

## MICHIGAN'S LUMBER INDUSTRY.

(BY OUR TRAVELLING REPRESENTATIVE.)

While in Bay City and West Bay City many of the dealers were calculating upon the probable cut, this season, of Canadian pine, and whether a heavy crop of logs would have a tendency to lower prices. One dealer told me that if prices went any higher he would quit and go south for his pine. In a large number of the yards I saw plenty of hemlock and southern pine in stock, but very little Canada pine.

The firm of Mershon, Schuette, Parker & Company are at present the largest holders of Canada pine lumber in Michigan. This company is composed of W. B. Mershon, Wm. Schuette, F. E. Parker, Selwyn Eddy, S. L. Eastman and E. C. Mershon, and they are wholesale dealers in and manufacturers of white pine lumber, sash, doors and blinds, box shooks, etc., with mills and yards at Saginaw and Bay City.

Many of the members of the Michigan Retail Lumbermen's Association, after their convention in Detroit, took advantage of the invitation of Henry A. Stephens & Company to be the latter's guests in a four days' trip through northeastern Michigan lumber districts. Before the meeting adjourned the Secretary, Arthur L. Holmes, was unanimously endorsed by the association for the position of U. S. Internal Revenue Collector.

I had intended to be initiated into the mysterious

articles of association with the State at Lansing, among which I noticed the Grand Rapids Cabinet Company, with a capital of \$100,000; the Churchill Lumber Company, of Alpena, \$50,000; the Cadillac Cabinet Company, of Detroit, \$100,000; and others of more or less interest to the lumbering industry.

I found Battle Creek thriving and hustling. Although this city is called "Food-town" because of its world-wide renown in the patent food line, it has other and growing industries, among which are the American Column Company and the Stenhouse Mfg. Company, both of whom are contemplating an invasion of the Canadian market. The three leading lumber firms in this city are North & Strong, L. B. Clapp and H. K. Haak, all doing a good business. A great many business men whom I conversed with were visibly impressed by the fact that over forty thousand American citizens last year crossed the Canadian frontier to permanently settle there.

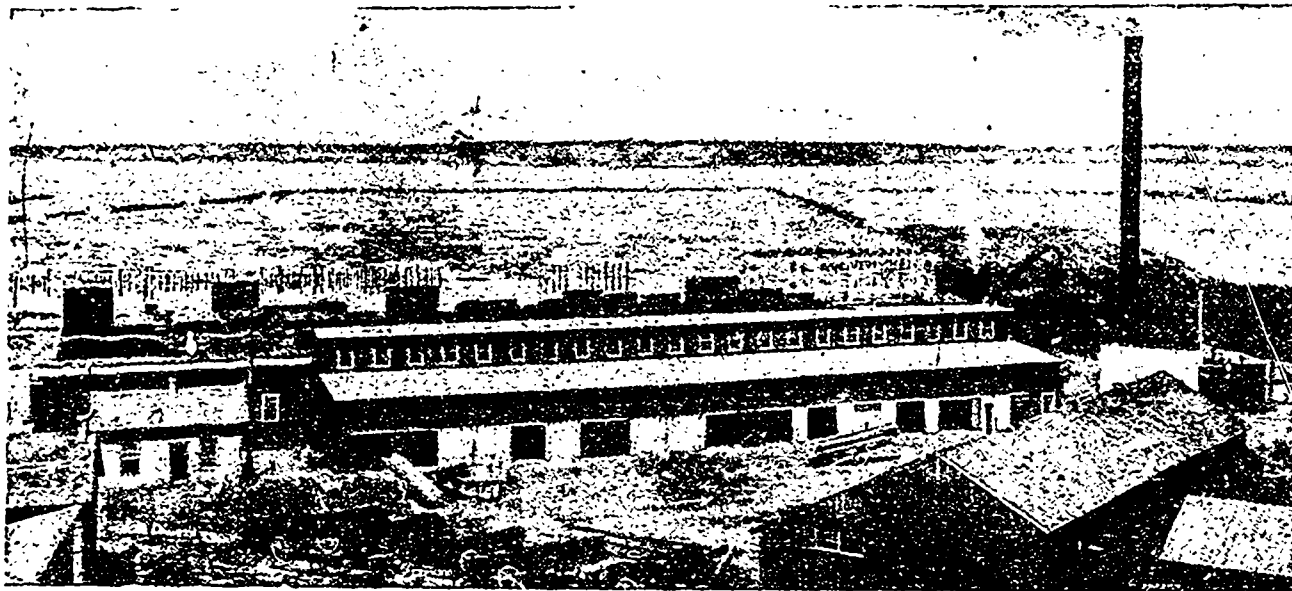
I left Battle Creek in a raging storm and ran into a regular blizzard at Kalamazoo—so named from the Ke-Kenamazoo river, or "Boiling Pot," as it was called by the Indians; street cars were stalled, electricity staggered and the schools closed. The oldest inhabitant had on his "thinking cap." In the midst of it I received a hearty welcome at the offices of the Wm. E. Hill Company. This firm are extensive manufacturers

their advertisement in this issue will be of interest to our lumbermen. I also had pleasure in securing the picture of the company's planing mill, presented herewith.

At Muskegon is situated the Rogers Iron Works, whose combination edgers and siding machines are known all over the continent. In order to get through to the north I returned to Grand Rapids. Whilst there I learned that J. P. Underwood, of Chicago, and E. Mariner, of Milwaukee, had purchased two thousand acres of Louisiana timber land from Major Watson, who died many years ago in Grand Rapids. It has been discovered that the titles are defective and the estate is being sued for the purchase price, \$20,000 and \$6,000 expenses.

The J. F. Quigley Company, at Grand Rapids, who are large specialists in hardwood lumber, have already entered the Canadian field. Mr. Quigley is one of the best known lumbermen on this side of the line. This company's advertisement will be found in another column.

Whilst talking to one of the F. & F. Company, I learned that they would wind up their Michigan and Wisconsin business this year. The last of their limits was to be cut down this season. They held land in the upper peninsula which had cost 50 cents an acre. It is stated that Thomas Friant, of this company, at Thompson, Schoolcraft county, is one of the wealthiest men



PLANING MILL, LUMBER YARD AND DOCK OF MANN, WATSON & COMPANY, MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN.

lumbermen's order of Hoo-Hoo, but not having been notified, I failed to connect, much to my disappointment. The Hoo-Hoos held their concatenation rites at 9.09 p. m. on the 9th day of the new moon, with a wealth of ceremony. Nineteen new members paid the initiation fee of \$9.99 and were taxed 99 cents per year for dues. Several times, I hear, nine blind kittens were sacrificed in the ceremony, which took 99 minutes. Those who had no "middle" name were given one—a choice selection being always on hand, such as Culls, Ripsaw, Rollway, Resaw, Filer, Knots, Millrun, Shaky, Clear, etc., etc.

Long before the white man set foot in the Saginaw valley it was known to the Indians as the "land of milk and honey," and many a war was waged between the tribes for its possession. Here the red man lived and roamed the then dense forest, without care and without want. The first house was built in Bay City in 1835. The lumber industries of the Saginaw Valley had a world-wide reputation and the amount of logs, timber and lumber that has been cut there in the past runs up into billions of feet.

I saw an enormous lot of basswood and poplar bolts on the Pere Marquette Railway, which had been shipped from Graham Station to Port Huron and Saginaw firms.

From Bay City I went direct to Lansing, the capital of the state. It did not impress me as a very keen competitor of the other Michigan cities, in fact it is slow-going. However, it needs quietness for legislation, I suppose. A number of corporations have filed

of a regular and improved line of saw-mill machinery. Mr. Anthony S. Hill is the manager, and Mr. Dumont A. Shephardson the secretary, assisted by a gentlemanly and efficient staff. I predict for this company a good business in Canada in the near future. North & Coon and the Van Bochove Sons Mfg. Company, both large lumber dealers, said business was on the increase and by the appearance of their mills the fact was self-evident.

At Grand Rapids they say they are turning out as much furniture as ever, with a steady demand for all kinds of hardwood. Basswood is particularly scarce in these parts. Many pine and hardwood dealers are now getting car lots shipped direct from Canada by the smaller mill owners, and the lumbermen here say it is profitable to advertise for offers in the CANADA LUMBERMAN want columns.

Whilst in the office of Mr. Walter Clark, 535 Michigan Trust Building, I met Mr. A. H. Clemmer, of Toronto, also there on business. The former is building up a fine veneer, mahogany and oak business. Munson & Company, of Mill street, are talking of entering the Canadian field with a device for balancing planer knives. Messrs. A. H., David and Geo. Engel, whom I saw, stated that the lumbering industry was flourishing, and they were experiencing the effect of the wave of prosperity.

From Grand Rapids to Muskegon is an easy run. At the latter place I saw the enterprising firm of Mann, Watson & Company, the leading lumber dealers in the district. They will likely enter the Canadian field, and

in Michigan. He was recently offered four millions of dollars for a tract of southern pine, which would have yielded him a handsome profit. When asked why he did not sell, he answered, "What would I do with that amount of money?"

I visited Perkins & Company, who are manufacturers of gas engines and yachts, as well as a line of wood-working machinery. Their large works on River street present a busy scene. They have built and designed specially for shallow waters a gasoline boat, which is a marvel of neatness. It is for the use of a lumbering firm near Corpus Christi, Texas, and has a draught of 16 inches. The length of this boat is 50 feet and width 11 feet. The Perkins Company are also manufacturing two towing tugs for the Central America banana trade, both using gasoline, one of 24 h. p. and one of 18 h. p. This company intend to build these launches suitable for lumbering on our Canadian streams. The framework of these boats is oak, the planking of cypress. See their advertisement in this issue.

Grand Rapids is a great center for river, logging, swamping and cruising shoes. The two largest dealers in the state are the Herold-Bertsch Shoe Company, of 507 Pearl street, and Rindge, Kalmbach, Longie & Company, of 11 Ionia street. Both these companies do an enormous business in supplying the great demands of the lumber camps. Large experience in meeting the wants of the woodsmen has brought their product to a high state of perfection, adequate to the severe requirements of the camp.