

OTTAWA LETTER.

(Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

UNMISTAKABLE activity is present among the lumber mills of the Chaudiere this summer. Whilst it is hardly likely that the mills will find it necessary to work over-time, they will all be kept busy until the close of the season. Taking J. R. Booth's mill, employing 950 men, Bronson & Weston's over 600, and Buell, Hurdman & Co.'s, 500, we have in these three mills alone employment furnished to more than two thousand men, some indication of the size of the lumber industry in this district. The strike that I intimated last month as possible among the mill hands has, it is expected, been called off for the season. No further trouble has occurred over the rising of the Ottawa, and outside of an occasional mishap that may come in the way it is now plain sailing with all the mills.

IMPORTANT LUMBER SUIT.

The case of Mackey vs. Canada Lumber Company, which has been before the courts since April, 1892, has at last been concluded. This is a case, it will be remembered, where the Canada Lumber Company, through W. C. Edwards, M.P., one of their directors, bought from W. Mackey, of Ottawa, certain logs lying in Buckshot lake and creek, at a certain price, the measurements to be that on which duty was paid and according to the returns of the government; terms nine months. At the end of nine months a note at nine months with six per cent. was agreed to, and delivery of the logs taken. A count of the logs was taken afterwards, the plaintiff says without his knowledge. When the note came due it was protested, the Canada Lumber Co. claiming in justification that there was a shortage in the number of logs. On this note the plaintiffs sued and have now received judgment for full amount with costs. Defendants appealed the case to Toronto with the result that the first judgment was a few days ago confirmed with costs of appeal.

INDIFFERENT LENGTHS.

A very large tow from the Gatineau river comprising at least 25,000 of the best logs that came down by that stream have arrived for W. C. Edwards & Co.'s mill. The tug Rock land takes them from the mouth of the Gatineau, where they have for some time been collecting to the mill at the Rideau Falls. So far all the logs sawn in the Edwards mill have been owned by the Shepard & Morse Lumber company.

A new circular saw mill is soon to be erected beside the present mill at New Edinburgh over the Rideau Falls for W. C. Edwards & Co. It was only last winter that the present fine mill of this firm with two band saws and one gate was erected, but the growth of their business has been such that they feel warranted in planning for a further increase of mill plant. The new mill will not be so large, but several large circulars which will do fine work will be put in, and lumber cut will be done very fine as well as very fast. The firm will also build a large sash and door factory on the island beside where the drying house used to be.

Opposite the Rideau falls on the northern banks of the Ottawa river, on the site of the old Gilmore mill, one of the most complete sawmills which has yet graced the valley of the Ottawa, has just been completed. The power requisite to drive the machinery will be generated in a small building beside the mill where boilers and two engines, each of one thousand horse power have been put in. The mill will thus be run altogether by steam. The piling grounds have all been laid out very nicely and levelled where it was necessary. The lumber will all be carried to the different sections of the yard by means of seven tramways radiating from the mill. The mill's cut will be about 250,000 feet per day, and it will be ready for operation in about a month.

OTTAWA, Can., June 24, 1893.

MICHIGAN LETTER.

(Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

THE financial situation is being discussed with no little anxiety by lumbermen in this State, and yet so far as the lumber trade is concerned there is no occasion for anxiety. The trade have all they can do and in some respects it is a difficult matter to meet fully and as promptly as they would like the calls upon them for lumber. This is a fortunate position and will likely carry lumbermen over a period that in other lines of trade may prove troublesome. The general situation is not healthy. And just what the outcome may be it is not easy to say. No class of business men, perhaps, have a larger grasp of the financial affairs of the country than lumbermen. All their transactions lead them to view affairs in a large and liberal light and their counsel in the adjustment of financial troubles is invariably found valuable and desirable.

SHRINKAGE IN SHIPMENTS.

The following is a comparative statement of the shipments

of forest products from the Saginaw river for the past three years for the season to June 1:

| | 1891. | 1892. | 1893. |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Lumber..... | 48,848,000 | 76,293,000 | 87,116,000 |
| Lath..... | 2,450,000 | 980,000 | 2,963,000 |
| Shingles..... | 3,215,000 | 9,329,000 | 9,650,000 |

These figures taken at their face show a decline in lumber shipments this year of 28,000,000 feet over the corresponding date of 1892 and 37,000,000 less than in 1891. These conditions are explained in part by the smaller volume of lumber on the docks on the opening of trade this season and to the fact that the railroads are becoming more and more a strong competing element in the carrying of lumber.

BITS OF LUMBER.

Hemlock bark peelers are in demand, as high as \$35 a month being offered.

A raft of 3,000,000 feet has reached Cheboygan from Georgian Bay.

At Manistee trade seems unsettled and some of the mills talk of shutting down.

The new Emery & Holland mill at East Tawas is cutting lumber and doing lots of it.

McArthur Bros., of Saginaw and Toronto, report a good trade in cubic timber and prices somewhat improved on a year ago.

The Gilchrist mill at Alpena is to be operated day and night. Mr. Gilchrist is bringing over upwards of 25,000,000 feet of logs from Georgian Bay.

The tug Saugatuck has a contract to tow 10,000,000 feet of logs from the Georgian Bay to the Cheboygan Lumber Company's mills, at Cheboygan.

Isaac Bearinger, the big Michigan lumberman, who has large lumber interests in Canada, is cruising around the Georgian Bay waters in his beautiful yacht Wapiti.

S. G. M. Gates, of Bay City, has purchased a camp outfit, 4,000,000 feet of logs and 20,000,000 feet of standing timber in the Georgian Bay district of Stewart & Cook, the consideration being reported at \$60,000. The stock will come to Mr. Gates' mill here.

The steam barge Orion, of Toronto, with two barges Muskoka and Waulushery have been at Manistee loading rock elm timber for Quebec. Buyers buy this piece by piece in the standing tree, and carry their own axmen with them, and manufacture it to suit their own trade. It is a peculiarity of the English timber trade that it won't use sawn stock, but must have it hewn.

Canadian logs in considerable quantities are commencing to arrive at Bay City. The first raft reached that point May 16, the second May 27, and the third on June 7. The rafts average 4,000,000 feet each. One was for the Saginaw Lumber & Salt company, one went to Green & Braman's mill and the other to C. C. Barker. Other rafts have been coming along regularly since this date.

Great excitement was occasioned at Bay City and West Bay City by the announcement that the tug Winslow had foundered in Canadian waters, because it was known that Benjamin Boutell, of the Smith & Boutell Towing Company, and S. O. Fisher, the West Bay City lumberman, were on board the tug. The anxiety, however, was allayed as soon as Mr. Boutell could reach the nearest telegraph station, by his wiring to his family that and Mr. Fisher were safe. The tug Winslow ran high up on a shoal, but was only slightly damaged, having since been released and returned to Bay City. Messrs. Boutell and Fisher have also returned safely.

SAGINAW, Mich., June 26, 1893.

PERSONAL.

Among recent illustrious visitors to J. R. Booth's big saw-mill, Ottawa, Ont., were the Governor General and Prince Bonaparte.

Mr. J. C. Wells, of the Whitefish River Improvement Company, Little Current, Ont., was among the callers at the LUMBERMAN office a week ago.

Mr. J. T. Whyte, a popular employee of Barnett & Co., lumbermen, Renfrew, Ont., was united in marriage a fortnight since to Miss Julia Raymond, of Allumette Island.

The LUMBERMAN was pleased to receive a call during the month from Mr. W. J. Mathers, of Neepawa, Man. Mr. Mathers is a director of the Western Retail Lumberman's Association, an organization embracing a membership of nearly two hundred.

James Playfair, lumber dealer and general merchant, Sturgeon Bay, Ont., intends going to the World's Fair in a unique way. He will board his private yacht at Sturgeon Bay and sail right through to Chicago. He expects it will take about four weeks to reach the Windy City.

TRADE NOTES.

The band mill is moving lively, if one may judge by the work being done at different points by the Waterous band mill. We learn that before the accident in J. D. Shier's mill, to which reference is made by the Waterous Engine Works Co. in another column, that Mr. Shier had cut about 800,000 feet of lumber and was delighted with the band mill, the lumber being true and smooth, and according to his own statement he was saving \$30 per day with the band mill over and above the circular. The Baker Lumber Co.'s mill started about three weeks ago and is running very satisfactorily, they unfortunately, however, have a rack feed to their carriage and this interferes somewhat with the off-set of the carriage so that occasionally there is an untrue board. They are, however, obviating this by putting in a Prescott steam feed supplied them recently. Mickle & Dymont's band mill starts this week. They have been running a circular for the past two weeks and the lumber cut by that is piled on one side of the railway track, and the Baker Lumber Co.'s lumber is piled on the other side of the track, and the quality of the lumber can readily be compared. On examination it will be found that the Baker Lumber Co.'s stuff is cut much truer and smoother than that cut by the circular and much more handsome in appearance. The Waterous Company have also shipped recently to Wm. Sutton, late Sheriff of Bruce, to Victoria, B.C., a heavy circular sawmill outfit, steel carriage, opening 5 feet from the saw, the knees actuated by a screw 5 in. pitch. They also shipped a large sawmill to Mr. Sucksmith, of Kalso, B.C., and are shipping to the Hudson River Pulp Co. for the Hall & Neilson mill at Three Rivers, Que., one Prescott steam feed, one three block girder steel carriage, four large friction pulleys and two sets of gang slab saw irons. This week they start in Montreal, a No. 2 band mill for J. K. Ward, with power feed and heavy steel band carriage.

PUBLICATIONS.

H. R. A. Baughman, of Indianapolis, Ind., has issued a fourth edition of his "Buyer and Seller," a hand-book of lumber tables that are invaluable to anyone engaged in the lumber trade. Besides rather more than one hundred pages of these tables considerable space is given up to rules for flooring and siding, suggestions when ordering lumber and much other practical matter. The book is bound in full leather, limp, with finger index.

"The Georgian Bay" is the title that James Cleland Hamilton, M.A., L.L.B., has given to a neat little work of nearly 175 pages, recently published by James Bain & Son, Toronto. The contents-matter of the book was originally embraced in a series of historical papers read before the Canadian Institute, Toronto, and deals with the inhabitants, mineral interests, fish, timber and other resources of this district of country so familiar to every lumberman. A well executed map and numerous illustrations embellish the work. Mr. Hamilton holds the pen of a picturesque and ready writer, and possesses an intimate acquaintance with literature that gives a delightful freshness and beauty to many of the scenes pictured in the book. Those who may as yet have found it inconvenient to visit the Georgian Bay territories will easily find themselves transported there in imagination when reading this book. Mr. Hamilton's position as chairman of the historical section of the Canadian Institute is a guarantee of the value of the present work from an historical point of view, which is perhaps the most important.

"Ontario's Parliament Buildings, 1792 to 1892," by Frank Veigh, private secretary to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, is a book that will take prominent rank among the historical works of the Dominion. It was an opportune time, just on the completion of the magnificent pile in the Queen's Park, in which all Ontarians, and indeed Canadians from whatever province, have much pride, to take a retrospect of provincial legislation for the past century. Mr. Veigh has shown large industry in the collection of historical incidents and facts related to the subject matter of the book and has compressed into this one volume a mass of data that will be new to not a few Canadians, who doubtless consider themselves well-read on the affairs of their country. To the general reader the information will be, in no small measure, entirely new, and to everyone it must be very valuable. The book is written in an easy, sketchy style, that marks whatever comes from Mr. Veigh's pen, and contains many illustrations of prominent legislators and of different places of meeting of the legislature during the past hundred years. Bound in cloth and well printed. The Williamson Book Company, publishers, Toronto.

Trade Review, St. John's Nfld.: Lumber is arriving in large quantities daily, both from Canada and the local mills. Owing to the number of new buildings going up the demand is very brisk, and the price is still stiff.