

OTTAWA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THE lumber trade is enjoying holiday quiet just now. Until late on in January no activity in making sales is anticipated. The completion of stock-taking and balancing up of the year's business will be one of the early operations of the new year. It is thought, that all things considered a fairly satisfactory year's trade will be the record. In regard to work for next season that is now being pushed ahead in the woods, whilst we learn from those who have been out among the shanties that there are large gangs of men at work, yet it seems quite certain that the number of logs cut this winter will be less than last season. Of square timber, it is stated, that the total would not exceed 1,000,000 cubic feet, or not over one-third of what was taken out last season. The owners of limits are not disposed to turn their trees into timber, as it pays better now to cut them into lumber. Those who own limits are disposed to leave the trees standing for a time in the hope of prices advancing as the limits nearer home are cut over.

AMONG THE SHANTIES.

Captain J. O. Blondin, of the steamer Clyde in the employ of Messrs. Gillies Bros., lumbermen, of Carleton Place, plying on the waters of the Temescamingue, who reached the Capital a few days ago, reports all the shanties up the river and lake in full swing and employing as many men as in any other recent season. Gillies, he says, have over 500 men at that part of their extensive farms not including jobbers. There also are equal numbers of men at work in that district for Messrs. McLachlan Bros., the Moore company, Klocks, and Bronson and Weston. The weather up to date has been most suitable for cutting and drawing, raising the anticipation of a large yield this season so far.

INDIFFERENT LENGTHS.

An addition will be put up this winter at the side of the old Perley & Pattee saw mill rebuilt this year by Mr. J. R. Booth. The addition will run the entire length of the present building and will be forty feet in width. It will be used as a splitter mill, but several lath machines will be placed in it.

Mr. R. J. Davidson, after twenty years' service, has severed his connection with R. Thackeray's planing mill. On the eve of his retirement a week ago he was waited on by the contractors, builders and employees of the mill and presented with an engrossed address and handsome gold watch.

Work has commenced on the old McClymont saw mill in New Edinburgh, recently purchased by W. C. Edwards & Co. Its new owners will fit it up for a combined planing mill and sash and door factory on much the same plan as the old McLaren factory was run. The requisite machinery will be put in this winter so that work may be commenced next season.

OTTAWA, Can., Dec. 26, 1893.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THERE is no large trade being done in lumber at the present time, and yet the Hastings mill in Vancouver, is working over-time on export orders, and the Brunette mills, here, are also very busy. We are watching with interest the outcome of tariff regulations in the neighboring country and will be quite satisfied to find the Wilson bill give us free lumber.

General logging operations are dull. Steam logging machines have worked a great change in trade in many parts of the coast. There are four of these machines in operation in the Province. The British Columbia Iron Works, of Vancouver, are now manufacturing two more on orders recently received. It is believed that they will eventually supplant all other methods of logging in British Columbia, as they are especially adapted to the needs of this class of timber. It is a matter of comparative ease for the steam logger, with his steel cable and powerful engine, to yank the huge logs off the Pacific Coast into the water over ground where oxen could not go. Although the machines are extremely dangerous to those who run them, owing to the liability of the cable to get kinked, but few accidents have thus far happened from their use. They require experienced men to operate them and first class wages are necessarily paid.

THE NICARAGUA CANAL.

A recent telegram from Managua states that a British Syndicate is endeavoring to secure from the Nicaraguan government a transfer of the canalisation rights originally possessed by the American company, now wholly or partly insolvent. The syndicate's representatives have been informed in reply, that before any such transfer can be made, it must be shown that the original company is unable to fill its contract. The lumber trade here have no small interest, as has been pointed out in

the LUMBERMAN columns before, in the completion of the Nicaragua canal, and would like to see British capitalists take hold, as the belief is that the Canadian interests would be better protected were this so. There is at the same time a feeling that John Bull through over-cautiousness has allowed himself to be forestalled by others.

COAST CHIPS.

Tait's shingle mill, Vancouver, B. C., was nearly destroyed by fire early this month.

The Golden Lumber Co., Ltd., of British Columbia, has been incorporated with a capital of \$100,000.

The total cut in British Columbia this season is estimated at 60,000,000 feet, of which 3,000,000 goes to Puget Sound.

Mr. C. M. Beecher, of the B. C. M. T. & T. Co., has returned from a lengthy visit to Eastern Canada, on business.

W. A. Tait, of Orillia, Ont., has been visiting here with his brother, Mr. W. L. Tait, who is conducting a prosperous shingle business at Vancouver.

Work has commenced on a canal to connect the Brunette and Fraser rivers at a point a little above Laidlaw's cannery. The Brunette Saw Mill Company have undertaken the enterprise.

It is reported that the Moodyville Saw Mill Company has sold out its mill near New Westminster to an Australian syndicate. The mill is the oldest and one of the largest in British Columbia.

Rumor has it that the MacLaren-Ross mills may change hands almost immediately and become the property of a syndicate of English and American capitalists. This is one of the finest of modern saw mills, and it is unfortunate that it has remained idle so long.

The Shuswap Milling Company has been formed and incorporated, with a view to take over the business of the Shuswap Milling Company, the Kamloops Water Works Company, and the Greeley Creek Shingle Mill Company. The capital stock authorized will be \$100,000, in \$250 shares.

It has been learned recently that several ships have been chartered to load at Tacoma, with Washington fir for Germany, consigned to the German Government for bridge building. The cargoes are ordered by a London firm, who have a contract from the French and German Governments to supply them with lumber used for national purposes. Seeing that this lumber goes through British hands, the question is asked here: Why not B. C. fir for Germany rather than Washington?

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., Dec. 22, 1893.

NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

HUMPHREY & TRITES, of Petitcodiac, will re-build on the site of the old mill, destroyed a short time since by fire.

Snow is plentiful this year, running from 18 inches to nearly 3 feet deep. Logging operations are impeded because of the hard crust that has formed in some sections.

Lumber shipments from the Miramichi for the season show a decrease of 11,519,216 feet compared with the previous year. There were 111 cargoes this year and 134 last year.

In India, and in Central and South America the white ant and other insects cause serious damage to railway ties. It is believed that New Brunswick red hemlock contains an acid poison that is proof against these pests. The St. John Board of Trade, hoping to develop a satisfactory lumber trade by virtue of this fact, will send samples of red hemlock to India and British Guiana, and have the matter put to test.

A YEAR'S BUSINESS.

The exports of lumber from the Miramichi river, shows a falling off for 1893, as compared with a previous season. The deal trade shows a decrease of more than eleven million feet, viz., from 94,907,523 superficial feet in 1892 to 83,391,307 this year. Taken as a whole, in the opinion of the Chatham Advance, "the season's business has been disappointing. The deals wintering seem to be about the same quality as last winter, but operations in the woods for the winter upon which we are entering are put down at fully one-third less than last season." Palings show an increase of export of 220,000 pieces, equivalent to nearly ten per cent, and spool woods of 200,000, but these are not a large element in the year's transactions. The main facts stand thus: Against 134 vessels of 103,500 tons which carried deals across the Atlantic last year, there were only 111 vessels of 87,736 tons. The American Spool and Bobbin Company, which last year shipped 1,109,000 pieces, spool wood, does not appear to have shipped any this year. The trans-Atlantic shipments from Chatham for the year are thus given:

Shippers, 1893.	No. Vessels.	Tons.	S. F. Deals.
J. B. Snowball.....	36	25,169	22,081,347
W. M. McKay.....	21	18,621	18,084,380
F. E. Neale.....	11	12,847	13,519,604
D. & J. Ritchie & Co.....	20	10,964	10,606,238
Wm. Richards.....	9	8,530	7,334,813
E. Hutchinson.....	10	7,974	7,109,925
G. Burchill & Sons.....	4	3,631	4,601,000
Total.....	111	87,736	83,391,307

Shippers, 1893.	No. Vessels.	Tons.	Pieces.
Clark, Skillings, & Co., Ltd.....	2	1,609 spool wood	793,083
S. W. Bennett.....	1	739 "	503,439

ST. JOHN, N.B., Dec. 26, 1893.

MICHIGAN LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

A DIFFICULTY is experienced in ascertaining exactly the number of logs rafted to these shores from Canada because of the unwillingness, in some cases, of the receivers to furnish particulars. It is believed, however, that the following figures may be taken as representing very nearly the export of the season now closed:—

To Cheboygan.....	19,038,188
Alpena.....	29,000,000
Tawas bay and Saginaw river.....	155,000,000
Total.....	203,038,188
" 1892.....	184,500,000
" 1893.....	80,000,000

Of the logs shipped to Cheboygan, Thompson Smith's Sons received 7,081,758 feet; Pelton & Reid, 6,106,454; Cheboygan Lumber Company, 5,223,976; W. & A. McArthur Company, limited, 626,000. To Alpena: 4,000,000 feet belonged to George N. Fletcher & Sons; 11,100,000 feet to Albert Pack and the remainder to Fletcher, Pack & Co., Fletcher & Gilchrist and to Gilchrist, Burrows & Rust. The chief shipments to Tawas bay and Saginaw river went to the Holland-Emery Lumber Company, Sibley & Beringer, Saginaw Lumber Salt Company, Green, Ring & Co., Fisher & Turner, Pitts & Co., Spanish River Lumber Company, A. T. Bliss, Wm. Peter J. W. Howry & Sons, S. G. M. Gates, Saxe Bros., and one or two other concerns. Our lumbermen here consider this trade has not been without considerable advantage to Canada. In the first place it has meant the investment of a large amount of American capital in Canada; employment has been given to a large staff of hands, and at better wages than had previously prevailed for similar labor, and besides a market has been found for certain grades of Canadian lumber that had hitherto been a drug in the market.

CURTAILMENT OF TONAWANDA SHIPMENTS.

The changes in shipments of lumber from Saginaw river to Buffalo and Tonawanda in 1893 furnish subject for thought and comment. It is not many years past since Bay City and Saginaw furnished a very heavy percentage of the receipts of the pine products at the points named. This trade, however, has been gradually diminishing, until to-day the results strike the thoughtful lumberman with hard significance. In 1886 the Saginaw river shipments were as follows: To Buffalo, 129,236,000 feet; to Tonawanda, 240,639,000 feet. In 1893 our shipments were as follows: To Buffalo, 29,002,000 feet; to Tonawanda, 58,239,000 feet. Rail shipments during this period have increased but not to the extent of nearly covering the diminution of trade shown in the figures here given.

AN OPINION ON FREE LUMBER.

W. J. Beardsley, of Bay City, presents a view of the tariff question, so far as lumber is concerned, that is entertained by not a few lumbermen of this State, and which may not be without interest to the trade in Canada: He says:

"Unless Canadian pine finds a market in this country, it may as well stay in the forests; at least two-thirds of it; and it is in the markets of the United States that they expect to sell their lumber when cut. It costs \$1.50 per thousand feet to get the logs from Canada to the Saginaw valley, and costs no more to put the lumber after it is sawed from points like Toledo, Cleveland, etc., on the lake ports, while from this valley to the same ports the cost of delivery of lumber is just as much as from Canada points, which means that with lumber on the free list, that all logs sawed in this valley cut from Canadian pine, sold in competition with lumber at Lake Erie ports, must be sold at \$1.50 per thousand feet less profit than the manufacturer who cuts his lumber in Canada, provided that lumber can be manufactured as cheap there as here, and that this can be done, we do not think anyone will dispute. With free lumber, if the manufacturer of lumber in the Saginaw valley sells his stock without having to "shrink" this \$1.50 paid for towing his logs to the mills here from Canada, it will mean that the manufacturer who cuts his lumber in Canada raises the price there just this amount, because he has the chance to do it, and if this is done wherein will the "dear people," for whose benefit the framers of this bill are so awfully solicitous, be benefited by free lumber. Lumber placed on the free list means