

## A TRIP TO THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

[BY OUR TRAVELLING REPRESENTATIVE.]

No person in Ontario can get a conception of the vast extent of our Dominion unless he makes two journeys. To go either to the Pacific coast or to the Atlantic coast is looked upon as quite a trip.

When I packed my grips at Toronto in August I had a run of 1175 miles to reach Halifax via the Intercolonial. But the actual fact was that I put in nearly two thousand miles of travel, with side journeys, before I reached the sea.

The trip from Toronto to Quebec was uneventful. At the Ancient Capital I had the pleasure of meeting several of the best known lumbermen, amongst whom were Dobell, Beckett & Company, Goodday & Company, Carbray, Routh & Company, Sharples & Company, Calvin Company, the McArthur Export Company, and J. J. Murphy. Other offices at which I called showed that many had not returned from their summer holiday. The timber industry is a real live one at Quebec. Whilst not so many ships loading as in former years, there is a steady demand and a steady export.

Whilst at the Capital I had the pleasure of visiting the British cruiser "Ariadne," the German cruiser "Gazelle," and the French man-of-war "Tage." These war ships carried considerable quantities of lumber and timber for their own use. I noticed it was nearly all South American teak or British oak.

At Bathurst, on the Baie des Chaleurs, I found over one hundred men thrown out of employment by the collapse of the foundation under the engine in Sumner's big saw mill. The foundation sinking caused the accident which closed the mill for a week or more.

A pleasant run brought me to Newcastle, on the Miramichi river. All the saw mills were running full blast and a big cut is promised for this season.

Considerable talk was going on at this point over the big deals made by American capitalists. Mr. E. H. Sinclair, representing the late Edward Sinclair, is reported to have disposed of the Sinclair limits in Northumberland county, along with all the mills, tow boats at 1 plant, for a sum of \$400,000. The Sinclair property covers over 150,000 acres, with large lumber privileges. The Americans propose to increase the output of deals and improve the plant.

I was informed that a considerable quantity of logs was still "hung up" on the upper reaches of the Miramichi.

Chatham, N.B., appears to be dead as regards progression in the lumber line. The pulp mill has closed down, but the one across the river is running. The town possesses a very progressive firm in the Ruddock Bros., proprietors of the Miramichi Foundry, manufacturers of saw mill machinery. Their specialty is a compound saw edger. Their 4-saw edger is used very extensively in the Maritime provinces, and, in fact, exclusively in many mills. The ease with which saws are changed, the freedom from getting out of gear and the ease of running the machine, are features that commend themselves to those who desire the best that the market affords. Taking a walk through the extensive works of this company I saw a busy scene, and I predict for the new company just being formed a successful career in the line of manufacturing mill machinery.

At Richibucto J. & T. Jardine's new band saw mill was nearly completed and they expected to have it in operation by the 15th of September. This mill is much larger and better than the one destroyed by fire last fall. The latest improved machinery installed makes it one of the finest mills in the province.

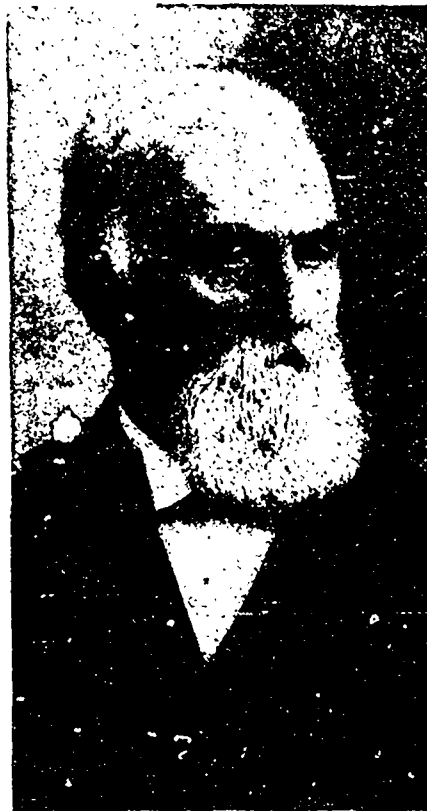
The Miramichi river and valley has always been a great lumber centre, and there is talk of a deal being arranged with capitalists to take over the mills and lumber lands of the Richards Company at Boiestown, Campbellton and Chatham. There is, however, talk of contesting the will of the late Wm. Richards and this will set back the negotiations, it is feared.

At Moncton, the Intercolonial workshops use up an immense quantity of lumber each year. Moncton is getting quite a bustling town, the chief attraction for visitors being the phenomena of a tidal wave, coming in twice a day from the Bay of Fundy, and locally called "the bore." As I stood on the quay and watched this wonderful sight I could well understand why tourists came thousands of miles to see it.

A run of ninety miles brought me to St. John, N.B., the natural winter port of Canada. Whilst there I saw vessels chartered to carry lumber to Buenos Ayres in South America at \$7 per thousand, whilst the rate to Bermuda was \$9.

Considerable diversion of opinion exists all through the Maritime provinces as to the advantage to be gained by the new Grand Trunk Pacific route. Mr. T. Lynch, the well-known lumber operator, said that if it came by the route that was partially surveyed some eight years ago it would run right through the field of his lumbering operations, but he does not want the railway through there. Unless some new plan is discovered, sparks from locomotives will burn up the forest. Another operator told me that a route through the woods is practicable, and would work up some traffic in lumber.

In St. John I also visited the Howe Woodworking Company, who make a specialty of mantels and fine interior finish; the Campbell Bros. axe factory, well and favorably known throughout the province; the Christie Woodworking Company; Jas. A. Likely, timber dealer;



MR. ALEX. GIBSON,  
Lumber King of the Nashwaak, Marysville, N. B.

Emerson & Fisher, and a number of others interested in the mill trade.

The lumber and timber trade at St. John is quite brisk, and being a seaport, naturally there is considerable export business done. The St. John Sulphite Company were asking for pulp wood and under-sized saw-logs such as batting and spiling.

There are considerable quantities of logs still "hung up" on the Miramichi, St. John, Oromocto and Nashwaak rivers. Seeing is believing, and I personally saw in many places the logs on the banks—high and dry. The "sweepers" are waiting for a rise so they can clear the logs off the shoals and banks.

I had the pleasure of meeting many at Fredericton who are in close touch with lumbering, amongst others being Mr. R. A. Estey, the genial proprietor of the West End Mills. His cut this season will run over five million feet. Whilst I was there, Mr. Fred Estey left with a large crew of men and some horses for the woods to make preparations for the next season's lumber cut. Mr. Jas. H. Crockett, the obliging editor and manager of the Fredericton Daily Gleaner, gave me much information regarding past, present and future conditions of the New Brunswick lumber trade, upon which he is well posted.

Mr. Geo. W. O'Neill, the manager of the J. C. Risteen Company, Limited, told me that every year sees an increasing quantity of other lumber substituting

pine. The Risteen Company are doing a big business in interior fittings, furniture, etc.

The well-known machinery firm of McFarlane, Thompson & Anderson are still doing a rushing business, being one of the best known firms among the mill men throughout the Maritime provinces.

John Palmer & Company continue to manufacture and supply for lumber camp use a special line of larrigans and other footwear for which this company's "Moose Head" brand is famous.

If St. John is on hills and tiresome travelling on foot, Fredericton is on the "flats" and looked very pretty in August. Near the city is the renowned Fort Nashwaak, the headquarters of Acadia in 1696. Oromocto was formerly ship-building headquarters, but this industry has to a large extent moved down and even out of the river.

Whilst standing on the bridge at Fredericton I saw the side-wheeler "Hero" tow under a large pine timber raft. I counted 12 cribs, four abreast. This timber, from the upper St. John waters, was composed of small and large sticks, but the majority would not be over 12 inches in diameter.

The local lumbermen told me that men for the woods are now in large demand, the wages good, and prospective cut large. The demand for labor will be keen, as there are several large tracts of partially burned timber land which must be cut this year.

R. Aitken & Son, Donald Fraser & Sons, and John Lynch have already sent up several large gangs to the woods. Mr. Lynch had just returned from a cruising trip on the headwaters of the Miramichi. He said that the majority of men were not anxious to go into the woods so early in the year. The Aitken firm had a large crew at the headwaters waiting for a rise of water so they might be able to bring out their drive which was hung up since spring.

The Aberdeen Mills at Fredericton, under the management of Mr. Donald Fraser, are running full time. Mr. Murray McGuire, formerly of this mill, has left for Portland, Oregon, to manage a mill there for another company. Others I heard were also about to leave for the west. Mr. David Monahan, formerly with the Gibson Company's saw mill at Blackville, N.B., has accepted the position of manager in the Rat Portage Lumber Company's mill at Vancouver.

Jas. M. Scott, of Dumfries, W. J. Scott, owner of the Spryhill mill, and Ald. John S. Scott, of Fredericton, have purchased what is known as the Victoria mill property, Fredericton, formerly owned and operated by the firm of Hale & Murchie and more recently by John R. McConnell, of Marysville. The property is a very valuable one, comprising a large and well-equipped saw mill, with good shipping facilities, wharves with good depth of water, and also a siding from the C.P.R. Besides the mill there are thirteen dwelling houses on the property, and there is also a large and valuable farm of 160 acres. It is understood that the price paid for the property was considerably under \$10,000. The mill, which has been standing idle this summer, owing to the fact that Mr. McConnell did not get his drive out last spring, will not be operated the remainder of the season, but will be started full blast next spring. All the interests of the firm of Hale & Murchie were also secured. The deeds of the property were filed and possession taken on September 1st.

Scott Bros. intend erecting a large rotary saw mill at Sand Cove, on the Magaguadavic Lake, which it is expected to have ready for sawing operations next spring. Here also are good shipping facilities, as the mill is on the line of the Canadian Pacific. This firm is going into the lumber business on a very large scale and with these two mills, in addition to their industry at Spring Hill, all in operation next year, they will have an important position in the lumber industry of the province.

Just outside the city of Fredericton is Marysville, called "the Industrial Hub of the Province." Here is the home of the man who established the town, Mr. Alexander Gibson, millionaire and lumberman, president of the Alex. Gibson Lumber, Railway & Manufacturing Company. He is widely known as "the Lumber King of the Nashwaak." His ambition is to see Marysville with a population of ten thousand before he dies. He is the principal owner of the Canada Eastern Railway, 132 miles in length, and has great interests