

OTTAWA LETTER.

Conditions of Business—Views of a Leading Lumberman.—Speech by Col. O'Brien M. P. for Muskoka on the Export Duty.—Work of the mills.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

The general outlook of the lumber trade is, in the opinion of a leading lumberman of the Chaudiere, very satisfactory. "For the past year or so business" said he "was very dull and purchasers were slow in buying, but now since there is a stir in the market they will begin to lay in a good stock, especially when it is known that the output of lumber here is to be very small this summer. In my long experience in the business I do not remember any season in which so little lumber was being cut as at present, and the quantity will not only increase any, as a large number of logs belong to different firms got stuck in creeks while on the drive, owing to the lowness of the water this spring. It is more than likely, however, that with a good spell of shipping now, the lumbermen will become encouraged and will work their limits heavily next winter, and make the manufacture of lumber lively here next summer. All the shipping accommodation to local points is being eagerly snatched up, and large numbers of men are engaged loading lumber on cars." This opinion is confirmed by the depleted condition of the lumber yards, for never perhaps have they looked so destitute, showing that shipping must have been brisk during the spring.

In the debate on the budget, Col. O'Brien M. P. for Muskoka made a capital speech, dealing largely with the condition of the lumber trade, as a result of present tariff regulations. He took the ground, that whilst certain advantages were obtained by the abolition of the export duty on logs, or rather because of the reduction of the import duty on lumber which followed this step, that yet the general result to the country was most disastrous. He had excellent authority for saying that the export of saw logs during the season will amount to from 80,000,000 to 140,000,000 ft. This means so large a diminution in the employment of labor and capital on our side of the lines, that the country must feel its baneful effects. Further it means a diminution in the production of our forests, so rapid and extensive, that serious consequences in the near future will follow.

Our people are looking forward with eager expectancy to the starting of J. R. Booth's new mill, which will add in a large measure to life around the Chaudiere. Five band saws and the twin circular saws have started, but we wait the buzz of the whole thirteen band saws and the other machinery with which this mill is so splendidly equipped.

Though the E. B. Eddy Co. are rapidly withdrawing from the lumber trade, the well-known energy of this firm is showing itself in other directions and where the product of the forest will be called into use. The old sash factory, of late used as a pulp mill, has been raised one story higher, and a new metallic roof put on. The big saw mill is dismantled, and the mill will be fitted up as another paper factory, though it will likely be January before operations will be commenced, as nearly this time will be needed to put in all the necessary machinery. The workshop in rear of St. John's church is being partly torn down and fitted up as a mill for sawing staves for the pail factory.

Though reports are not very favorable as to the getting out of logs, owing to the low condition of the water, yet a number of the drives are making their way along.

MINOR MENTION.

Eighteen men of the Egan Lumber Company are also haying along the Des Moines river.

Mill fire wood has been increased 25 cents a load. This will make a difference to Ottawa householders who use mill-wood of \$20,000 per year.

Word has been received here of the death of a well known Ottawa boy named "Jack" Gunnan, who was killed while at work in a Michigan mill.

Mr. J. R. Booth has sent a gang of twenty-five men to his farms on his Upper Black river limit to cut hay for the shanties on that limit next winter.

A lad 12 years of age from Gilmour's mill at Chelsea, stole fifty dollars from a boarding house of that place a short time since. He started for Ottawa, stopped a

night in the Flats, and made away with a watch from a fellow occupant; he next went to Hull and stole a pair of boots; and so far this amateur Jessie James has evaded capture.

Ottawa July 25th, 1891.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

A Big Lumber Deal—English Capital on the Coast.
A Budget of News Notes.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

The transfer of the Moodyville Saw Mill Company to an English syndicate to be known as the Moodyville Land and Saw Mill Company has finally taken place. The money has been paid over and the new owners are in possession. The transaction amounts in value to about one million dollars, and is probably the most important which has occurred in the commercial history of Vancouver. The board of directors is a very influential one, comprising the following noblemen and gentlemen: The Earl of Chesterfield, the Earl of Durham, Mr. Arthur Heywood Lonsdale, Colonel, the Hon. Oliver Montague and Mr. Edmund Evan-Thomas. Messrs. Wulffsohn & Bewicke, (Limited), will be the general agents in British Columbia, and Mr. Johann Wulffsohn of that firm the general manager of the company.

The property acquired by the new company is a very extensive and valuable one, including large and valuable tracts of land besides that embraced in the mill property itself. On the north shore of the Inlet, surrounding the mill, there is 1,786 acres, with a valuable water frontage of three miles. Other valuable agricultural lands are situated at Mud Bay, Strainer Island in the Coast District and elsewhere, aggregating 9,384 acres. There are also no less than 31,448 acres of valuable timber limits included in the purchase. The local management of the mill and the general conduct of the business will be the same as at present, the results of the operation of the business having given results that show this policy to be in accord with the interests of the concern. The successful completion of the negotiation by Mr. Wulffsohn cannot fail to be of great advantage to Vancouver.

A BUDGET OF NEWS MATTER.

The construction of the Nicaragua Canal is expected to consume considerable lumber from Puget Sound and B. C. ports.

A new industry, the British Columbia Paper Manufacturing Co. have decided to locate at Alberni, on Vancouver Island.

No bush fires of a destructive nature are reported yet and as the summer is advancing very little damage will likely be done by them this year.

The Canadian Pacific Lumber Co.'s new wharf on Lulu Island is nearly completed. Their portable mill is ready and soon will be cutting for the main mill.

The Vancouver Manufacturing and Trading Co. are building a dry kiln 40x35 feet. They have lately added a boiler house and put in a new Corliss engine. The mill will be taxed to its fullest capacity when it starts again.

The Taylor Mill Co., Ltd., have very much increased their output of lumber, sashes, doors, and everything in the building line. This is the concern that took over the plant and buildings of the Queen City Planing Mills, Victoria.

During the month the long expected ship *Duke of Argyle* arrived safely, discharged her cargo and went to Astoria, on the Columbia river, to load wheat for Great Britain. The *Lanarkshire*, *Morayshire*, *Noddleburn* and *Rothsaw Bay* are expected now.

The *Louisa Maria* has completed loading for Sydney, at MacLaren-Ross Lumber Co.'s mill. The *Leonora* will finish for Melbourne by the 18th inst. This is the first work the mill has done and gave the greatest satisfaction. Not a hitch occurred and all the machinery worked smoothly.

All the mills continue taxed to their fullest capacity to fill orders. The Brunette Saw Mill Co. and B. C. Mills F. & F. Co. ship from three to five car loads daily to the Northwest, Manitoba and Ontario. The shingle

mills are all increasing their outputs and shipping largely to Manitoba and the Northwest.

The representative of a large lumber firm in Adelaide, Australia, is now here for the purpose of arranging for a line of lumber steamers between British Columbia and Australia. The *Remus* and *Eton* have been chartered, but another is wanted. This is a most important matter for the lumber trade in British Columbia and it is to be hoped the venture will be successful.

H. G. R.

New Westminster, B.C., July 25, 1891.

VIEWS AND INTERVIEWS.

Sweden has an area of 170,900 square miles, 65,000 of which is timber lands.

One of the interesting objects which will be exhibited at the World's Fair is a table, made from the timber of the house in Funchal, Madeira, in which Columbus lived for a time before he began his voyages of discovery.

The average annual time of employment for mill hands, according to the United States census report, is 7.11 months in Michigan, 6.43 months in Wisconsin and 5.72 months in Minnesota. Has the climate anything to do with making this result as shown?

Practical lumbermen who have visited Mexico say those great forests of mahogany and other woods fail to materialize. Others, who made efforts to build up a trade in South American woods, tell how the difficulties of getting the really valuable timbers out of the impenetrable wood, almost, if not quite, overcome all advantages.

It is worthy the attention of Canadian lumbermen that the output of North Carolina pine during this year is expected to be about five hundred millions of feet, estimated as worth \$6,000,000. In addition to this the production of cedar, poplar, cypress, holly, ash and gum is valued at about four and one-quarter millions of dollars.

Mr. Wollred Nelson, who is writing a series of papers in the Montreal *Gazette* on commerce with Jamaica, gives a deal of valuable information relative to the conditions of trade with this country. Touching the subject of lumber he tells us that there is a steady demand in Jamaica for Canadian white pine, which is everywhere to be seen there, but that it was purchased in New York through middlemen. Very naturally Mr. Nelson asks, why not reach the Kingston market direct? The spruce of the Maritime provinces is almost useless in any hot climate, as wood borers soon reduce it to a perfect honeycomb. "In fact any wood that holds its sap is only food for the many voracious and destructive insects that infest the tropics." There were shipped from the Maritime provinces last year to the British West Indies \$150,000 worth of planks, boards, joists and scantling, "while Jamaica alone imports over five million (5,000,000) feet of white pine, almost every foot of which comes from New York. All this can be changed if Canadian lumbermen wish, and Canadian vessels could easily secure return cargoes of sugar, fruit, dye woods, etc. It awaits Canada."

The notable suit of Simpson Rennie v. the Utterson Lumber Company will go to the Supreme Court. The defendants are not discouraged because already twice beaten, but are prepared to put up security for costs to carry the case to the Supreme Court. The facts are as follows: Some years ago Simpson Rennie, who is a Scarborough farmer, loaned \$4,000 to two men who were running a saw mill on the shores of Mary's Lake. Rennie took a mortgage, as he supposed, on the mill property and adjoining lots. The mill men assigned subsequently to R. H. Gray, Toronto. At this stage the Utterson Lumber Company was formed by J. W. Lang, Ald. W. W. Park, Wm. A. Mitchell, of Toronto, and other men. They bought out the mill, and ever since have been endeavoring to establish the fact that Simpson Rennie's mortgage did not apply to the mill, but only to the adjoining land. The mill is built on piles in the lake and no part of the building proper touches the land, which facts were not made clear in the mortgage. Nearly two years ago Mr. Justice Falconbridge gave judgment in favor of the plaintiff, and lately the Court of Appeal sustained this decision.