

OUR QUEBEC LETTER.

From Our Own Correspondent.

A LARGE SALE—PRICES OF OTHER TRANSACTIONS—STOCKS WINTERING—FURTHER PREPARATIONS FOR THE WOODS—A FREIGHT DIFFICULTY—WRECKED CARGOES—MINING NOTES.

QUEBEC, Nov. 9th.—There is never very much to report at this season concerning the lumber trade, and the present fall is no exception. There will be very little more timber shipped here this season, the last cargoes being now stowed away. There are not half a dozen timber ships now in port, and these are principally taking in deals for London and Glasgow. In another ten days the last of them will have sailed out of port, and in ten days more the harbor may be covered with a sheet of ice.

Since my last letter the whole of the fine lot of square white pine, shipped to this port this fall from above Ottawa by the Q. M. O. & O. R. R., and consisting of about 7,100 car loads, has been sold to one purchaser,—Messrs. A. F. A. Knight & Co. The price at which it changed hands has not transpired, but it is reported to be pretty well up to last published quotations. This sale involves somewhere about \$200,000.

Mention may also be made of a good raft of white pine, consisting of square and waney, which has been sold during the past week, the square averaging 48 feet, at 29 cents, and the waney about 17 inches, at 32 cents.

The Naglo raft has been sold here to Messrs. R. R. Dobell & Co. For it also 29 cents has been paid for white pine, but of 52 feet average, and 32 cents for waney of 18 inches.

Red pine has been sold at 23½ cents for 40 feet average, and 13 cents for 26 feet average.

No other lots have of late changed hands, nor are any sales of oak or other hard woods reported. Brokers state that prices have not changed for other kinds of timber, but there being no sales to report, it is not, of course, possible to give figures that all will consider correct. As may readily be imagined from the sales above reported, and the small stocks hitherto held here, there is not much to winter in first hands. Mr. J. Bell Forsyth is just now collecting details of the Quebec stocks for his annual report and statement. Until the various returns are in it will be impossible to give figures.

Lumbermen's agents are just now busy in getting good lumbermen for the woods. Mr. D. B. Charleson, of Sarnia, is here and has sent up several gangs to get out oak on the scene of his last season's operations. From all that can be so far learned, it appears that about the same amount of timber will be got out of the woods in Canada this winter as last.

The packing box industry, which gives employment to a large number of hands at Montmorency and New Liverpool, threatens to suffer somewhat by a curious freight difficulty. The Grand Trunk Railway, it appears, refuse to furnish more cars to transport the boxes to the States, on the ground that American railways, when they can get Canadian cars upon their lines, run half their life out upon their own roads before returning them, just, as it was recently alleged, was done with American mail bags by the Canadian postal authorities.

The latter portion of the Quebec Fall timber fleet has been very unfortunate this season in the Lower St. Lawrence, something like six vessels loaded with timber, deals, &c., having been wrecked on their way home from this port. The value of the cargoes amount to over \$80,000, but of course in some instances all, or at least a good portion, of the freight will be saved.

MINING NOTES.

A good deal of competition is anticipated here at the approaching sale by auction of Government mining lands. In Beauce matters are now proceeding very quietly, and rumour says that remunerative yields of gold have been found this season. Mr. Juncker, French engineer from Paris, sent out purposely to report upon the Beauce Mines, has completed his investigation. His report will not, however, be given to the public until after it has been submitted to the French capitalists.

There is some talk of opening up a new silver mine in Charlevoix, but nothing has been definitely done so far in the matter.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE CANADA LUMBERMAN.

BRACEBRIDGE.

From Our Own Correspondent.

LIVELY TIMES—WAGES DROPPING—A LARGE CUT PROMISED—TIMBER SALES—EXTENSIVE IMPROVEMENTS BY THE MUSKOKA BOOM CO.—TIMBER HUNTING FEVER.

NOVEMBER 4th.—Since I last wrote you things have been lively here. There have been a great many going into the woods. The prospects are that there will be a larger stock got out the present season than last. Everyone agrees that the work is much farther advanced now than at this time last year, and although men were scarce and wages much higher, there is a much better class of men in the woods now, and wages are going down, \$18 to \$20 being about the ruling wages now. The cut of board pine will also be larger than last year, but it is too early yet to give any figures. The weather has been very wet for the last month or more, and the streams are all up nearly to spring level. S. S. Cook is taking advantage of this on the Little East River, and has started to drive out his timber that was stuck there last spring; although it is late, if the weather keeps mild they are likely to get it out.

The drive on the Muskoh has reached the month, but it is not sorted yet, and is not likely to be this fall. Its progress has been very slow, owing to the lowness of the water in the spring, and so much west wind during the latter part of the season. It is to be hoped that the Boom Company will have better luck next year. I see that they are doing some very necessary improvements, viz., on North Branch, dam at Mary's Lake, which is completed; also a slide at Wilson's and another at Bracebridge; on the South Branch, a dam at Bayville, and a slide at Hannah's Falls, both of which are completed; besides a slide at Gray's Falls, on the Muskoh, and I believe they contemplate a dam and slide at Moon River. This will about complete the improvements necessary on the rivers.

Owing to the Government having advertised a sale of limits, the upper portion of our district is swarmed with timber hunters, and from present appearances, if they are all as anxious to buy as they are to get information, they will go high, for the fever appears to be at its height just now. Nearly all the timber to be sold will come down the Magnetawan and French rivers, and a good portion of it through Lake Nipissing. Some few of the mills at Gravenhurst have shut down, but the majority of the mills that get their stock from this district are running yet, and will run until it freezes up, but the cut will not be as large as was anticipated in the spring, the low water having kept back the logs.

Several timber limits have changed hands here lately. The Muskoka Mill and Lumber Company bought from Cook & Bros. the south half of Perry, and the north-east corner of Franklin, it is said, for \$23,000; and Caldwell & Son sold the south portion of Franklin for \$14,000, and H. H. Cook sold six miles in Morrison for \$11,000. There have also been numerous smaller purchases.

The article in your last issue, copied from the *Christiania Guardian*, is a little hard on the shantymen, I think. The correspondent is one of those that likes better to write than to go and see for themselves. It is quite evident that he does not know what he is writing about.

A number of our lumbermen are now in Toronto as witnesses in the suit between Petrio and the Guelph Lumber Co., no doubt very much against their will at this season of the year.

MILL REFUSE FURNACES.

During the last week there has been shipped from Mr. W. Hamilton's foundry the prepared material for two mill refuse furnaces, one for Byng Inlet, and the other for Port Severn. Another will shortly be shipped to Waubesa, and an extra large one will be made during the winter for shipment to Trenton. These burners, or furnaces, are immense circular structures of plate iron, lined with fire brick. They are from twenty to thirty feet in diameter at the base, and from one hundred to one hundred and twenty feet high. With a well appointed system of sawdust and slab carriers, the premises about a saw mill may be kept as neat as around a woollen factory. All the leading mills are getting them.

THE ONTARIO TIMBER SALE.

As our readers will have noticed, by an advertisement which appears in another column, the Ontario Government will offer for sale by auction, at Toronto, on the 6th of December next, Timber Limits covering a very large area of territory in the Muskoka and Parry Sound districts.

Although we imagine that intending buyers at this sale will take steps to ascertain for themselves the character of the timber on those limits, and the facilities afforded by nature for getting it to market, yet it may not be out of place for us to give a brief epitome of the reports of the surveyors who laid out these townships, with regard to the timber growing upon them.

MONAT.—This township was surveyed in 1879 by Mr. T. Byrne, who reports that all that portion of it lying south of concession line 10 and 11, and north between side line 30 and 31, and the west boundary to French River, as burnt country, and that the only pine of any consequence in the township is to be found on both sides of the Pickerel River, extending about a mile inland.

BLAIR.—This township was surveyed in 1878 by Mr. T. Byrne, who reports that about 11,000 acres in the south-west corner had been burnt over about fifteen years before, and had grown up with small poplar, white birch, balsam, spruce and scrub pine. About 21,000 acres lying south of con. line 10 and 11 to Kawiganog Lake, and west to lot 23, and all that part from the 8th con. north to Pickerel River, and west of side line 20 and 21, is heavily timbered with black birch, pine, maple, hemlock, spruce, elm, white oak, ash and tamarack, while all the rest of this township had been burnt over about three years before, leaving not a vestige of timber.

MCCONKEY.—Was surveyed in 1858 by Mr. D. Beatty, who reports that from the south boundary northward to a narrow belt along Wolf River it is timbered with maple, birch, basswood, and in some places hemlock, with scattering pine, broken with small swamps of cedar and tamarack, while immediately along Wolf River, on either side, the country is broken with ridges of rock and timbered with hardwood and pine of good quality. Along the river from about lots 20 and 21 to its outlet the pine has been cut off. Eastward from lots 20 and 21 and northward from the river, the timber is hardwood and pine,—in many places of superior quality.

LAURIER.—Was surveyed in 1878 by Mr. Henry Lillie, who describes the township as hilly, many of the hills reaching the height of from two to three hundred feet, while the timber is principally mixed with hardwood, balsam, spruce and pine, but not a sufficient quantity of the latter for lumbering purposes. There is a burnt district of about 5,000 acres in the S. E. corner.

JOLY.—Was surveyed in 1878 by Mr. T. O. Bolger. The principal streams in this township are the Magnetawan and South River. The only pine of any consequence is found along the flats of the Magnetawan, throughout the township. There is also good pine in the vicinity of the South River. Away from these streams the country is hilly and chiefly covered with hardwood.

PATTERSON.—Surveyed by Mr. J. W. Fitzgerald in 1876, who says that the swamp timber is chiefly spruce, while the uplands are covered with maple, birch, and pine, and that a rather extensive area of the north part of the township has been burnt over, and the timber rendered comparatively useless.

SINCLAIR.—Surveyed in 1876 by Mr. John McAree, who says that in different parts of the East River Valley there is a considerable amount of very good pine, of moderate size. Isolated pine trees also occur among the other timber, which consists of maple, black birch, hemlock, beech, balsam, basswood, cedar, &c.

GRIND.—Was surveyed by Mr. J. W. Fitzgerald, who writes that there are only occasional pines with an enormous quantity of magnificent black birch, with trunks three and four feet thick, with a height of thirty and forty feet, and which is of fine quality and color.

MACHAR.—Surveyed in 1876 by Mr. E. Stewart, who says the whole township is well

timbered,—the swamps with spruce, cedar and tamarack; the swampy land with hemlock and birch, with pine ridges, and on the higher land with maple, birch and balsam.

STRONG.—Surveyed by Mr. W. Beatty in 1876. About one-ninth of the area of this township is occupied by a lake lying near the centre. A belt of harwood land along the west side of the lake gradually rises to about the height of one hundred feet, when it becomes mixed with scattered pine and hemlock, with occasional patches of birch and balsam. East and north of the lake the land is rolling and covered with hardwood and scattered pines, and small patches of balsam and spruce swamp.

PRINGLE.—Surveyed in 1876 by Mr. Fitzgerald, who states that the south-west portion may be described as rugged and broken, scattered over with a sprinkling of white pine of fair quality, but not in sufficient quantities to be called a pine country. The south east part of the township is described as of better quality, covered with scattered pine of good size, large birch, and a fair growth of maple, hemlock, beech, &c.

LOUNT.—Surveyed by Mr. Hermon in 1876. The timber consists of maple, beech, birch, balsam, spruce, pine, &c. The pine about the Lake of Many Islands is said to be of value, and may be got out via Deep Water River and the Magnetawan.

HIMSWORTH.—Surveyed in 1876 by Mr. Chapman, who reports the northern portion of the township as having been formerly run over with fire, and much valuable timber destroyed, a small quantity of green pine in some places being all that is left. The remainder is timbered with maple, birch, oak, basswood, &c., on the high ground with cedar, pine, balsam, and spruce along the valleys and streams running into South River.

BETHUNE.—Surveyed in 1877 by Mr. A. B. Scott, who says there is not much pine in this township, and that it is doubtful if there is sufficient to cause it to be set apart for lumbering.

PROUDFOOT.—Surveyed by Mr. C. F. Chapman in 1877. The timber is reported to consist principally of hardwood, maple, beech and birch, on the high lands, while on the lower levels these are mixed with cedar, hemlock, balsam and pine. Pine does not occur in large groves, but generally scattered through the other timber, the best localities being along Loon Lake, and the stream running from it at the head of Island Lake, and along the main (South Branch) river eastward. A grove of small pine occur at the north end of Sand Lake, but of no great extent.

MILLS.—Surveyed in 1877 by Mr. T. Byrne, who says the southern portion of this township contains some of the finest pine he had yet seen in the Huron and Ottawa territory. He considers this part of the township principally adapted for lumbering purposes. The northerly part has also some very good pine, though not sufficient for lumbering purposes.

HARDY.—Surveyed by Mr. Bray in 1877, who says on the whole the township cannot be called a good pine township, although much valuable pine exists in it. There is a great deal of cedar scattered all over the township, which, though large, is generally faulty and hollow-hearted.

NIPISSINO.—Mr. H. Lillie, who surveyed this township, says that on the whole it is well timbered. In the central and westerly portions there are large tracts of fine hardwood, consisting of maple, birch, beech, and ironwood, with a mixture of basswood and hemlock. The maple is said to be of good size, and among it are many beautiful specimens of birds-eye, while the birch is frequently three and four feet in diameter.

ALMOST YOUNG AGAIN.—My mother was afflicted a long time with neuralgia and a dull, heavy inactive condition of the whole system; headache, nervous prostration, and was almost helpless. No physicians or medicines did her any good. Three months ago she began to use Hop Bitters, with such good effect that she seems and feels young again, although over 70 years old. We think there is no other medicine fit to use in the family. A lady in Providence, R. I.—*Journal*.