BRITISH COLUMBIA.

[From our Regular Correspondent.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C., June 29th, 1889.

Your last month's issue was duly appreciated by those interested in the lumber industry in this country, as coast news is very scarce inland and *vice versa*. Your correspondent recently returned from a trip through the mountains and the Northwest Territories, calling upon all the prominent mill owners inland, and was surprised at the activity displayed everywhere, and the anxiety shown by mill owners to properly attend to the orders arriving by almost every mail from Calgary and other points in the Northwest Territory. Proceeding as far east as Winnipeg, I found the dealers doing a large trade in British Columbia shingles, large stocks of which are constantly kept on hand; but owing to the continued demand, stocks are being continually broken. I found from the testimony of consumers that these shingles gave great satisfaction owing to their lasting qualities and freedom from warping. The cedar from which they are made covers at least one-eighth of the territory of the mainland of British Columbia.

At Beaver, some magnificent timber is being used up to meet the requirements of the market, and Mr. Robinson, who put in additional machinery for this season's work, finds himself compelled to refuse orders, and is already talking of making additional improvements to meet the demand for next season. Mr. W. C. Wells, of Palliser, is running night and day to keep his customers quiet, and in no case being able to keep up with the demand.

Mr. G. O. Buchanan took a saw mill he was running into sections, and with boat and packing on horses transferred it to Nelson, about 120 miles south of the railroad, where settlers are going in and a large mining industry is opening up. From a recent letter he expects to retire in a short time if prices keep up.

At Revelstoke, Mr. Valentine, a shrewd Michigan lumberman, is putting up a complete shingle mill, and proposes for the present to cut nothing else. The frame work of the mill was all up and the machinery having just arrived he was busy unloading it. In the course of conversation he remarked that Canadian manufacturers could turn out machinery that equalled anything he had ever seen in Michigan, especially the engine and boiler from the Wm. Hamilton Manufacturing Company, of Peterborough, who supplied all the machinery. He expects to be running in a very short time, and a steady stream of shingles will be placed in the Northwest and Manitoba at the rate of about 120,000 a day. At the same place an American firm are applying for timber grants with the idea of building a mill on the Columbia River with a capacity of 100,000 feet a day. From present prospects they expect to turn out lumber cheaper than any place in British Columbia, being adjacent to some of the most magnificent timber limits that can be seen anywhere. The amount of lumber that can be got out of one stick is truly marvelous. But more in regard to the size of timber in another letter.

All through the mountains there are people talking of mills going to be built in the near future, and if the population of the Northwest and Manitoba increases to the extent that the emigration agents swear to, the demand for lumber will increase at least 50% a year for many years to come. The lumber must come from the mountains, and allowing that the cost of turning it out is the same, the large mills on the coast cannot compete, as they have a very stiff railroad rate against them.

The lumber industry on the coast, to say the least, is "booming". Every one talks lumber, and within the last week one firm, representing some of the large machinery manufacturers in the east, have figured on three mills which capitalists are talking of building, one with a capacity of 120,000 on the island, somewhere in the vicinity of Alberna on the west coast, another of 50,000 to be built on the north coast of the mainland by American capitalists, and one to be built on the Frazer river by an English firm whose representative is now in this country.

Three vessels have cleared this month, one for Valparaso, South America, one for Australia and one for England. There is one now loading at the Royal City Mills, New Westminster, which will clear about the 5th of July for London, England. Four vessels have arrived in mainland waters to load for different parts of the world, and one on island waters for Australia.

Some of the timber being loaded on the *Mac Duff* at New Westminster, are fine specimens of the British Columbia forests. Sticks from 90 to 110 feet in length, 20x20 to 24x24 are being drawn into the hold by a steam hoist, and are said to be the finest specimens of fir ever sent out of this country. The cargo is destined for the London market, and none but the very best being accepted, it will be a grand advertisement for the most western province of Britain's American possessions.

The Maclaren Ross mill, at New Westminster, is beginning to have a very visible appearance. The piles are almost all in, the timbers for the frame are being sawed, and a large staff of hands are constantly kept busy in getting it into shape. When complete it will be about the most complete mill on the continent.

FIR.

FILING SHINGLE SAWS.

BY FOREMAN.

Of this style of saw we hear and see but little in the way of information about keeping it in order. This can be attributed to the fact that good shingle saw filers are as scarce as rotary filers who can master their own saws. I have the opinion of but few on this subject, and have caught what I know about shingle saws almost from my own experience, and while I do not wish to boast, will say that I am actually sawing $25 worth of timber a day in using 18 and 19-gauge saws over my neighboring filers who are using 15 and 16-guage saws, besides I am making the smoothest shingle on the same feed. This assertion can be proven.

These filers are considered first-class, and are paid from four to five dollars per day for their work. What can be the trouble? First, I run 120 teeth to a saw, to their 80 or 90. Now their is hardly a limit to the amount of teeth a shingle saw can have. A saw running on ¾-inch feed will do well with 140 teeth, and should have that number if economy in timber is sought for, which certainly ought to be the aim in sawing shingles.

Talk about economy in thin saws for board sawing, I have seen men have the thin saw craze as far as their large circulars were concerned, yet pay no attention to what their shingle saws were doing, when in reality the shingle saws were throwing away thousands of dollars annually in saw dust.

A thin shingle saw will not run with the same number of teeth that a thick one will. A 16-guage saw will not run as well with 80 teeth, as a 19-gauge will with 130. Each tooth cuts then a fine shaving, making a perfectly smooth shingle, where if the same saw had a much less number of teeth, they would be springing, dodging and making clips.

There are many things to be taken into consideration in using thin shingle saws. First, collar, saw and pulley must be in perfect balance, and run at a high speed, teeth as short as possible, to clear with round throats, filed perfectly square, with partially spring set and a little swaging. This latter many will condemn until they have had experience with thin saws running on a power feed machine. Some may ask, why should and how can such thin teeth be swaged? The reason that they must be swaged a trifle is this. The teeth of an 18 or 19-guage saw are very thin, and to give the saw the set that it must have, leaves a little core or part in the centre of the cut that the teeth do not remove, that is, each tooth cuts hardly half the kerf, and the result is bad shingles, with a nice lot of small straight shavings accumulating with the shingles. Some say this is too much set, that it don't require much set with so many teeth; don't require any more set than a thick saw, but if one will just take the guage from which a thick saw was set and set the thin one to it, he will be surprised at the thin saw apparently having so much set, when in reality the set is equal. To look at the spring of a thin tooth it seems to be much more than the same set of a thicker one. A thick saw can be forced with less set than a thin one. that is, the set of the latter must be kept the same, and set almost every filing.

Thin saws require straightening oftener, as the edge drops down; it should be kept up a trifle [illegible] than the centre of the saw. Any good filer understands these requirements and some are paid as high as $8 per day to attend to such saws, and are cheap at that price.

A Monarch of the Forest.

The San Francisco *Alta* says:- Near the West bank of Austin creek, the ruthless woodman's axe recently laid low one of nature's kinglest growths. For a thousand years his vegetable majesty had lifted his proud head annually nearer the clouds, and taken upon himself, month by month, more and more of that colossal bulk which marks the true forest king. It measured 38 feet in girth three feet above the ground, and was 310 feet high. It took two most accomplished axemen, with the best of modern tools, nearly a day and a quarter to cut it away to a point where its own vast weight caused it to topple and fall. With that wonderful skill which only long experience gives, these veteran axemen, under the direction of Foreman Soper, laid the monster so exactly as to drive a stake previously set 200 feet from its base, on the bank of the creek. Even at that point the great tree was over 20 feet around, and the upper 100 feet crashed down across the creek, swept down the telegraph line, snapped two telegraph poles short off, and fell across the railway track of the North Pacific Coast railroad. The fall shook the earth in a local earthquake felt half a mile off, sent up clouds of dust, completely obscuring the great trunk, and sent forth a report like a heavy artillery.

A Park for Ontario.

A very sensible suggestion has been made by the Canadian Institute A deputation from that body waited upon the Hon. A. S. Hardy, the Ontario Commissioner of Crown Lands, last week to explain a scheme for a great provincial park for Ontario. They propose a tract of land 36 miles long by 28 miles wide, comprising about 1,000 square miles, back of Haliburton in the Nipissing District, should be set apart and called the Algonquin Park The region includes the head waters of the river system of Central Ontario, and the object is to protect these rivers and provide a refuge for the last survivors of finned, furred and feathered game of the Province, which will otherwise soon be extinct. The lands spoken of are wild lands, unfit for agriculture, of little value for lumbering, therefore the cost of the scheme would be trifling. The commissioner received the deputation courteously, was impressed with the importance of their suggestion, and promised early and favorable consideration. It is to be hoped that the government will see its way clear to adopt some such suggestion, as a park like the one proposed would cost but little and its value to the Province would be immeasurable, furnishing needed, protection for our fast diminishing game and a vast pleasure ground for our people.

Trade with South America.

The Hon. John Macdonald, who last year visited the West Indies and British Guiana, with a view to studying the present and possible commercial relations between those countries and Canada, furnishes some very interesting data by way of comparison, in which he shows the extent to which both the United States and the Dominion share in that trade. With regard to lumber and other products of the forest imported by the countries visited from Canada and the United States during 1887, he shows that Trinidad took 323,774 staves from the United States and none from Canada. To the island of Barbadoes the United States sent 3,907,220 staves and shooks, while Canada only exported 131,822 to that island. Of white pine lumber the United States sent 2,582,080 feet and Canada 7,336,505 feet to Barbadoes, and of shingles the United States 556,150 and Canada 3,520,850. To Trinidad Canada sent 179,000 shingles, while the United States only sent 95,000. To British Guiana the United States sent 3,824,505 feet of lumber, 335,195 staves, while Canada sent 6,139,140 feet of lumber and 637,345 staves. With a view to developing trade between Canada and South America, the Dominion parliament last session voted the sum of $50,000 as a subsidy to be awarded to such company as would establish direct steam communication between the Dominion and South American ports.