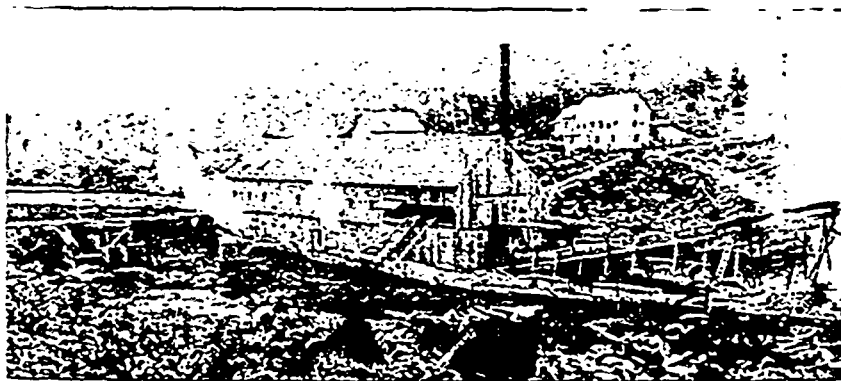
It is even likely that this tendency may make

the operations. The obvious remedy for this is to move small, comparatively cheap mill plants into the woods, and manufacture the lumber there. Then only the marketable product needs to be hauled out, the mill culls, slabs and other waste remaining where it is made. It costs no more to haul lumber than logs, while the saving in avoiding the needless transportation of a vast bulk of useless material that must in the end be thrown away, amounts in itself to no mean profit.

Formerly the great objection to this method of operation lay in the difficulty of getting lumber decently manufactured with small circular mills, but that is fast disappearing, and complaints of bad sawing are not heard now to nearly the extent they were a few years ago. It is easier now to get good saw mills that will saw as evenly as any, and the business is getting to a greater extent into the hands of men who know that lumber must be well manufactured to sell to any advantage, and who therefore takes pains to have these mills operated by competent sawyers. Country sawed stock is, of course, not yet equal to the best output of first-class band mills, and it is not quite as economically produced, but it is in good enough shape to pass without complaint in the market, and it can be put there so much cheaper than, even allowing for a considerable percentage of extra waste, and possibly some slight difference in selling value, it can still show a large profit to the maker. *Hardwood Record.*

Mr. Ross Staples has recently started up a new saw and shingle mill at Franklin, Ont., adapted for cutting all kinds of hardwoods and heading.

Why does not some inventor wind up his thinking spring and bring out something which will supersede the drag saw? The roughness



BAND MILL AT FALMOUTH, ON THE AVON RIVER.



ROTARY AND GANG MILL AT WHITE ROCK.

## SAW MILLS OF THE S. P. BENJAMIN COMPANY, LIMITED, OF WOLFVILLE, N. S.

first-class mill. Given an adequate supply of timber to keep such an outfit in operation long enough to enable it to pay for itself, and this position is likely to prove correct, but that it will apply to any great extent to hardwoods is open to question. It is exceptional that locations can be found for hardwood mills that are within easy reach of sufficient timber to justify the building of a first rate mill. Here and there it may be

it hard for the larger mills now depending for a log supply upon the streams whereon they are located, to maintain their position as leading producers. The timber near to the streams is getting pretty well cut off, and as the loggers have to go each year farther and farther back to find trees suitable for their purpose, their hauling expense increases until it is even now becoming so heavy as to absorb all the profit there is in

of the butts of shingles from blocks cut by such a saw is a great detriment, quotes a contemporary.

The total area of forests and woodland in Belgium is 1,223,568 acres. Of the forest lands 774,084 acres belong to private individuals, the rest to the state, municipalities or to public institutions. The average returns from the sale of lumber average \$4,166,000.