

to three million feet per annum, the bulk of which is shipped by boat to Sarnia, where the wholesale and retail yards are situated. As a rule about 20 men are employed in connection with this business, and the present season 40 men have been sent to the woods. Mr. F. McGibbon, the senior partner, is one of the oldest lumbermen at present actively engaged in the business in Canada, having already spent 32 years of his life at the work. He is a man of sterling integrity, and what he doesn't know about lumber is hardly worth finding out. By fair dealing and close attention to business he has accumulated a considerable amount of the necessary wherewith to keep him independent during his declining years. The business in Penetanguishene is under the entire control of his son, Mr. Charles McGibbon, who ranks as among the most popular men of the town in which he resides.

MR. BECK & CO.

By far the most extensive industry of the town is the "Penetanguishene Steam Saw Mill," under the proprietorship of the above well-known firm. This mill is situated close to the bay, and has been established for the past 13 years. A fire, some time ago, completely destroyed the entire works, but Phoenix like, they have sprung up larger than ever, and within the new structure is now in use some of the finest saw mill machinery manufactured in America. The output consists of lumber, laths, shingles, freight and bill stuff, the cut of lumber the past season being in the neighborhood of 7,000,000 feet. About one year ago this firm nearly doubled its capacity by buying up the large premises and machinery of the Brentwood Lumber Co. which is in close proximity to their own. In their new acquired property, they propose manufacturing bill stuff almost exclusively. The area of land utilized in connection with this business, consists of 25 acres along the water front, with three wharfs for the shipment of lumber, etc. Nearly all the lumber which goes by water finds a market at Sarnia. Large quantities are also shipped by rail to Toronto and elsewhere in Ontario. Railway ties and deals have been shipped in considerable quantities to England during the past year, and this trade is expected to increase. On enquiring the prospects for next year's cut we were informed that the company then had 150 men in the woods, and that as near as could be judged at the present time a cut of from nine to ten million feet would be made during the next season. Mr. Beck complains severely of the discriminating rates against lumber dealers in that town who are compelled to ship over the Northern railway in order to find some of the leading markets. He affirms that they are compelled to pay nearly double the rate which the railway company charge dealers in the North Shore district. Such a state of affairs as this will materially injure the lumber trade wherever such an exorbitant rate has been levied. The Northern railway evidently consider that they can act as they like in this matter, as the lumber has to be shipped, and there is no other line to carry it. Mr. Beck has been fighting this injustice for some time, but notwithstanding that he is a "solid Scotchman," his weight does not seem to have any effect. Penetanguishene owes very much of its present prosperity to the firm of which we are now writing. Mr. Beck evidently does not believe in employing assistants to look after his business, for he seems to have an eye to everything, and is hardly ever absent from his works. He is said to have accumulated a considerable fortune and is certainly entitled to his gains.

MR. D. DAVIDSON

operates a large saw mill on a peninsula across the bay, and for many years has done an extensive and prosperous business in the manufacture of the different kinds of lumber. It so happened that our visit was inopportune, as Mr. D. had left the same morning in company with a party of sports, with a Winchester on his shoulder and a rather weighty bag of cartridges at his side, for a few days hunt on the North Shore. We never had much ambition for tramping the woods after the beast of the forest and the fowl of the air, but on this occasion we were somehow drawn into the net. In company with a couple of "crack" shots, who, by the way, had intended to accompany the expedition of the morning, but had turned up too late to join the party, we set out for the neighboring woods prepared to destroy anything that happened to present itself. Time nor space will not permit of a rehearsal of our experience during that day's tramp. Suffice it to say that we had a deadly encounter with a striped rabbit and an owl. The latter we left in the tree, after sending something less than a dozen bullets after it, and bringing down a few feathers. The former we placed in our "game bag," and as the sun sank in the horizon, a homeward move was made. On reaching the town we bartered our game for three bottles of ginger ale, and if not satisfied with the day's sport were at all events quite ready to seek our virtuous couch.

THE SEASON TO CUT TIMBER.

Much has been written as to the time for cutting timber, and as authorities differ, I propose to give that time as near as possible. This is a branch of industry to which little or no attention has been given by our woodmen, who always have and are continuing to cut at any and all seasons of the year, regardless of the injury they inflict on themselves and others. I have asked the question of some who made it a business to get out timber the year round (excepting the season when they are apt to be idle and lay off, which will be the very part they should

have been the busiest,) "What is the best time to cut?" The answer invariably is, "We can sell, and the time of cutting makes no difference." This question is never asked, especially by the manufacturer or the party getting it out, and many wonder why they get so much poor or brash timber, and attribute all this to the timber itself, when in reality much of the trouble is due to the ignorance of those who cut the timber. There is a time to harvest timber (or fell the trees if nothing more) just as much as there is to harvest wheat. A farmer would never think of cutting a field of wheat when it is just headed out or in the milk, expecting that he would be remunerated for so doing, or that he was going to get a full and plump berry therefrom; and so in regard to cutting timber, we must observe the season, and when the timber is ripe, the pores or openings filled, and the tree is a solid mass, as it were; for the right season the pores or grains, as I will call them, are filled with the gum and oil that has formed after the sap has ceased flowing.

The custom has always been to cut timber in the winter time, because then the farmer, who does the most of the cutting, has the most spare time for so doing. In late seasons, when winter runs well into spring, and there has been little thawing but almost continual freezing, the damage is light, but in a reverse season cutting proves fatal.

Timber at the present day is treated somewhat different from formerly. Instead of the farmer cutting, as he formerly did, much of it is cut by parties who take it in bulk and cut at any time to suit their convenience, and as no complaint is made, it does not make any difference to them. This timber question has been much discussed at different times, and is to-day, but no one that I have seen has struck the key-note, or given definite time for cutting. Some there are doubtless who may know all about it, but I have never seen it in print, nor have I ever talked with a man who could give detailed information. Cut only when the timber is ripe. To sell it simply will do, and then you can let it lay and cut it up for what you want it for at your leisure, or in a few months. There are no exceptions to this rule, and all timber comes under it as a rule, and the time is the same for all. All must be benefitted, every person who uses timber, even to those who burn it, for fire wood cut at the right season is certainly worth fifty per cent. more than that cut out of season. Think of all those who use timber and the millions of feet that are sacrificed. England cuts her oak, her best timber, for the bark, or to save it, and at the expense of the timber, for the timber is ruined if cut when the bark peels.

I think that it is important to know the proper time to harvest timber. To individuals and to governments much has been written as to preservatives, but the best preservative is to cut in the right season. There are no doubt preservatives which can be applied for certain purposes, but they will all ways be externally and not internally. Injecting, as some have advocated and advised, is all bosh, as will be seen when thoroughly understood. The oil and gum that the timber is impregnated with is its own preservative, and if cut in the right season needs no other; in fact, to impregnate with any other liquid or solution, or attempt to do so if cut in season, it will be necessary to displace the timber's gum and oil, and to do this you must destroy the timber itself in the operation of displacing. If the timber is impregnated in the same liquid, fluid or water that the displacement took place in, it will again be filled in part with its own liquids or gum. This displacement theory is all wrong, as the operation destroys the life of the timber.

Timber is never so well preserved as when done by nature and its own preservatives. I am convinced if this is observed strictly no decoction is necessary, only where an external application in some way would be beneficial. Among those that are good, are raw or hot linseed oil, crude kerosene oil, its extracts, hot or cold. Creosote, as spoken of in the *National Builder*, is no doubt one of the best of the many spoken of by that authority, but I shall say only as an external preservative, and not as an internal, as claimed. I doubt not of its great usefulness if properly applied. Many of the others spoken of by the same authority are good, no doubt. The goodness of all are as an external remedy.

The time to cut, which in my judgment is about right, is mean time, being October and November. This is the best time, no doubt. Mean time, from middle of August to first of January, and the extremes from middle of July to the first of February. You may go outside the extremes, but it is not safe. Sap commences flowing in January, it may not be much, but it is sufficient to hurt the timber; and do not commence earlier than the 15th of July. The sap has no doubt ceased flowing, but the oil and gum which the pores are filled with now have not sufficiently ripened or hardened; therefore, confine yourselves as much as possible to the mean time, October and November. This is about the time for this latitude. There is, or can be, no set time, as the seasons and locality vary. Here in central New York it varies six weeks, and all these must be taken into consideration. March, April, May and June are the out-of-season months.—*J. B. W., in Coach and Saddlery.*

The average weight of 1,000 superficial ft. of Douglas fir lumber is from 3,300 to 3,500 pounds, and it is worth from \$9 to \$25.

General News Notes.

Currier's old mill at Ottawa is being demolished.

Mr. Samuel Frazor has sold all the pine, oak and basswood on his Midland property to Chow Bros., for \$2,000.

Mr. Herbert B. Rathbun is engaged with a large crew of men in collecting logs around the shores of the Bay of Quinte.

Messrs. Hillard & Dickson, Pakenham, have sold their limit on the Clyde to Mr. W. C. Caldwell, who intends to commence lumbering on it at once.

Mr. W. H. Carpenter, of Fort William, has large gangs of men at work in the woods this winter. He expects to have a larger cut next season than usual.

The Buffalo Lumberman's Exchange which is composed of lumber dealers in Buffalo and vicinity, will hold weekly meetings throughout the winter, at the Merchants Exchange Committee rooms.

Mr. A. Hoppins, of Kingston, has purchased the stock of the Bedora mill on the K. & P. railroad. The stock is composed of 185,000 feet of hemlock, joisting and scantling, and 116,000 shingles. He has also bought 600,000 feet of lumber from the Calabogie mill, and 100,000 feet from John Schellington, of Hinchbrooke.

The lumber shipments from Montreal during the season of navigation just closed were.—To the United Kingdom, 97,804,336 feet, for 1885, 89,007,407 feet; from Montreal and Lower St. Lawrence to River Plate, 20,088,201 feet; for 1885, 31,747,142 feet. Total shipments for the season to all places, 130,602,523 feet.

A gentleman down from the lumbering regions of the Upper Ottawa reports that the number of logs made so far this season is far in advance of last year. He says this was the finest fall of log cutting he has seen for many years. Drawing has already commenced in many districts. He anticipates bright spring prospects for the trade.

Recently a man named Thomas Clark, of Bristol, engaged in one of Messrs. Galt's boats, shanties on the Temiscamingue, was killed by the falling of a limb on his head whilst engaged in chopping. His body was taken home for burial with great difficulty, first being drawn on a hand sledge a distance of 25 miles to a lake, which delayed the party a day, during which time the lake froze over, and the party proceeded.

Some important changes are announced in two of the leading houses in Quebec trade. Mr. H. T. Walcot has retired from the firm of Messrs. J. Burdall & Co., of Quebec, Montreal and London; the business will be continued under the same style by the remaining partners, who have appointed Mr. H. W. Lightbourn to take charge of their London office. In addition to their Canadian business, Messrs. Burdall & Co. have arranged to sell ditch pine timber, deals, &c., for shipment from southern ports. The retiring member of this firm, Mr. Walcot, has entered into partnership with Mr. Edward Harper Wade, and will carry on business at 17, Gracechurch Street, London, under the style of Walcot & Co., and at Quebec and Montreal, under the style of Smith, Wade, & Co. From the latter firm, which has hitherto been carried on at Quebec, Mr. R. H. Smith, who was associated in partnership with Mr. E. H. Wade, has retired.

Supt. Evans, of the Deseronto shipyard, will have an exceedingly busy winter. He is making extensive preparations for the erection of the new steel steamer to which we referred last month, and which will be of large proportions. He will also build a large steam barge for the Rathbun Company. The new vessel which is intended for the Rideau trade, will be 99 feet keel, 106 ft. over all, 21 ft. beam and 6 ft. 6 inches depth of hold. He is also repairing the yacht Norah and will make many changes and improvements on the fleet of the Deseronto Navigation Company. Brisk times may thus be expected in the shipyard for the winter.

In conversation with a prominent lumberman on the Gatineau river and district an Ottawa *Journal* reporter learned that the winter so far has not been favorable to the lumbermen on account of the scarcity of snow. A great many teams with provisions for the shanties were stuck at points along the road. The prospects of a good cut this year are quite as favorable as last, and if a good spell of cold weather comes after Christmas the want of snow until the present time will not greatly inconvenience the lumbermen. "What firms will do most extensive work this winter?" Well, James McLaren will work his old limits as well as the Hall limit which he purchased some time ago. His operations will be considerably larger than any former year. Then Hamilton Bros. and Gilmour & Co. will, I think, do about the same as in former years. "What is the quality of timber taken out of the Gatineau regions?" "On the whole it is first-class timber both clear and large, but there is a great deal of drawing to do, which of course detracts from the value and then the length of the drive is also another drawback." "Then this is considered as a good season by the lumberman on the Gatineau?" "Well I do not say that, but there are very good prospects for a fair cut this season."