

MICHIGAN LETTER.

(Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

YOUR readers will be interested in various figures concerning American purchases of Canadian timber, that are passing current in different parts of the State. I give them as they come to me from a variety of sources without entering into a discussion of their import, if any special import or significance is to be attached to them, nor do I stand sponsor for the entire exactness of every statement made.

The Bay City correspondent of a Chicago lumber journal, controverting the oft-repeated story that Michigan mills would soon come to a standstill for want of logs to saw, has told us quite recently that "within the past year arrangements have been perfected whereby a vast quantity of timber, not tributary to the Saginaw River, is to be brought here to be manufactured," and that this includes deals that will "transfer 3,000,000 feet of Canadian timber to this river to be manufactured, a supply equal to a cut of 500,000,000 feet annually for six years." McKeon & Glover, a Bay City firm, and who rank among the largest loggers in the country, say that they banked 33,000,000 feet of logs in Georgian Bay waters last winter, and 25,000,000 feet of these will come to Saginaw. Their estimate is that 130,000,000 feet of Canada logs will come to the Saginaw River this season. Isaac Bearinger, of Sibley & Bearinger, another Michigan concern, says that his firm owns \$200,000 worth of logs in the Georgian Bay region. Other interests are represented by Wm. Peters, who owns a mill at Bay City, and is believed last year to have purchased over 300,000,000 feet of Canada pine; C. K. Eddy & Son own 407,000,000 feet there; the Spanish River Lumber Co., of which E. T. Carrington, of Bay City, is president, owns over 200,000,000 feet; J. W. Howry & Son have been operating in your territories for some years; the Saginaw Lumber & Salt Co. and the Emery Lumber Co. are extensive operators; the Messrs. Bliss, McClure and others individually and collectively are said to control not less than 1,500,000,000 feet of Canadian timber. These cases are outside of the two important transfers of the Dodge estate and Pattee & Perley to United States capitalists and mentioned in the LUMBERMAN last month, and which represented investments, respectively, of \$750,000 and \$800,000.

PIEK STUFF.

F. M. White, of Saginaw, who for some time represented D. L. White & Co., of Albany, N.Y., is going into the export of hardwood logs and timber in New Orleans.

Merrill & Co. have rebuilt the two dams that recently went out on the Molasses, hanging up 7,000,000 feet of logs, but even with the aid of the dams the prospects for getting the logs down is unfavorable. Fully 100,000,000 feet of logs know of the low condition of the water in this section. Unless aid comes the expense of handling them will be increased.

The Butler and Peter Salt and Lumber Co.'s mills at Butterville were burned on the 10th inst. The loss is estimated at \$250,000 with about half insurance. Four hundred men are thrown out of employment.

SAGINAW, Mich., May 25, 1892.

PICA.

OTTAWA LETTER.

(Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

ON the morning of Monday, 9th inst., the news was carried throughout our streets that there was a strike at the Chaudiere, about fifty employees of Buell, Orr, Hurdman & Co. having refused to go to work. On the Saturday previous they had been asked to commence work at six o'clock instead of seven o'clock. This the men refused to do unless they received an increase of wages. When seven o'clock Monday morning arrived the men took off their coats ready to begin work, but were notified by the foreman that in working ten hours a day their wages would be reduced from \$7.50 a week to \$6.50. Happily the trouble was speedily gotten over. The millowners held a meeting and decided to pay one dollar a week more than they had been paying last year for eleven hours a day. This was satisfactory to the men; as one of them said: "We don't want a strike. We want work. Eleven hours is a pretty long day but we don't mind that so much as long as we get the increase of pay. We all owe money and can't afford to be idle. There are hundreds of men in the mills who would positively refuse to quit work if ordered." The mills are now pretty well started on the season's work and with the labor difficulty at an end, a prosperous trade is expected.

Recent rains have removed, in part at least, the uneasiness among mill-owners consequent upon the low condition of the water in the tributaries to the Ottawa River. About 45,000 logs for the Hawkesbury Lumber Co. have already been passed down this year. It is stated some 630,000 logs were cut up the Gatineau this winter by Messrs. Gilmour, MacLaren, Rathbun, Edwards and Boyle & McCracken. The MacLaren firm, it is said, have made about 100,000 feet of square timber. Boyle & MacCracken are bringing down 160,000 feet of dimen-

sion timber for the Lachine market. E. B. Eddy will, it is stated, receive 1,000 cords of pulpwood from the Gatineau district.

INDIFFERENT LENGTHS.

Ex-Ald. Thackeray has the sympathy of his fellow-citizens in the loss sustained by the burning of his planing and sash mill on the 10th inst. The fire broke out in the engine room, and immediately a line of hose belonging to the mill was laid, but when the water was turned on burst at a defective coupling. The fire brigade responded quickly to the alarm, and soon streams were playing on the flames, but the mill was doomed, and in less than an hour \$30,000 worth of damage was done. The machinery destroyed was valued at \$31,000, whilst manufactured lumber amounting to \$25,000 was destroyed. There is only \$10,000 insurance, of which \$5,000 is in the Aetna. The mill was destroyed about three years ago, and handsomely rebuilt. In this connection Mr. E. B. Eddy has done a generous act, as is ever his wont, having notified the Thackeray firm that owing to the disastrous conflagration which swept away their handsome mills, that he placed his mill and machinery at their disposal. At present Mr. Thackeray has a very heavy list of orders and contracts on hand, the non-fulfilment of which would prove a serious disappointment and inconvenience to their customers, the more so at this busy season of the year. Mr. Eddy says he will either finish their orders himself for them or allow them the use of his machinery to do so themselves.

McLaren & Co.'s cuiler, Wm. Stirling, has returned from up the Gatineau and states that some 300,000 logs are now on their way down for that firm.

It was hoped that the persons who proposed to form a company to work the Casselman lumber mills would have proven successful in their plans, but it seems not, and the liquidator will proceed to dispose of the estate.

Buell, Orr, Hurdman & Co. are having a new office building erected which will give increased office accommodation and additional platform room for tracts and lumber.

Mr. Alex. Lumsden, of New Edinburgh, is bringing down a raft of 175 cribs of square timber from the Kippewa and Temiscamingue tributaries on the upper Ottawa.

Dry mill wood is becoming very scarce. The dealers' stocks are about run out.

Saturday afternoon about four o'clock a boy named Andrew Kelly, of the Chaudiere, met with a severe accident by falling from the top of a wood cart which was heavily loaded with blocks. His left shoulder was dislocated and a cut two inches long was inflicted on his head, it having come in contact with the hub of the wheel.

OTTAWA, Ont., May 23, 1892.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

(Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

QUITE a history belongs to the engines used to drive the machines of the large sawmill of the Moodyville Sawmill Co., at Burrard Inlet. They were originally built by Humphrey and Tennant, an English firm of engineers of world-wide reputation, many of whose engines are to be found in the older vessels of the British navy to-day. The particular engines in question were first placed in a man-of-war Sparrowhawk, which was used as a despatch boat during the Crimean War, and did good service against the Russians in the Black Sea. The vessel was finally condemned in Victoria in 1872, on account of the boilers giving out, and was sold for what she would fetch. She was bought by Messrs. Moody, Deitz and Nelson (the former the founder of Moodyville, and the latter the present esteemed Lieutenant-Governor), who were at that time projecting a larger mill than the small one that they had then, and which was run by water-power with an auxiliary engine. The cylinders are forty-two by thirty-six inches, and the engines were changed from compound vertical to horizontal high pressure. They make sixty revolutions, carrying forty pounds of steam, and develop about 260 horse-power, sufficient to run the mill with the aid of a water-wheel with thirty-two feet head, which is so arranged that the lath mill and planers can be run without getting up steam, should the mill be shut down.

During the past six months important improvements have been made in the Moodyville mill, conducted under the superintendence of Mr. E. Cadwaladder, the present millwright, who has held that position for twenty years. Ten years ago this mill was averaging only 40,000 feet per day; to-day it averages 100,000 feet every ten hours. The mill is owned and operated by the Moodyville Lands and Sawmill Co., Ltd., of which Mr. Johann Wulffsohn, of Messrs. Wulffsohn and Bewicke, Ltd., is managing director, with headquarters at Vancouver. Mr. J. H. Ramsdell is general manager; Mr. A. V. C. King, accountant; L. Card, foreman; J. S. McWhinnie, log foreman; G. Brown, storekeeper; E. Cadwaladder, millwright, and J. S. Randall, machinist.

COAST CHIPS.

A small sawmill is being built by Mr. Yates on the Slocan River, East Kootenay.

G. O. Buchanan, of Revelstoke, has been granted timber leases to the extent of 1,760 acres at the head of Slocan Lake, estimated to contain about 9,000,000 feet of lumber. In all probability a sawmill with a capacity of 20,000 feet a day will be erected there in the immediate future.

A logging camp has been started on Burnaby Lake by Messrs. Smith, MacPherson and Rowling. The little steamer Bute has been placed on the lake to tow the logs to the entrance of the Brunette River, down which they will be floated to the Fraser. Two dams will be built at the head of the Brunette to assist in floating out the logs.

Galbraith and Sons, well-known local lumbermen, have lately added a shingle mill to their sash and door factory, on Tenth Street, the capacity of which is 35,000 shingles per day. Several large orders for shingles have already been looked.

The logging trade of the province is in a large measure controlled by J. McKinnon and Norman McDougall, who met a few days ago in solemn conclave and decided to raise the price of logs. Their contention is that there is nothing to be made at the business at present prices. McKinnon's camp is located at the head of Port Neville, and McDougall's at Seymour Narrows. This combine will operate somewhat against small loggers and mills which depend on loggers for their supplies.

NEW WESTMINSTER, May 21, 1892.

R.

CENTRAL AMERICA LETTER.

(Special correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

YOUR readers, whom I would judge are cosmopolitan in their tastes, doubtless have curiosity, if not interest, in learning something of lumbering in other parts of the world—possibly in Central America. I write of some of the peculiarities of lumbering here.

First comes the mill; it is a good one, made by the Waterous Engine Works Co., of Brantford, but ordered specially for the kind of work it has to do, and it does it to perfection. There is the big saw-edger, cut-off saw, tie-spotter and borer, and resaw on the deck. The mill is 125 feet long by 25 wide, with lean-to for boiler, engine and filing room. The timber is so heavy that we have to use an overhead log turner on nearly every log, and rollers to end of mill for delivering lumber and timber. The timber is of a great many different kinds, some extremely hard, such as nispero, chanco chere and quisera-colpachi; others are softer, such as era cedar (Spanish) and mahogany. We have some oak, but very much harder than Canadian oak. Occasionally we cut an incense tree and scent up the whole neighbourhood while doing it. Another tree called soap bark makes banks of foam for miles down the small stream that carries away the surplus saw dust. I have seen the foam three feet deep and completely covering the stream at a little cataract on the route. Nispero logs are very hard on saws and require a newly-sharpened saw for every log. Sometimes they are very large and then we have to sharpen twice for one log. There seems to be a

SANDY SUBSTANCE IN THE TREE

that just wears the edges of the teeth away in no time. It takes forty yoke of oxen to keep the mill going beside what is brought in by train. We brought out cross-cut saws and chains for logging, but the natives will not use them. They cut every log with an axe that has a straight handle six feet long, and looks something like a grubbing hoe. The logs are all pointed and a hole bored through the point and a pole made fast to it with raw-hide ropes and the other end of the pole tied to the yoke with the same material. The yokes are fastened to the oxen's horns with long leather straps passed around the horns and crossed over the forehead, so the oxen draw by the horns and forehead altogether. I have seen eight yoke of oxen drawing one log, and it sounds just a little odd to hear the drivers coming up to the mill in a long string with their, "Ak ye carajo. Diabolo sin verguensa Demonio conbenow," which translated would be, "Go on, confound you; devils without shame and condemned." Demons though they be, they get in a lot of logs, and not overly expensive. Cutting and hauling (less than a mile at present) costs eight dollars per 1,000; the lumber averages \$60 per 1,000 at the mill when cut; so you see there is a little margin for profit. Lumber does not sell by the 1,000 but by the piece, and I give you a list: boards 12 inches wide and 11 feet 4 inches long, 70 cents each; 2 x 4 inches, 55 cents; 3 x 4 inches, 75 cents; 2 x 3 inches, 45 cents; 4 x 4 inches, 95 cents; cedar board 8 cents per inch in width, 1 1/4 x 6 inches, 65 cents; 1 x 6 inches, 50 cents; 2 x 2 inches, 30 cents; 1 x 3 inches, 30 cents; 1 1/4 x 3 inches, 35 cents. This is all 11 feet 4 inches long, extra length double extra price. The price for sawing is from 25 cents to 40 cents per cut. One day we cut a log for a man that cost him \$11.25. This just took ten minutes so you see a

GOOD MILL PAYS

in this country even by the M. or cut either. The mill belongs