

CORRESPONDENCE.

NEW BRUNSWICK MATTERS.

MADAWASKA, MAY 17th, 1890.

Editor Canada Lumberman:

Logs are floating very satisfactory this spring in this province, and the drives will, it is expected, reach the mills in good time. Morrison's drive has reached Grand Falls, and Cushing's is expected in to-morrow. The water has kept unusually high this spring, and is likely to continue so for some time, as at this date there is still considerable snow in the woods. Since the ice run out there has been a constant passage of both old and new logs, and the numerous drives which are yet to go down stream will doubtless make good headway.

The output this year will be about on a par with that of last year. A large amount of stock which has been held over since last season will be cut up the present summer, and lumbermen appear anxious to pick up all the small lots within their reach.

I noticed in your valuable journal of a recent date an article on the past and present of the lumbering interests of this province, and the article served to call to my mind incidents and experiences in the lumber camps fifty years ago. About that time I lumbered on the Musquash waters for the Lancaster Mill Co., and it is hardly necessary to state that the accommodation, both in the shanty and drives, was altogether different to what it is to-day. Our food consisted chiefly of pork and beans, fish, bread, molasses and tea. The *chef de cuisine* was not so well up in his art as he is to-day, but "the boys" retained their appetites and ate as heartily on our primitive fare as they do to-day with their fancy dishes of roast beef and plum pudding. Hundreds of times have we eaten our dinners in the woods far from camp with the bread frozen so stiff that it had to be cut with an axe or thawed out by the fire. The rude camp with a fire in the center and cots all around, was the accommodation we then had, but notwithstanding this I can look back on those old days and remember them as the most enjoyable time of my life.

Years ago Charlotte county produced the smallest men for lumbering and stream driving to be found in New Brunswick. The old-fashioned pick hand-spikes, cut from the woods, as necessity required, were the only tools in demand those days. Now we have all the latest improvements in the shape of pike poles, peavies and boot calks, but with all these modern conveniences I doubt whether much more progress in the driving of logs is being made. While the hardy woodsman always welcomes the advent of new appliances calculated to lessen labor and facilitate operations I have my doubts if a lumberman's life is more enjoyed now with all its comforts of a finished camp, such as good floors, beds, ranges and other luxuries, as it was in primitive times when but few conveniences were to be had.

The good old days when rafting was much lower than it is now, will be recalled by many. Men followed rafting as a regular business, and experience was as necessary as in any other line of skilled labor in which a man might embark. A good rafter knew the river like a pilot, and was as much at home in its channel as a red dog is under a kitchen stove. Life in the lumber camps and on the rolling wave, was full of its pleasures, and even the hours of toil were sent spinning along on the wheels of music and song. There was lots of fun in the business, and the girls along the shore had their little romances to tell as the fleets went by—romances just like those girls on land can tell. The history of those days and nights are left in pleasant rhymes, rattling stories and gleesome songs—some printed and some carried around in the shape of traditions—that once gladdened the hearts of thousands of rafters. Every fleet had its fiddler who could scrape out a break down and play "Rye Straw," the "Rocky Roads," "Haste to the Wedding," and so on; its warblers who filled the moonlight night with glorious songs; and its story-tellers, always panned to the chin with yarns that raised a laugh and made hearts happy.

I visited Lefrèux a short time ago and found it a desolate place. What was once fine mills and dwellings are now tumbling down with decay. Here in times past millions of feet of lumber were annually manufactured and shipped to Europe, while hundreds of men found employment in the mills and woods. Now only a few fishermen inhabit the place. Maganadavic in those days was also an important lumber point, but to-day is nothing. From here large quantities of square pine timber was shipped to England.

It more attention was paid to the protection of our forests by our local and Dominion politicians we would not be in the unenviable position we are in at present. Our milling interests have dwindled down next to nothing, and the greater part of our timber has been, and is being, cut by Americans and floated across the river to be manufactured in American mills. These logs are allowed to leave our province without

a cent of duty being paid on them, and as a result we are not only losing the revenue which should be ours, but our forests are fast disappearing, and our own people left to seek employment elsewhere. Surely the time has now come, if it ever will come, when united action should be taken to protect our own interests and put a positive stop to this wholesale slaughter of our forests.

OLD LUMBERMAN.

THE U. S. TARIFF ON LUMBER.

Editor Canada Lumberman.

SIR:—You will have observed that the Chicago *Timberman*, while making a fair criticism of some of my remarks in a recent letter to the *Journal of Commerce*, has probably made a misprint in the amount mentioned by me (when contrasting the advantages of those towing logs from the Canadian shore of Lake Erie to Buffalo and Tonawanda over those manufacturing on this side) when he makes me state this amount at \$7 per M. instead of \$4 per M. as mentioned in my letter.

I have, however, to admit that appearances are against the position I assumed of the improbability of our government changing its policy, because some of our Michigan friends were short of saw logs, and if one was not aware of the true inwardness of this affair, the *Timberman's* criticism would be justifiable when it says: "Mr. Little seems to be just a trifle wide of the mark, and unaware of the easy grace with which Sir John, notwithstanding his seventy odd years, can turn a summersault. Even while we write the news comes from Ottawa that the export duty will be removed, if the United States tariff on lumber is reduced \$1 per thousand."

The facts are that this action was taken by our government at the persistent importunity of the agents of our Michigan friends, who, after assuring us that Congress existed merely to record their wishes, made the proposal referred to, and who, as I surmised at the time, had no sooner got this exceptional proviso inserted in the U. S. Tariff bill than they set their agents here to work to ascertain what effect it might have; but learning that our people were perfectly indifferent in the matter, and that the export log duty would be restored to \$3 (if the export of logs was not prohibited altogether) should the ridiculous provision become law, they at once began to importune our government to permit them to say that the saw-log duty would be removed in case the lumber duties were reduced to \$1 per thousand.

It is but true, remark that the export duty on sawlogs was never relished even by those who favored it as the lesser of two evils; but as Sir Boyle Roche said: "He was willing to throw away a part or even the whole of the constitution to save the remainder," we preferred even an export duty rather than wholly sacrifice a portion of our remaining timber.

At last, however, Sir John, not wishing to be too hard in this matter, out of that exuberance of good nature for which he is proverbial, and which he always evinces whenever the interests of our American friends are concerned, consented to their proposal, so that the backing down, if any, was rather on the part of our American friends, who, instead of insisting on a duty of \$3.50 per M. on Canadian lumber as they originally proposed, are pleased now to make the duty \$1 per M.

It is as I have already remarked, a matter of no moment whatever to us what the rate of duty may hereafter be on white pine and spruce lumber, as the duty whatever it may be, will have to be paid by the American people if they want the lumber, but it is to be hoped that the United States Congress, recognizing the great harm already done their country by this pernicious duty, now that the lumbermen have let go their grip and offered to reduce the duty one half, will go a step further in the right direction and remove the duty altogether, and thus get rid of the anomaly of charging duties on lumber, at a time when the condition of their forests on the Atlantic side shows that they should rather offer a bounty to any country willing to part with its timber, than to restrict its import by the imposition of any duty whatever.

WILLIAM LITTLE.

Montreal, May 20th, 1890.

MOODYVILLE, B. C., May 14th, 1890.

Editor Canada Lumberman.

DEAR SIR,—Noticing a short article in the April issue of THE LUMBERMAN headed "Copperine" I am lead to think that Mr. Gidley, of Little Bob mills, evidently intended to extend a recommendation for Mr. Spooner's Copperine, but has taken a curious way of doing it. I, too, will speak well in behalf of Spooner's best Copperine for we use a great deal of it, and have no hesitation in stating that it is the best anti-friction, as compared with its cost, that we have ever used. We sometimes are compelled to make proper Babbit metal to use alongside (so to speak) of Spooner's Copperine. Why do we do it? Because a genuine Babbit metal, under certain circumstances, outdoes, to a certain extent, the Cop-

perine. We would not go to the expense of making pure Babbit metal if no better than a cheaper make. Good Babbit metal costs from 40 to 60 cents per lb., and cannot be got for less, for the reason that the copper invariably costs 30 cents and antimony 25 cents. Adding to this the cost of preparation the proper article cannot be produced for less than the figure above mentioned. I know quite well whereof I speak, and am able to testify from practice to the difference in qualities of anti-friction metals. What I have stated in this regard is intended to assist Mr. Spooner and the use of his metal, but is done in a different way from that of Mr. Gidley, and I have no doubt but that Mr. Spooner will read this with actually better satisfaction. When we take the actual first cost of metal as a base for calculation Mr. Spooner's metal for seven-eighths of the purposes for which such metal is used, is certainly at the front; but it must not be said that lubricants may burn out without melting even the best (soft) anti-friction ever made, no matter what its cost. Such remarks are not in justice to Mr. Spooner's Copperine.

S. J. RANDALL,
Master Mechanic, Moodyville Saw Mill Co.

UTILIZE THE WASTE.

A correspondent writing from Portland, Me., to the *Sherbrooke Examiner* has the following to say in regard to waste in manufacturing hardwood lumber.

There has always seemed to the writer a great waste in the manufacture of hard wood such as birch, maple and ash in Canada, and as your correspondent is interested in the business a few remarks as to saving in the manufacture may not come amiss.

Many mill men when shipping here such a car with the expectation of having a large return from it, and when they come to have it inspected they think they are greatly cheated, when such is not the case. When a man buys a No 1 lot of boards he wants them and does not care to have the poor ones. What can he do? He cannot surely be expected to give a number one price for a number two article. And then what a loss to the shipper, he pays freight and duty on a low priced article and that reduces the profits. When visiting mills in your neighborhood last winter your correspondent was asked several times by mill men what shall we do with our second quality of lumber if we give you all our first? or that it did not pay to saw and send hardwood. There is a way out of this. Everything can be brought into use and there is a use for everything. Now instead of ripping and tearing into the logs if your mill men would consider that there can be got out of lumber a larger per centage of short clear stock and only a small waste than by saving it all into boards and plank, and this can be done by saving it into bobbin and spool stock. We append to this a list of the sizes that are mostly used, lengths and number of feet, and we feel sure that it would pay to manufacture it for this market for there are always orders for such stock and much of the waste slabs that are now thrown away could be cut up and made use of.

All this must be plump to gauge when thoroughly seasoned with the sides straight and parallel. The accompanying schedule has been found practically correct and mill men should make gauges to green size and see that the sticks fill them. Sticks cut tapering or 1-32 scant cause waste and annoyances.

There is a proper machine to cut such stock and can be set up with a small cost, and we feel sure that it would pay to cut such stock.

No. of sticks in a Bundle, whatever length.	Green size, inches square.	Day size, inches square.	No. of feet in Bundle 4 ft long.
120	9-16	1/2	10
76	11-16	3/8	10
53	13-16	3/8	10
45	7/8	13-16	10
38	15-16	7/8	10
34	1	15-16	10
30	1 1-16	1	10
27	1 5-32	1 1-16	10
24	1 7-32	3/8	10
22	1 9-32	1 3-16	10 1/2
20	1 11-32	1 1/2	10 5-12
18	1 13-32	1 5-16	10 1/2
16	1 15-32	1 3/8	10 1 12
15	1 9-16	1 7-16	10 1/2
12	1 1/8	1 1/2	9
12	1 1-16	1 9-16	9 1/2
12	1 1/4	1 3/8	10 9-16
10	1 13-16	1 11-16	9 1/2
10	1 1/2	1 1/2	10 1-5
9	1 15-16	1 13-16	9 5-6
8	2 1-32	1 7/8	9 3/8
8	2 3-32	1 15-16	10
8	2 5-32	2	10 1/2
7	2 7-32	2 1-16	10
7	2 9-32	2 3/8	10 1/2
6	2 11-32	2 3-16	9 3-5
6	2 13-32	2 1/2	10 1/2
6	2 9-16	2 3/8	11 1/4
5	2 11-16	2 1/2	10 5-12