

## THE NEWS.

## CANADA.

—James Stevenson, lumber, Glencoe, Ont., has assigned.

—G. W. Parish is erecting a new saw mill at Athens, Ont.

—S. M. Wharton is erecting a saw mill at New Denver, B.C.

—Cockburn and Sons will build a saw mill at Cache Bay, Ontario.

—A sash factory has been started at Salmon Arm, B.C., by Mr. Bolton.

—Mr. Mitchell, of Millwood, will build a saw mill at Selkirk, Man.

—D. P. McDougall & Co., Maxville, Ont., have started up their saw mill.

—A saw mill will be built at Fredericton, N.B., by Donald Fraser, of River du Chute.

—D. Ross, Whitmouth, Man, is placing more machinery in his saw and planing mill.

—The Parry Sound Lumber Company will shortly commence the manufacture of shingles.

—Robinson & Co., Winnipeg, Man., have sold out their lumber business to Hugh Law.

—C. Mills, of Wheatley, Ont., has purchased the saw mill at Windfall, Ont., formerly run by Mr. Shaw.

—Mr. Minnis, the purchaser of the Burhead mill, near Markdale, Ont., has secured a large stock of logs and is busy cutting.

—Toner and Gregory, of Collingwood, have purchased the saw mill in that town belonging to the Georgian Bay Lumber Company.

—Charles Brewer's saw mill at Armstrong, B.C., has been purchased by E. C. Gargett & Co., who will add some new machinery.

—The portable sawmill owned by Samuel Maquire, at Little Rapids, Ont., was destroyed by fire a week ago. Loss \$600, no insurance.

—The lumber outlook at Norman, Ont., is not over bright. Of the three mills located here it is thought only one will be running this summer.

—John Carew, Lindsay, Ont., has just erected a lath mill, which cuts 40,000 to 50,000 lath per day. The machinery was supplied by F. J. Drake, of Belleville.

—Edwin Fisher, an old-time lumber merchant, of St. John, N. B., has assigned. The liabilities are \$10,000, and it is said the estate will show a nominal surplus. At one time Mr. Fisher was considered wealthy.

—Mr. J. Krupp, of Metcalfe, Ont., has recently purchased J. L. Rolston's saw and shingle mill at that place, and will add in the near future, lath and planing machines and a run of stones for feed grinding.

—The McClymont sawmill in New Edinburgh, which was purchased last fall by Messrs. W. C. Edwards & Co., of Ottawa, has been entirely rebuilt during the past winter, and considerably enlarged. It will be used as a planing mill, and sash, door and blind factory.

—The Imperial Lumber Company are about through hauling logs on the C. P. R. at Warren, Ont., and are making preparations to rest their drive at Deer Creek. They have been successful in getting out nearly all their logs of this season's cut, and some left over from last season.

—At a meeting of the Western Retail Lumbermen's Association, of Manitoba, held during the past month, considerable attention was given the matter of securing a reduction in freight rates. It was resolved that whatever concessions are made will be given the consumers in reduced prices.

—Wm. W. Gibson, lumber merchant, of Port Neuf, Que., has instituted an action in the Superior court, against Mr. Alex. Fraser, the well-known lumberman, of Westmeath, for \$20,000 damages for breach of contract. The provincial police have been called in to prevent rioting in the Gibson lumber shanties.

—In the case of Hale vs. Saginaw Lumber Co., tried without a jury at Pembroke, Ont., judgment has since been given by Justice MacMahon. The judgment declares that the Vermillion River was, during the spring, summer and autumn freshets, before certain alleged constructions and improvements were made by the defendant company, and is navigable or floatable for saw logs and other timber, and does not come within the class or kind of river to which R. S. O., ch. 20, applies, and in respect to which tolls may be imposed and collected; and that the defendant company have no right to charge or collect tolls from the plaintiffs for the logs which the plaintiffs have passed or may hereafter pass over or through such alleged constructions or improvements. The defendant company to pay the plaintiff's costs.

—Judgment in the case of McNab vs. Dysart, brought by D. B. McNabb, of Lindsay, Ont., against the township of Dysart, for \$5,000 damages, has been given against the defendant, though the amount of damages has not been fixed. It was claimed that plaintiff, with the permission of the township council, erected a sawmill on a road allowance on the shore of Head Lake. The mill was never completed, only the sides being put up. Some months afterwards the mill was pulled down by Mr. Prust, township clerk, acting upon the instructions of the council and the solicitor. Another mill was erected upon the same site by Mr. Prust, and the action was brought to recover the value of McNabb's mill, and for damages sustained. The evidence showed that a portion of the mill was in the lake, over which the municipality had no control, and that in pulling down the mill the township authorities were not justified.

—At a recent meeting of the Canadian Institute, in Toronto, a paper on the "Rainfall and Fluctuations of our Lake Regions," was read by Mr. Andrew Elvins. He reviewed specially the theory that attributes the decrease in the annual fall to the denudation of the forests. A chart was exhibited showing the observed results from 1840 to 1893. This showed that the rainfall of each decade is less than the one preceding. The conclusion arrived at by Mr. Elvins was that these fluctuations do not admit of explanation by the theory that the denudation of the forests has caused a decrease in the rainfall, pointing out that while the cutting down has been gradual, the rainfall has varied, and specially noting that since 1870 there has been an average increase, not a decrease, as might be supposed from the present state of the forests. Observations made at other points strengthen the correctness of the result reached, that the cutting down of the forests is not connected with the rainfall.

## GENERAL.

—A general meeting of the friends of trees, is to be held in Paris, France, in May, for the purpose of protesting against deforestation.

—Mr. S. O. Fisher, lumberman, of Bay City, Mich., recently purchased twelve million feet of choice pine in the vicinity of Ottawa, Ont. The logs will all come from the Spanish River district.

## FIRES AND CASUALTIES.

## FIRES.

—A saw mill at Vancouver, B.C., owned by Sparks & Bailey, was burned a fortnight ago. Loss, \$2,000.

—A fire broke out in the lumber town of Huntsville, Ont., on 18th ult., devastating almost the entire business section of the town.

—Moore & Macdowell's extensive saw mills, situated about seventy miles north of Edmonton, N.W.T., were completely destroyed by fire on the 26th ultimo. The loss is \$9,000, there being no insurance.

—Richardson & Sons, lumber mills at Bedford, N.S., including all the machinery, were entirely destroyed by fire on the 21st ultimo. The loss will be between \$8,000 and \$10,000 and the insurance only \$2,000.

## CASUALTIES.

—John Scott, of Birch Lake, near Webbwood, Ont., while chopping in the woods, was killed with a falling tree.

—John Bradley, of Bradley & Cameron, lumber dealers, London, Ont., narrowly escaped being killed by a trolley car. He was knocked down and badly bruised while passing at the rear of one car.

—Two weeks ago the eight year old son of Robert Hawke, of Lang's sawmill, near Atwood, Ont., while playing in the mill, stepped into a pool of boiling water at steam heat, and was terribly scalded.

—The young daughter of Mr. Peterson, who runs a sawmill at Northbrook, Ont., caught her clothes in the revolving shaft of the mill a few days ago, and suffered considerable injuries. Her father who went to her assistance had his knee cut.

—A press dispatch of a few days since, from Marquette, Mich., says: The body of Alexander Stewart, a lumberman, was brought in for burial from Yellow Dog river to-day. He was thrown into the river by a pile of logs breaking loose, and drowned. He was supposed to have been from Toronto, Ont., and was unmarried.

## PERSONAL.

Mr. Kennedy F. Burns, the big lumber king of New Brunswick, and who was represented in the Commons of Gloucester, has been appointed a senator.

One of the oldest settlers in Buckingham, Que., Wm. C. Kendall, died on 14th April. Deceased was 78 years of age. He was millwright for McLaren & Co., of Buckingham, for some years, and also manager of the Bangs, Kirby, Kendall & Co., sawmill at Basin du Lievre, Que., for a long time.

## SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION.

THE following is a condensed report of an address delivered by Professor Vivian Lewes to workingmen, at the meeting of the British Association recently held in Nottingham, England:

The learned professor began by showing how the labors of Priestly and Lavoisier had led to a true knowledge of the actions taking place during combustion, and showed by experiment that in all the ordinary cases of combustion a chemical union was taking place between the constituents of the burning body and the oxygen of the air. The idea of combustion, however, must not be limited to processes of oxidation, although they were the most important; and in order to a true conception of the action, combustion must be defined as "the evolution of heat during chemical combustion." It was then shown that the rate at which chemical action took place was, to a great extent, influenced by various factors, and that there were many cases in which the action was so slow that the heat escaped as fast as it was generated, and no perceptible rise of temperature took place, and such actions were generally looked upon as cases of "slow combustion." Slow combustion was one of the most important natural actions, and by its means the waste matter in the world was slowly got rid of, and converted once more into simple gaseous compounds, all cases of decay being slow oxidation or combustion. All inflammable substances had a fixed temperature at which they burned actively with flame or incandescence, and this was called the "point of ignition." In some cases an inflammable substance undergoing slow combustion was surrounded with a non-conducting material, and the heat due to the actions going on gradually rose until the point of ignition was reached, and it was this change from the little noticeable slow combustion to ordinary combustion, with its manifestation of flame or incandescence, to which the term "spontaneous combustion" had been given. The lecturer then proceeded to consider special cases of spontaneous combustion, and showed that freshly burned charcoal, especially when powdered, absorbed oxygen from the air with considerable rapidity and with a rise of temperature, which with a large mass was in some cases sufficient to set it on fire. The important bearing of this was that beams, skirting boards, etc., in contact with flues and heating pipes, were liable to become charred at a comparatively low temperature, and this form of charcoal was very liable to spontaneous ignition when air came in contact with it. In the same way coal had the power of absorbing oxygen from the air, and when in masses of a thousand ton or more, especially when much broken and moist, would undergo heating, and even ignition. This was due to the absorbed oxygen setting up chemical action with the hydrocarbons of the coal, and not, as was generally supposed, from the oxidation of the coal. Nearly all vegetable and animal oils had the power of absorbing and combining with oxygen, and this gave them the power of drying: and one of the most usual causes of spontaneous ignition in workshops and factories was to be found in oily waste or rags, as the oil being spread on the surface of the material, offered a large surface for oxidation, while the rags or waste, being excellent non-conductors of heat, allowed the temperature to rise until ignition took place. Well authenticated cases were known in which sparrows building their nests of oily waste in the eaves of houses had caused serious fires. Hayricks which had been built from grass improperly dried before stacking were also very liable to spontaneous ignition; this being due to the sap of the grass taking up oxygen during a process of fermentation, which evolved heat, and the heat kept in by the surrounding hay, rose until the ignition point was reached. If grass once well dried then became wet by a shower, it became mouldy in the stack, but did not heat. The lecturer then concluded by emphasizing the fact that the so-called spontaneous combustion was merely an increase in the rate of chemical combustion from the slow stage, which was hardly noticeable, to active combustion, and showed the fallacy of supposing that the living body could undergo any such action.

—The Coleman Planing Mill and Lumber Co., of Burlington, Ont., is being incorporated to operate a saw mill at that place. The capital stock of the company is \$50,000.