

**BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.**

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN)  
**VANCOUVER, B.C., September 26, 1904.**  
 —The depression in the lumber business has been the cause of a cut in prices of lumber in this city, and the war has been carried on by the millmen until now figures are in many instances as much as 35 per cent. off the list price. It all started in one firm giving a price below the schedule agreed upon by the B. C. Lumber and Shingle Manufacturers' Association, and to which all the members subscribe, and of another when hearing it going it still lower. Shingles are being sold for \$1.35 and \$1.50. "There a. e times," one of the prominent manufacturers said on Saturday, "when most of us feel we should be put in an asylum until this irrational feeling has worn off. We know we are hurting ourselves and the trade, but still we go ahead."

A feature of the depression in the logging industry is the cornering of the available supply. Especially is this the case in cedar. Most of the independent loggers

are in financial difficulties, and since the government has refused to allow export, they have to wait until conditions brighten. They have stopped cutting, and those who have the money are now quietly buying up all the cedar and the fir. By spring logs may take a big jump and will be very high if the winter is as unfavorable as it is in getting out timber.

Export of lumber is small. The fleet now loading is only three vessels, the fewest on record. They are the Harold and Halewood at Hastings mill, and the Olivebank at Chemainus. Three charters only are reported, the William H. Talbot, the Admiral Tegethoff and the Halboa. A record was made in loading the Olivebank. She took on 2,570,000 feet, the largest cargo ever shipped at Chemainus, and this was put on through one hatch by the Victoria & Vancouver Stevedoring Company in 22 lay-days, an average of 114,000 feet per day.

Several mill fires have taken place during the month. The mill at Kamloops of the Kamloops Lumber Company, of which

George McCormick, M.P., is president, was burned, with a loss of \$20,000. Some lumber was also burned. Mr. G. F. Fowler, M.P., is on his way west, and when he arrives it will be decided whether the mill will be rebuilt at Kamloops or Savano. Messrs. Braden & Johnston, who have a mill at Salmon Arm, lost the plant and all their lumber. The loss will be about \$2,500, with no insurance. Mr. McCormick, when he heard of the misfortune, kindly offered to supply them with a boiler. They will rebuild so as to be ready to cut early in the spring. A watchman slept at the No. 1 mill of the King Lumber Company, near Cranbrook, and the mill was burned, he escaping with difficulty from the burning building. No lumber or logs were burned. Loss \$25,000, with some insurance. The Capilano Lumber Company, operating about seven miles from the mouth of the Capilano river, from which Vancouver gets its water supply, has suffered the loss of its saw mill.

Mr. J. Taylor, principal owner of the Arrowhead Lumber Company, has gone

L. Dean Holden, Pres. J. M. Diver, Gen'l-Mgr. A. F. Holden, Vice-Pres. E. C. Barre, Asst. Mgr.

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