

OTTAWA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THE sawdust trouble has been remedied by the introduction and second reading by Mr. Costigan of a bill to amend the Fisheries Act. He said that previous to last session the dumping of sawdust and mill refuse into any navigable stream was forbidden. The power to grant exemption was reserved to the Governor-General-in-Council. By the act of last session that power was withdrawn and the present bill proposed to restore it for two years longer. In the meantime the whole question might be dealt with in a more practical way than was possible at present. A commissioner had visited most of the mills east of Ottawa, but his enquiry was not yet completed, for it was necessary to visit not only the mills but the streams on which mills are now situated or may hereafter be constructed. In reply to criticism of the bill by some members, Sir Chas. H. Tupper replied that it was not a question of granting political power to the Minister of Marine. The lumbermen, regardless of politics, had united in a presentation on the subject, and made out a case to the entire satisfaction of the Minister. This was simply a proposal to adopt the best means by which a sudden loss and sudden interruption of business to parties who may be considered to some extent to have acquired vested rights in this regard, may be averted. The discussion was taken part in by Messrs. Edwards, Sir James Grant, Bryson, and a number of others who have a practical knowledge of the needs of the lumber industry.

J. R. Booth is adding two band-saws to his mills, and is now making improvements upon the site of the burned mill, which will enable him to place them in running order.

William Mason & Sons' saw mill, since the new machinery has been put in, has been running steadily, principally cutting deal lumber and dimension timber. It will increase the sawing capacity of their mill about 50 per cent. They estimate their cut this season to be in the neighborhood of 15,000,000 to 20,000,000 feet.

The Bronson & Weston Lumber Co. are making extensive improvements in their match factory over in Ogdensburg, N. Y. They expect to manufacture about 250 gross per day, and will all be made from board ends from their Ottawa mill, which will be a new departure. Until recently they had to use these ends for firewood; owing to improved machinery they can now use them for this purpose.

A lively discussion took place in the House of Commons a fortnight ago, when Mr. Bennett, member for East Simcoe, and who is a strong advocate of protection to the Canadian lumber industry, scored Mr. Charlton for the part he took in securing a certain amendment to the Wilson bill in the United States Congress. Mr. Charlton defended himself with his usual energy, and contended that what he had done had been for the best interests of the lumber trade of Canada. This did not allay the opposition, which came hot and fast from members of the government party.

OTTAWA, Can., June 22, 1895.

NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

BUSINESS has continued active throughout the month, and lumbermen are commencing to feel the benefit of the change in the lumber tariff. Large quantities of lumber are going to the United States.

K. Shives has put into his mill a slab-slasher to convert the slabs and edgings into wood.

Flett's mill at Nelson on the Miramichi is running night and day. The same is the case with the mill of Senator Snowball.

A fire in the saw mill owned by D. & S. Goggins, Penobscus, was fortunately discovered before any great damage was done.

Alex Gibson has decided to make some improvements in the furnaces at the mills at Marysville, so that he will be able to use for fuel a large quantity of sawdust that now goes to waste.

It is expected that Messrs. Andre Cushing and Co. will erect a new saw mill at Fredericton. A representative has been there examining the site, and is believed to have reported favorably.

The sch. Thurston, loaded with deals for Parrsboro, has gone ashore on the rocks at Diligent River and is badly damaged. She is a new vessel, only launched about two months ago, and insured.

A. H. McLane's gang mill, on the Saw Mill Creek, has been shut down for the summer after a good season's sawing. The crew will go on the stream shortly to repair dams and fit things up in good shape. A new driving dam will be put in.

The death is announced of Mr. B. Haliburton Teakles, for the past twenty-five years a member of the civil service in Ot-

tawa. The deceased was a son of the late William Teakles, and at one time an extensive lumber merchant at the Portage, in the parish of Cardwell.

The mill of G. G. & W. C. King, at Chipman, is running day and night. The Messrs. King intend to furnish light to the mill by electricity. Work on the mill of Stetson, Cutler & Co., at Indian town, has been pushed ahead with energy, and it is hoped will be in running order before a great while.

It is believed that the project to establish a large pulp mill at Miramichi is very certain to go on. The business will be conducted under the name of the Masterman Sulphite Fibre Co., with Mr. W. H. Masterman, of Montreal, president. The general manager will be Mr. Thos. Allison. The site is at Mill Cove, about a mile and a half above Chatham, on the opposite side of the river. Splendid water facilities are found there, especially adapted for pulp mill purposes, and altogether the site is the most favorable one for the business proposed. The expectation is that the mill will be ready to operate by the end of the year.

ST. JOHN, N. B., June 21, 1895.

MICHIGAN LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

WHATEVER others may think, it is plain to the very ordinary observer that Duluth lumber is going to become a very familiar figure, if I may so put it, on the markets of Michigan. W. B. Mershon & Co. are among large purchasers of Lake Superior stocks, and other Michigan men are following in their wake. Pine is a rich resource in the Duluth district, and lumbermen there have evidently laid themselves out to push their product near and far, and Michigan, as also Buffalo, Tonawanda, Albany and all through the eastern states, will soon make its acquaintance.

A large purchase of pine, amounting to 400,000,000 feet, near Duluth, has been made by Messrs. Tirney & Davidson, of Bay City.

The Canadian drives of Colonel A. T. Bliss are at the lower end of Big Island, French River, and will be nearly a month behind last year's record, because of low waters.

The factories are doing a fair business, though lumber trade generally has lagged this season. Shipments by rail are increasing, whilst, on the other hand, the lake movement is light.

Comstock Bros., of Alpena, own 200,000,000 feet of pine in the Georgian Bay region, which they will have rafted across the lake, and manufactured into lumber, per contract made with Churchill Bros.

The Ontario Government, it is said, has six men on the French River boom, to count the logs being rafted there. They are camped on the trip and work a force day and night, counting the logs as they pass over the Tramway rapids. They use two locomotive head-lights for night work. The step is taken to overcome complaints that were made to the government last year as to certain sharp practices that were practised.

Mills here that rest upon Canadian logs for their supplies, are now receiving these in good quantities. The low water in Georgian Bay streams had hindered the movement earlier in the season, but recent rains have removed this trouble. The Central Lumber Co., the Saginaw Lumber and Salt Co., Eddy Bros., and a number of others at Saginaw, and also Albert Pack and others of Bay City, have commenced to receive some good-sized rafts.

The demand for bill stuff at Bay City is reported to be very large; car sills are in big demand.

Mr. John Charlton, M. P., was among recent visitors at Bay City. He feels somewhat sore over the treatment he received in the House of Commons a week or two since, believing that anything he did was for the best interests of his own country. With others Mr. Charlton is having logs rafted to Bay City to be manufactured there for his American trade.

The Nester Estate has purchased about 75,000,000 feet of standing pine in Ontonagon and Houghton counties, from S. O. Fisher, of Bay City.

An effort is to be made in Bay City to raise \$6,000 to pay off the incumbrances on the McLean property to induce Esty & Calkins to locate their hardwood planing mill there.

Recent rains in Northern Michigan have been of value to the Diamond Match Co. As a result of the forest fires the Match Company was forced to cut in the last year's logs, a cut which would not have been made at the present time in the ordinary course of business. Low waters in the mills gave rise to the possibility that these logs could not be floated to the mills, but rains within the last few days have enabled the lumbermen to get all these logs in the water and save them from the danger of being injured by worms. The last of the logs were gotten into the water a few days ago. This timber will

now be cut into lumber at the Company's mill, and will make upwards of \$3,000,000 worth. The better demand for lumber will make it possible for the company to market a considerable portion of the cut this year. There will be, on the whole, a profit of something like \$1,000,000 above the cost of the stumpage.

SAGINAW, Mich., June 22, 1895.

PINE TREES NEED LIGHT.

ACCORDING to the novelists and other superficial observers, the pine tree is always gloomy, and the forest is always dark. They make a midnight tree of the pine, but it is really a midday tree and requires a good deal of light to bring it to full development. The most luxuriant part of the pine is always its top, for that part of it is in the open light. Wherever the pine is shaded, its foliage is thin, scraggy and scrimpy. The pine growing in the open field is full and luxuriant in foliage to the base, while those in the crowded forests are full foliated only at the tops. One Maine essayist says that trees which grow up in the natural forest and must in the earlier years have been densely shaded show far less growth, both in height and diameter, than those which grow up after fire or on clear land. The great majority of the trees cut in the largest pine operations on Penobscott waters this year were from 200 to 225 years old, while trees of similar dimensions cut in the city of Deering ran from 130 to 140 years. Starting all alike, and with no obstruction between them and the sun, the growth of the latter was very rapid. Many of them yearly grew more than a foot in length and a half-inch in diameter during their early life, while in later years a thinner deposit of wood on a larger area produced a far greater accumulation of material. In recent years these trees, now about two feet at the butt, had been growing an inch in diameter in from eight to twelve years.

FRENCH FORESTRY LAWS.

FRENCH forestry has been reduced to what may be called an exact science. Formerly France was swept by forest fires like those that now sweep the United States and Canada. So destructive were these conflagrations in France that the government in 1870 enacted a 20-year law designed to prevent forest fires. It succeeded, and in August, 1893, the present law was enacted. Americans are directly interested in the provisions of this new French law, which briefly summarized are as follows: The first provision prohibits during June, July, August and September all fires in forests or shrubby waste lands, or within a distance of 600 feet from their boundaries. Among the fires prohibited during the close season is the so-called "petit feu," by which strips of undergrowth were carefully burned every six or seven years in the cork forests. Another clause directs landed proprietors who have adjoining lands with woody growths on them, to keep a strip of land, from 60 to 300 feet, between the two estates entirely free from shrubs or conifers. Another clause enacts that similar bare strips 60 feet broad shall be kept up along all lines of railway through a wooded area, and that these strips in adjoining property shall be kept clear at the expense of the railway companies. All proprietors whose woods are cut down in clearing these strips are to obtain indemnities. This is a new provision and is aimed in favor of the extension of railways. In the handling of fire, if a counter fire is started to head it off, no indemnity arises for woods burned under such circumstances. The fires heretofore in France have been frequently caused by sportsmen or poachers during the dry season, and this has led to the delay of the shooting season until the September rain sets in. The construction of a network of roads greatly facilitates fire protection by making the forests accessible and by increasing their value, and the government offers a bonus of \$1,000 a mile for roads constructed in the forest districts. Severe penalties are exacted where the forest law is transgressed, and if the railway companies do not clear the fire lines on their roads, the French forest department clears them at their expense. The law of 1870 cut down the forest fires in France over a half, and it is expected that the law of 1893 will practically put an end to these destructive conflagrations in that country.