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REMINISCENCES OF THE LUMBER TRADE.

THE following historical notes on the early lumber trade of Canada were written by Hon. J. K. Ward, of Montreal, who is now 79 years of age, and who has spent 53 years of his life in the sawmilling business. He was one of the pioneers of the trade, having done much to develop the lumber industry of Canada.

Mr. Ward is about to retire from active business. He has disposed of his timber limits on the Rouge river to the Riordan Paper Mills Company, and after the present season will lease or sell his mill property.

HISTORICAL NOTES.

The first timber shipped from Canada of which we have any record was sent by Talon to Larochele in 1667. Hocquast sent some timber and sawed lumber to Rochefort in 1735. After the conquest in 1760 the trade with Britain increased very rapidly, so much so that as many as 800 sailing ships have arrived in one year at Quebec, seeking timber cargoes. At present it is a rarity to see one, steamships almost monopolizing the trade, the character of which has changed, much less square timber being made than formerly and most of the sawed pine lumber that comes from the Ottawa being shipped from Montreal, in place of Quebec, as was once the case.

I think I can fairly claim the credit of shipping the first cargo of lumber from the St. Lawrence to South America; this was in 1866, from Three Rivers, on the bark Annie McKenzie, on account of A. & S. V. Spring, of Portland, Maine, for Buenos Ayres. I continued for many years shipping lumber to the east and west side of South America, for German and American firms, also sending many ship loads of sugar box shooks to Havana and Cardenas. The trade with South America has been a very precarious one. I have known as much as £28 per 1000 feet being paid for freight to Buenos Ayres, and have seen as low as \$9 per M feet paid for same. Cargoes have also been sold for less than the charges, and abandoned by the owners.

In the early part of the present century the Montmorency mills were built by a Mr. Osborne. The late Peter Paterson, a Yorkshire man, ship's carpenter by trade, who had spent some time in Russia, became an employee of Mr. Osborne's, and finally proprietor of the property, and became one of the largest manufacturers of lumber in Canada, drawing his supply of logs largely from the Beconcour, the St. Maurice and other streams running into the St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers.

Sir John Caldwell was largely interested in lumbering on the St. John, N.B., Rivier du Loup in Batiscan and Etchemin, but did not make a success of it financially.

The late Wm. Price, father of the Hon. J. Price, of Quebec, established mills at Chicoutimi, St. Alexis, L'Anse St. Jean, St. Etienne, on the

Saguenay, Metis, Matane, St. Thomas, Batiscan and many other places, leaving an immense business to his sons, but all is now conducted by the one above named, the others having died some years ago.

Philomene Wright, the first lumberman on the Ottawa river, came from Woburn, in the United States, arrived at the Chaudiere Falls or the Asticou, as called by the Indians as early as the year 1796. It was not until 1797 that he finally decided to make his home in Canada, and on the 20th of October, 1789, he and two companions pitched upon the site of the future city of Hull. He finally quitted Woburn for Canada on the 2nd of February, 1800. He was accompanied by five families, and had in the train fourteen horses, eight oxen and seven sleighs. The first tree was felled on the site of the homestead on the 7th of March of the same year. He brought the first square timber from the Ottawa to Quebec in the year 1807. He built the first slide on the Hull side of the river in 1829. He was elected the first member to represent the County of Ottawa in 1830. He died in 1839, and sleeps, an honored memory, in the little cemetery on the Aylmer road. Philomene Wright built his first saw and grist mills 1808, they were, unfortunately, burned down, but were rebuilt in 60 days.

About eighteen years prior to this the first saw mill on Ottawa had been built at Point Fortune by a Mr. Story. It boasted one upright saw, and it is recorded that when the man in charge giggered back the carriage for a fresh cut he would sit down on the log to take his dinner, and was about through by the time the cut was finished. With our present saws the same can be done in four seconds.

Among our successful lumbermen have been the late James McLaren, of Buckingham; Peter McLaren, of Perth; Bronson, Weston & Co., Perley & Pattee, J. R. Booth, Alex. Fraser, of Westmeath; W. Mackey and the late firm of Hamilton Bros., whose father was one of the first in the trade at Hawkesbury, Ont. Many others have taken an active part in the business, with more or less success.

Our shantymen, whether English or French, as a rule are as good axemen, as expert drivers and canoemen, as can be found in any country. Our people are well up in dam building, as well as in making slides and clearing away the rivers to facilitate driving. Our rivers, as a general thing, being very precipitous and rapid, require extensive improvements, especially for the running of square timber.

Mr. Hale, of Sherbrooke, gave an amusing history of a stick at the Forestry Congress in this city in 1882; "As an example of the far-reaching benefit of arboriculture, I will give the history of probably the first importation of any new variety of tree ever made into the eastern

townships. Many years ago a 'solitary horseman might have been seen wending his way' from the central part of Vermont, bearing in his hand a riding stick broken from a tree as he left his home. His destination was Lennoxville, and in due course of time he arrived, and taking up his abode at a farmhouse about one mile east of the village, stuck his now useless stick into the ground. Like Aaron's rod, in due time it budded and grew apace a scion of the then unknown white willow. From this little stranger have come all the original magnificent trees for which Lennoxville and the surrounding country have been so long and so justly famous, and which have done so much towards clothing the countryside for miles around with its rich and luxuriant foliage; into many other towns and villages have they spread, until the offsprings of this embryotic willow might be numbered by the thousands."

The late Hon. Jas. Skead and his brother, Robert, were prominent lumbermen and respected citizens in their day. Ben. McConnell and his brother and many others, were all pioneers in a business that entails more hardships and excitement than but few can appreciate.

THE LATE TIMOTHY H. DUNN.

ONE of the oldest and most highly respected lumberman of Quebec recently crossed the bar, in the person of the late Mr. T. H. Dunn, whose death occurred at his summer home on the Isle of Orleans. Deceased was born at St. Ursule, Que., in 1816. In 1841 he entered the Quebec office of the great timber firm of Calvin, Cook & Counter, of Kingston, and later on became the head of the firm of Dunn, Calvin & Co. After the dissolution of that firm his business ability and success won the confidence of all those connected with the trade, and in conjunction with the late Thomas Benson, he transacted business under the name of T. H. Dunn & Co., and in 1860 formed a new partnership with the late Wm. Home, the firm being known as Dunn & Home. The firm was succeeded by his two sons, the late Logie H. Dunn and Stuart H. Dunn under the name of Dunn & Co. He was also one of the founders of St. Mary's chapel and parsonage at the Island of Orleans, and for many years was a prominent member of the Quebec Board of Trade. Mr. Dunn was always foremost in identifying himself with all local enterprises. He was one of the original promoters of the Montmorency Electric Power Co., the Cold Storage Co., also the Quebec District Railway, and was a director of the two former companies, also of the Great Northern Railway, and always looked forward to seeing the entering of the Parry Sound into Quebec. He was a director at one time of the Quebec Bank, and at the time of his death was a new director of the Merchants' Bank of Canada, Montreal, and the Standard Drain Pipe Co., of St. Johns, P.Q. He was altogether an exemplary type of man, and leaves behind a cherished memory.