

OTTAWA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

IF the future of trade in the Ottawa district is to be gauged by the shipments of lumber from this point during the winter and spring, the season would rank as one of the duller in ten years. Old members of the trade, however, who have studied the situation carefully, believe that a good season's business will yet be done. It has not always been the case that when business went off with a boom in the months of March and April that the greatest business was done. Prices are fairly maintained, and this is an indication of strength.

The building formerly occupied by the Ottawa Canning factory will be started shortly as a planing mill and sash factory by Mr. Lariviere.

Gilmour & Hughson will increase their cut considerably over what was intended, having been losers of a large quantity of lumber by fire at Ironsides.

Bronson's saw mill has started up. The big mill will be started in a few days. Both mills will be run ten hours per day. By the first of the month it may be expected that all mills will be well running.

The Ontario Government will be about \$140,000 richer by the entering for probate of the will of the late Col. Allan Gilmour, the well-known lumberman. The total value of the estate in Ontario is placed at \$1,452,834. The stamps amount to \$2,144. This is the largest estate ever probated in Ottawa.

It is stated that the Government has decided not to force the sawdust legislation, leaving the matter to be settled by Parliament, which was convened on the 18th inst. This position, however, does not preclude others from taking action against the mill men, and, as intimated in former correspondence, there is talk of private parties moving at once in the matter.

W. C. Edwards & Co., Ltd., have a large force of men repairing and making improvements to their mills. The old water works pump house has been torn down and a more imposing structure is now being built. A large addition is also being built at the shipping docks at mill No. 2, upon which ties and rails are to be laid for the purpose of backing cars on to load.

Mr. William O'Brien was in town a few days ago from the construction of the O. A. & P. S. Railway near Whitney. He says there is a big boom in that district. The American lumber camps are just now breaking up, but the American firms are making a big push. The new saw mill of the St. Anthony Co. is rapidly drawing to completion. The mill will make a very large cut when once in full running order, and employ a large staff of men.

Important improvements are being made to the mill of William Mason & Son, and when finished it will be one of the most complete in Canada, for its size. Over \$10,000 worth of new machinery has been put in. The output will be about 75,000 feet a day. The old circular saws have been taken out and replaced with large band saws. New "live feeds" have been put in; new steam "butting off" saws and other new machinery placed in position. The fire protection has been made very complete.

OTTAWA, CAN., April 20, 1895.

NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THE St. John river is rapidly becoming free of ice, and already schooners loaded with lumber have come down part of the way.

Hamilton Bros. mill on the Straight Shore is being rebuilt.

John C. McAuley, of Mill Stream, is doing good work with his portable saw mill.

The export of lumber from St. John in March was \$20,000 less in value than in March of last year.

The Calais Times says that there will be an average cut in that district, where Secretary James talks of a shortage.

Turner & McClean's crew are at work getting the steam mill ready for sawing. About 1,000,000 feet of logs are at the tail of the mill.

Coun. Carson, of St. Martin's, has his winter's lumber all sawn and hauled to the bank, and is making preparations for loading schooners.

It is stated by a local correspondent that there are 30 shingle mills of various sizes, though the majority small, running in Restigouche county.

The Norwegian barque Attila, which carries deals to the United Kingdom, has met with another accident. She has been an unfortunate vessel.

Rhodes, Curry & Co., of Amherst, N. S., owners of the car works, are importing large quantities of oak via St. John. Shipments so far aggregate 400,000 feet.

Heavy rains a week ago have done considerable damage. At Upham Mr. Chas. Titus, mill owner, was a heavy loser, the ice clearing away part of his booms, dam and wharf.

Samuel Darling, formerly customs officer at Milltown, and at one time an active lumber manufacturer in the province, died a week since at the home of his son, at Somerville, Mass.

The output of O'Neil & Lowe, on the Middle Road, will be in the vicinity of 2,000,000 ft. Patterson Bros., H. A. McPhee and others in this district are getting ready for a good season's work.

McLeod Bros., Gasperaux Station, have a larger quantity of logs and railroad ties than usual. Robert M. Graham's mill, same district, has commenced sawing, and a busier season than last year is anticipated.

Robt. Convey, foreman for Geo. B. Vaughan at Point Wolfe, when in town a few days since, stated that a good winter's logging had been completed and they are now awaiting the drivers to get them to the mills.

Several St. John Lumber mills are putting in planers so they can cut dimension stuff for the American market. As a result of the new tariff lumber shipments with the New England and Middle States are looking up.

The mill of S. K. King & Sons, at Kingsville, will be put in operation again in July. New boilers will be put in, the plate for which has been ordered from England. This is the mill where the terrible boiler explosion occurred.

The season's cut of lumber in the vicinity of Andover has been unusually large. The contract for driving from the Forks to the mouth has been sold to Mr. McNair at 23c. per thousand for the 61 miles, and about same rate on chartered distance.

Chas. Miller and A. Cushing & Co. have been reported by Harbor Inspector O'Brien for throwing sawdust and edgings into the river, and Stetler, Cutler & Co. have been reported for throwing lime into the river. These will make test cases on the sawdust question.

Lumbering looks lively at Ten Mile Creek. Large quantities of lumber are there and already some shipments have been made. It is estimated that 5,000,000 of sawn lumber will be shipped from that port this season, besides several cargoes of piling, kiln wood, etc.

J. B. Benson, representing the Muskoka Timber Co., and owning timber lands covering a territory of 300 miles along the Restigouche and Kedgewick rivers, and about 100 miles along Green river, says that the former territory will produce 200,000,000 of lumber or about 10,000,000 per year.

Lumbermen here are not disposed to accept the statement of the secretary of the Northeastern Lumbermen's Association, of Boston, as regards his estimate of shortage of spruce. He has estimated a shortage of 80,000,000 at St. John and 25,000,000 in Nova Scotia. Lumbermen here say that these figures will not hold good, as will be shown a little later on.

The destruction by fire of A. Cushing & Co.'s mill at Union Point, ten days since, was an event that has brought much disaster. It is a serious blow to the people of Fairville, as it gave employment to 225 men and boys. The machinery consisted of two gangs, one band saw, three planers, three lath machines, six box machines, one black-board machine and three double edgers, which are all badly burnt and twisted, and will probably be unfit for further use. The entire stock of lumber was saved, with the exception of a few hemlock boards, which were scorched on the end, but not seriously. The loss is estimated between \$50,000 and \$60,000. The mill has been running steadily for nearly four years, when almost entirely new machinery was put in. The firm are undecided whether to rebuild or not. This has given rise to the suggestion that possibly Stetson, Cutler & Co. will start their mill at Indiantown. They had not intended running this year unless the American trade looked up a good deal.

ST. JOHN, N. B., April 18, 1895.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

BUSINESS is active around the British Columbia cooerage works at Vancouver, these running over time lately in order to cover the large orders received for spruce barrels, etc. Butter makers in the territories are among the larger purchasers of the cooerage products, as also are oriental exporters of molasses. British Columbia spruce seems specially adapted for the manufacture of these packages.

A saw mill will likely be erected on Boundary Falls this spring.

The Brunette Saw Mills are running over time to keep up with orders. About 150 men are now employed.

The Brunette Saw Mill Co. are asking the City Council for better water facilities for fire protection at their mill.

The Royal City Mills logging camp, at Mud Bay, is being closed, and a new camp will be opened at once at Bear River, on the northern coast. The first batch of men have already gone north to open the camp, build bunk houses and prepare the way generally for logging, which will commence in about a month. About 50 men will comprise the crew.

One of the richest timber sections of the interior in the vicinity of Spallumcheen river, near Mabel lake, is likely soon to be opened out by H. W. Wright and others. Mr. Wright has had a good deal of experience in the lumbering business in Maine and on the Sound, and is quite enthusiastic over the prospects in this territory. He considers the territory rich in fine cedar, hemlock and pine.

Robert Ward & Co., Ltd., large lumbermen, have had rendered against them a decision that is said to be without precedent in Canadian courts. Some time ago they had a ship builder, John Clark, imprisoned for debt due them, which he could not pay. Civil action was afterwards taken against Clark and his partner Harrington for \$8,000. Defence raised the unique point that by seizing the person of the debtor plaintiffs had taken the last recourse of the law, and all liabilities on defendant's part had thereby been discharged. The court held the point well taken and ordered Clark's release, purged of all responsibility for the debt.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., April 16, 1895.

MICHIGAN LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THE time has arrived when there ought to be a good deal of stir in lumber at this point. But business is opening slowly. Appearances would seem to indicate that there are large stocks of lumber on hand, but it is believed that most of it is simply waiting for shipment, and now that navigation is about opened it will be quickly removed. At Bay City it is said there is still a good deal of unsold lumber on the docks. Mills are pretty well at work, and it is believed, despite the dullness of trade in some respects, that a good season's business will be done. The shingle market continues as dull as ever.

The Saginaw Lumber & Salt Co. will not start its mills until about May 1st.

James Norn will erect a new saw mill at Standish, on the site of the one recently destroyed by fire.

Hemlock bark is quoted at Grand Rapids lower than at the opening of last season, the prevailing price being \$7.25.

Charters for the delivery of 600,000 feet of lumber have been made by Maltby & Co., of Detroit, to come from Tawas City.

A crew of 30 men are now at work on the Menominee and tributaries getting things ready for the drives of the Menominee River Boom Co.

A sale of 14 car loads of lumber has been made by W. W. Sutherland & Co. to Herberger & Schwander, piano manufacturers, Paris, France. A number of other sales of hardwood for piano manufacture have been made in this district.

The mills of A. T. Bliss, Central Lumber Co., and Bliss & Van Auker have started up for the season. There seems to be no difficulty in securing labor this year, as more men are applying than there is work for them to do. Wall & Weber's mill will start at once, and others.

R. A. Loveland, R. H. Roys, D. L. White, Jr., and Ralph Loveland, have organized themselves into a company with a view of engaging in certain lumber operations. This is the syndicate who recently purchased two berths from the Parry Sound Lumber Co., of Toronto.

A number of firms are establishing branches at different points in Michigan, which is good evidence of its position as a distributing point. A recent firm to establish a yard here is that of Crosby & Beckley, of New Haven, Conn., who have leased the Kimball & Merriman property, west side, which they will utilize as a distributing point for hardwood lumber.

Vessel men are not anxious to see navigation get into good swing too soon, as they say that a late opening will more certainly ensure them better prices. There has not been much profit in connection with vessel business lately. It is believed that freights from Bay City to Buffalo will open as low as \$1.25. There will be a considerable addition to the tonnage of the Saginaw river this season, as ten boats are now being built at Bay City. The two ship yards are employing 1,000 men.

SAGINAW, MICH., April 19, 1895.

The J. C. McLaren Belting Company, of Montreal, is applying for incorporation. The incorporators are David W. McLaren, Mrs. A. Cummins Walker, Alexander Walker, B. S. Sharing, Joseph Ryan, and G. W. McDougall, all of Montreal. The capital stock is \$99,000.