

THE OTTAWA VALLEY.

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN)

OTTAWA, AUG. 10th, 1904. - At no time during the past year was the lumber business so slack as it is at present. Shipments by rail and water alike have fallen off. The British market is receiving little or nothing, and the movement of stuff to the States is no better.

In the face of this depression, however, prices hold firm, manufacturers evidently having confidence in the future. Of course, the firmness of the Ottawa market is in a large measure due to the fact that most of the stuff being turned out at the mills changed hands some time back at the advanced prices. Thus the manufacturers need no concern, while the dealers are determined to get their own out of their lumber.

In a month's time most of the present season's cut will be on the market, and the increase in purchasable stock may have a depressing effect on prices, unless business picks up.

Discussing market conditions in the Ottawa district a local lumberman said: "Prices are firm and ready stocks light. The market may be expected to right itself. If a man had lumber which he desired to realize on immediately, he would probably have to shave prices

some to find a purchaser, otherwise there would be no decline. The stock is needed and no one is going to sacrifice it."

In some circles it is believed that lumber will not shake off the present lethargy until the steel and iron commodities in the States brighten up. The textile strikes in the New England States and the West's bidders' strike in New York City are viewed with considerable apprehension in Ottawa lumber circles, as interfering elements in business.

The writer while in Pembroke a few days ago, made enquiries in lumber circles. The outlook up the line is not considered any too rosy and it is even thought that there will be a drop of stuff on the market this fall.

The movement of the logs on the Ottawa river is causing all kinds of discussion these days. Reference was made lately to the breaking of the Des Joachim boom above Pembroke, whereby over 300,000 logs and pieces of pulpwood were liberated. To prevent a recurrence of the break, a temporary boom was placed the entire width of the river about twenty miles farther up at a point known as Rock Captaiae. The logs, pulpwood, etc., jammed up behind it for a distance of four miles. The temporary boom went smash and the logs and pulpwood, var-

iously estimated at from 700,000 to 1,000,000, were liberated. The river for twenty miles is full of the stuff and fears are entertained for the safety of the Des Joachim boom. Officers of the Upper Ottawa Improvement Company in charge of the handling of the logs state that the work is being done as well as can be expected considering the unprecedented high water and record rush of logs.

The sudden death of Mr. Alex. Lumsden, ex M.L.A., was a serious loss to the lumbering and other interests of the Temiskaming district, and in fact the whole Ottawa country, including the city itself. Mr. Lumsden's mills and limits in the Temiskaming country were estimated to be worth over a million dollars. Until a couple of years ago he had charge of all the log driving on the Temiskaming.

A curtailment in the log cut may be looked for in the Ottawa as in other districts, this coming fall and winter. The depression in the British market and the seeming uncertainty of the American market have prompted a curtailment on the part of some operators. The free movement of logs this summer also makes it unnecessary to cut so extensively. The production of square timber, on account of the slackness of the English market, will also show a marked decrease.

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