

THE OTTAWA SEASON.

The Ottawa Citizen of Nov. 28, says:—One of the most successful seasons that ever the lumbermen of this section of the country experienced, as far as the operations in their various mills were concerned and the remuneration derived from their labors in this direction, came to a close yesterday. Everything seemed to combine to make the work of the summer a grand success. On the 25th of April last the different mills in the vicinity commenced to run full blast, to the great gratification of the thousands of the toiling millions who derive a sustenance from the lumbering business. Capital and labor, which two often are antagonistic to each other, seemed to be well satisfied under the auspicious circumstances which dawned upon the event. Workmen were more than well pleased at the fact that their wages were raised from \$2 to \$3 per week over the preceding year, while lumbermen did not by any means grudge the extra pay, seeing that the rise in lumber was more than sufficient to meet the increased expense of their pay sheet. This was not only the case with the beginning of the season's work, but the same pleasant circumstances attended the doings of employers and employees until the close of the chapter yesterday. Prices of the article were kept up, and wages instead of being reduced were, in not a few cases, increased. The usual calendar of accidents happened, but very fortunately these, too, were in nearly all cases of not a very serious character. Slight delays from, to use a common expression, "the want of logs," or, more correctly speaking, the irregularity with which they arrived, of course, as is usually the case, did occur. But even these minor troubles which, more or less are to be looked for in such extensive operations which are connected with the carrying on of the staple industry of the capital, were fewer than is generally the case. Low water neither annoyed the millmen nor their workmen to any degree worth speaking of, and, viewing the whole business trade impartially, it may safely be said that the annoyances caused from temporarily "shutting down" was of very small magnitude indeed. A Citizen reporter visited the Chaudiere and Hull yesterday and observed that all the mills, with the exception of Mr. Booth's, had closed for the season, and it was expected that Mr. Booth's mill would shut down last night, thus bringing to an end, as already stated, the work in that line for the present year. In conversation with a lumberman it was ascertained that the season's cut would exceed any of former years. He considered, after adding up the cut by each firm in the surrounding district, that it would be a reasonable and fair total, in the absence of the correct figures, to say that the year's cut in all the mills combined would amount to about 550,000,000 feet of lumber. By including all the mills in the Ottawa Valley there certainly would not be much less than 500,000,000 feet. In his opinion it was the best season that ever the Ottawa lumbermen or their employees experienced. The business done was in excess, the prices obtained greater, and the time of running longer than have been the case for a number of years. True the money expended for labor was more than heretofore, still there was a balance of extra profits over preceding years in favor of the mill owner. The only real difficulty that the proprietors experienced was the scarcity of hands to perform the work. It is truly gratifying to be able to record such glad tidings, as Canada's most important export trade, outside of grain and dairy exports, is that of timber. Next to our fertile lands our primeval forests are our greatest sources of wealth. Few people, outside of the capital, have any conception of the amount of revenue derived from the lumber trade which is carried on along the banks of the Ottawa.

WHITEWOOD.

The following letter appears in the London Timber Trades Journal:—

SIR,—I shall be very much obliged to your, or any of your numerous readers, if you or they can or will tell me which is the softest white (spruce fir) wood, and at the same time most free from knots and easy to work, that is imported into this country from any quarter of the globe; and also if wood of *Pinus macrocarpa*, *Pinus Lambertiana*, *Pinus monstrosa*, or any

other of this section of whitewood pines, excepting the Quebec (Weymouth) pine, is brought into the United Kingdom?

I was once offered some "whitewood" Balm of Gilead (*Picea balsamea*). Is this an ordinary article of commerce? and, if so, what are its peculiar properties? Is the wood of any other silver fir (*Picea*) imported into this country?

I think the "whitewood" which is frequently advertised in the *Timber Trades Journal* is not of the fir tribe at all; I believe it is the produce of *Liriodendron tulipifera* (tulip tree), or *Platanus occidentalis* (Western plane), or some such like tree.

Should the Scottish Arboricultural Society be successful in their laudable endeavor to hold an International Exhibition of Forestry, it is earnestly to be hoped that they will invite the whole known world to contribute specimens of every kind of wood, and see that the native country, the common name, the botanical name, and the name, if any, by which the wood is known in commerce, be given; this of itself would make any exhibition a certain success, and would be of everlasting benefit to mankind in general, and particularly interesting to tens of thousands besides.

A WOOD MAN.

ENGLISH LAND COMPANY.

Under this heading the *Bobcaygoon Independent* publishes the following correspondence in regard to the Canadian Land and Emigration Company:—

Mr. Ross, of Quebec, has been for some time past negotiating for the purchase of nine townships of the English Company. His first offer was refused, but the second offer was entitled to more consideration. The following is a copy of the letter addressed to the Company making the offer:—

New York, Oct. 5, 1882.

"DEAR SIR,—I am instructed by James S. Ross, Esq., of Quebec, to make the following offer for the Canadian Land and Emigration Company's property, real and personal, in the County of Haliburton.

The price offered is eighty thousand dollars payable as follows: He will assume the Debentures and the interest from 1st July, 1882, (amount exclusive of interest) \$31,500. He will pay cash on signing the papers \$20,000. Balance \$28,500 in three equal annual instalments, viz., \$10,000 twelve months from the date of signing the papers; \$10,000 twenty-four months from the date of signing the papers, and \$8,500 thirty-six months from date of signing the papers, all with interest at the rate of 5 per annum, payable semi-annually on unmatured amounts.

The property is all the real property of the County of Haliburton, say in the nine townships of Dysart, Harcourt, Guilford, Harburn, Eyre, Dudley, Clyde, Havelock and Bruton, being about 336,633 acres, including all mills, houses and other improvements in which the Company have any interest, and personal property of all kinds and descriptions in the County of Haliburton. Also claims against settlers and rights of all kinds, maps, plans, field notes, and all other documents relating to the lands, also a payment in advance by Booth of \$3,309, and all existing timber licences and interest thereunder up to 1st of October, 1882, and thereafter, excepting amounts payable by Irwin & Boyd, and Bronson & Weston on account of past timber dues, say for 1881-2.

As soon as this offer is accepted the documents may be prepared for signature, and the transaction carried out.

Yours, &c.,

P. S. STEVENSON."

This letter was addressed to Major Evans of Toronto, and his colleagues, the Company's Commissioners, who in forwarding the offer to the members in England expressed their opinion as follows:—

"We now forward you an offer we have obtained from Mr. Stevenson, on behalf of James S. Ross, Esq., of Quebec, for the Canadian Land and Emigration Company's property.

"The offer may appear small, but when it is remembered that it is very questionable whether it is safe to anticipate the sale of lands in any quantity, and the certainty of the timber revenue coming to an end shortly, it seems advisable that it should not be thrown aside without

being examined in all its aspects. As it presents itself to us it would seem that this offer ensures the shareholders from an further call, and also admits of some small return of paid up capital.

"Should the Company continue to hold the property, it is doubtful whether in the space of three or four years, the expense not being able to be met by timber revenue and sale of lands, it would not be necessary to levy a call of unpaid stock. And even after doing so, and holding on, it is improbable the property would enhance sufficiently in value to obtain a better return to the shareholders than they would under the present circumstances.

"It is true the taxes may be reduced and some more railway debentures paid off so as to reduce expenses, but still, looking at this in the most favorable light, we fail to see that better terms would even then be likely to be realized.

"Under these circumstances, after the opportunity we have had during the last two years of thoroughly convincing ourselves of the value of the property, we have no hesitation in recommending to your Board the acceptance of Mr. Ross's offer."

The following is an extract from a letter of one of the solicitors of the Company in Toronto:—

"The inferior pine and the hardwood left would yield an income only by the Company starting new industries, which would involve an investment of fresh capital, and would be successful only if looked after by men who thoroughly understood the work.

"I suppose the shareholders would hardly risk any more money in a venture which would be doubtful.

"I have not much confidence in the Company being able to sell these lands to small buyers, not only are the surrounding free grant lands a bar to this, but every one who wants land is looking towards the North-West prairies to invest.

"It seems to me that in view of the danger of the decreasing revenue and the liabilities of the Company, that they cannot afford to remain inactive, and that either they must spend money in making the small pine and hardwood productive or sell."

This subject is now under consideration in England.

Grasping the Grant.

The *Northwestern Lumberman* says:—By the completion of the extension of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha road from Superior Junction to Superior City, Wis., 60 miles, that company secures a clear title to what is known as the north Wisconsin land grant, which embraces some of the most valuable timber land in Wisconsin. The same company has about secured the title to the old Chicago Air Line railway grant between Chippewa Falls and Superior Junction, now having the road graded and the iron nearly all laid between those points. The latter grant is estimated to be worth about \$2,000,000. Within six weeks the Omaha company will have its Ashland extension completed, and early next season a branch to Bayfield will be constructed. Thus this corporation is covering the lumber region of northwestern Wisconsin with a fan-shaped system that will monopolize the lumber and other traffic of that portion of the state, and their land grants will help on their monopoly. But the railroads will be a great help to the lake towns, and will develop the country rapidly.

A Big Tree.

Mr. W. L. Van Doren furnishes to a California paper the following description of a tree that was recently cut in Sonoma county:—

The standing height of the tree was 347 feet, and its diameter near the ground was 14 feet. In falling the top was broken off 200 feet distant from the stump, and up to the point of breaking the tree was perfectly sound. From the tree 12 saw logs were cut of the following lengths and diameters: Fourteen feet long, 9 feet diameter; 12 feet long, eight feet diameter; 12 feet long, seven feet seven inches diameter; 14 feet long, seven feet six inches diameter; 16 feet long, seven feet diameter; 16 feet long, six feet 10 inches in diameter; 16 feet, six feet six inches diameter; 16 feet long, six feet four

inches diameter; 16 feet long, six feet three inches diameter; 18 feet long, six feet diameter; 12 feet long, five feet 10 inches diameter; 18 feet long, five feet six inches in diameter. It will thus be seen that 180 feet of this remarkable tree were converted into saw logs. As the length and diameter of each log is given, the reader can, at leisure, figure out the quantity of each lumber the tree contains. If, instead of being cut into lumber, it had been worked up into seven foot pickets, it would have afforded fencing material to enclose a good-sized ranch. The paper asks, "Can any of our mill men in the East furnish us with statistics exceeding those of the above described giant?"

BIRCH MILLS.

At Bethel, Me., William E. Skillings & Co. are running eight sets of machinery for finishing spools, and are extending their mill 50 feet, in order to add four more sets, which will make their capacity double that of any mill in the county. The firm uses the product of seven mills in the vicinity of Bethel, besides that of its own, and has recently purchased 5,000 acres of birch land in Gilead, on which a mill for sawing strips is being erected. It will require 5,000 cords of birch to fill contracts already for next year. Of this, 2,000 cords will be cut from the Gilead timber, and the remainder will be purchased of farmers, the price paid being \$4 per cord. A contract has been made to ship 1,000,000 feet of birch strips to the well-known thread manufacturers, J. P. Coates & Co., of Scotland, next spring. Eben Richardson & Son are running their mill to its full capacity on spool strips and salt boxes, employing 10 men. John L. Swan saws 200 cords of birch into strips during the season at his water mill, and Hiram Hoedson saws about as much. A. S. Bean is also an operator in that vicinity.—*Northwestern Lumberman*.

Nothing New.

There is nothing new under the sun; even our forestry associations had their prototypes in Pagan Rome and Moorish Spain. Al Moctader, the caliph of Bagdad (1091-1117), also planted millions of forest trees; and it is a distressing fact that then, as now, many clear-sighted men foretold the consequences of reckless forest destruction, and that their protests had no appreciable influence in checking the evil. The trouble seems to be that tree-felling is directly profitable and only eventually injurious, while tree planting is directly expensive and only indirectly advantageous. Forest destruction has ruined our earthly paradise and the scientific authorities of all really enlightened nations have denounced it again and again; but before such arguments can influence the masses they must cease to seek their paradise in the clouds and their authorities in Palestine.—*Popular Science Monthly*.

Lake Shipping.

It is probable that lumber carrying on the lakes will, within a few years, be exclusively done by steam instead of sailing vessels. This year, on account of the low freight rates, and the competition of steam barges, the schooners have had a hard struggle to pay expenses. While the sailing fleet is wind-bound at one port or another, the steamers continue to make regular trips and carry enormous loads. While steam barges that have a capacity for from 500,000 to 750,000 feet of lumber have made money this season—in some instances \$15,000 a vessel—schooners have scarcely paid expenses. In seasons when rates are high they are able to do fairly; but in competition with steamers the odds is so much against them that owners will gradually dispose of that class of craft and invest in a more modern kind.—*Northwestern Lumberman*.

It Always Works Just This Result.

Mr. John Bonner, proprietor of the celebrated Yonge street Dry Goods and Gents Furnishing Store, Toronto, tells a most remarkable story of the Great German Remedy. "St. Jacobs Oil cured me of a bad case of neuralgia, of five years standing, when I had given up hopes of being cured, and had tried fifty different so-called remedies. I now keep it all the time not only at home, but here in my place of business; it is an excellent thing and something nobody should be without."