

THE NEWS.

—Geo. Upham is building a new saw mill at Hartland N. B.

—Samuel Gray, planing mill, Victoria, B. C., mortgage sale advertised.

—W. N. Roberts is building a sash and door factory at Renfrew, Ont.

Hamill & McLeod, sash and door factory, Armstrong, B. C., have dissolved.

—A demand of assignment has been made upon N. H. Thibault & Co., lumber dealers, Montreal.

—A. A. Macbee & Co., who operate a planing mill at St. John, N. B., are reported in difficulties.

—The Dickson Company have upwards of ten million feet of lumber at Harwood, Ont., ready for shipment.

—The planing mill of John Graham & Sons, at Inglewood, Ont., was sold by auction on the 21st September.

—C. A. B. Purdy, lumber dealer, Porter's Lake, near Halifax, N. S., has turned his estate over to the assignee.

—The recent fires along the Madawaska river, near Kingston, are said to have destroyed \$50,000 worth of timber.

—E. C. Gooden & Co., lumber and general merchants, Baie Verte, N. B., are offering to compromise at 30c. on the dollar.

—J. S. Fairley is building a new saw mill near Boistown, N. B. It will be equipped with a rotary, planer, and two shingle machines.

—Hanson Bros., of Durham, N. B., have lately been sawing hemlock boards and have made a shipment to the American market.

—Six and a half million feet of logs in one raft were towed from French River to Collingwood recently, to be cut in the mills there.

—The assets of the Toronto Wood and Lumber Co., who recently assigned, were sold by auction at their mill in Toronto on the 14th ultimo.

—Mitchell's new saw mill at Selkirk Man., has commenced operations. The capacity is 35,000 feet per day, and the logs are towed from Lake Winnipeg.

—The sash and door factory of Boyd & Co., at Athelstan, Que., has been taken over by the Montreal Trust and Loan Co., who held a mortgage on the property.

—Application has been made for a provincial charter for the Assiniboine Lumber Company to carry on business in the city of Brandon, with a capital stock of \$100,000.

—The Muskoka Mill and Lumber Co. has recently purchased a fine timber limit on Vancouver Island, B. C., from the Toronto and British Columbia Lumber Co.

—At a meeting last week of the Retail Lumbermen's Association of Winnipeg, it was decided to reduce the price of shiplap \$2 a thousand and lath 25 cents a thousand.

The large saw mills at Collingwood, Ont., have commenced operations, and there is timber enough in the bay to keep them running until January. More than 200 men are employed.

—The first ship load of British Columbia lumber sent to Egypt left Vancouver a few days ago for Alexandria. The cargo goes on the barque, "Verejean," which is loaded with 1,630,000 ft.

—A large saw mill is being fitted up at Pine Tree Harbor, Ont., by Messrs. Bowman, of Southampton, and Siebert, of Chippewa Hill. There are large quantities of timber in the district.

—Withrow & Hillock, lumber dealers and manufacturers, of Toronto, owing to losses in real estate and general business depression, have been obliged to call a meeting of their creditors. The liabilities are said to be about \$120,000.

—Owing to contemplated improvements to their mills and the unusual lowness of the water, McLachlin Bros., of Arnprior, have closed down. New and improved machinery is to be put in and the river channel to the mills deepened.

—The Fleming Wood and Lumber Mill, at Midland, Ont., destroyed by fire last month, was the only mill of its kind in Canada. It sawed and split cordwood into stove lengths and dry-killed the wood. The head office is in Toronto.

—The plant and property of the Blind River Mill Company in Algoma have been purchased by J. Haynes, of Woodlee; W. R. Todd, of Gesto; R. Wigle, of Essex, and R. Tader, of Windsor. The purchasers have secured timber limits near the mills.

—Mr. W. F. Wilson, who was formerly connected with the lumber trade in Winnipeg, but who recently has been located in British Columbia, is opening an office in Winnipeg. He is now representing the Red Cedar Lumber Co., of Victoria, B. C., with mills at Port Moody. He has a big scheme on hand for handling British Columbia lumber.

—William Irwin, proprietor of some timber limits in Muskoka, has entered an action against James Turner and a number of other Michigan lumbermen to recover the sum of \$22,257, which he claims is due on a promissory note given in payment for 21,000,000 feet of logs sold to them.

—William Laking, a lumberman, of Fesserton, Ont., recently purchased a limit of six and a half square miles in Gibson township from the Muskoka Mill and Lumber Co. It is his intention to take out three and a half million feet of logs in North Orillia, Gibson and Matchedash, for next season's cut.

—The supply of timber in Essex County is not sufficient to keep the saw mills stocked. One of the leading mills, owned by Mr. Haines and operated at Woodlee, will be removed to Blind River in the Algoma lumber regions. The removal will be made in a few weeks.

—L. C. Wideaman has erected and put in operation a new planing mill at Guelph, Ont. The building is three stories 46 x 67 feet. The first story contains a planer, rip saw and moulder; the second, a band saw, shaper, rip, cross-cut and scroll saws, sharpeners, and trimming, lathe and boring machines; and the third is used as a store room.

—The Lumberman received a pleasant call during Exhibition week from Messrs. Duff & Stewart, of Bluevale, from whom we learn that the union furniture factory at Wingham, which has been closed down for some time past, has been put in operation by a new company, among the promoters of which are Messrs. Thos. Bell, James Cline, Benj. Wilson and John McLean.

—An action has been entered by F. N. Stafford, of Montreal, against the McCready estate, to gain possession of a timber limit. The late James McCready had granted a timber limit to plaintiff, on condition that he should sell other similar limits. As the conditions of the grant were fulfilled only after Mr. McCready's death, the executors claim that the mandate did not exist at that time, and that Mr. Stafford could not demand his timber limit. Hence the action.

—About two weeks ago a neatly dressed young man presented a cheque at the Merchants' Bank, Toronto, for \$6,000, purporting to be made by Alexander Burnett, the well known lumberman of Renfrew, and endorsed by the Cook & Bros. Lumber Co., of Toronto. The fact that the cheque was made for an unusually large amount aroused the teller's suspicion, and upon examination the signature was found to be a forgery. The young swindler, observing the actions of the bank officials, made his escape.

FIRES AND CASUALTIES.

FIRES.

C. A. Sleeve's saw mill at Coverdale, N. B., has been burned.

—The saw and grist mills at Dartford, Ont., have been burned. Loss, \$5,000.

—The hoop and stave mill of Smith Bros., at Stewart, Ont., was consumed by fire a week ago. Loss, \$9,000; insurance, \$3,000.

—M. McCormick's planing mill at Winnipeg, Man., was completely destroyed by fire a couple of weeks ago. Loss, \$10,000.

—McKechnie's saw mill at Durham, Ont., was burned to the ground the early part of last month. The loss is estimated at from \$15,000 to \$20,000. No insurance.

—Gillies' Bros' lumber yard at Paris, Ont., was damaged by fire recently to the extent of \$5,000. All the lumber, shingles and lath in stock were consumed. No insurance.

—Fire broke out in the planing mill of Robert Patterson, at Hensall, Ont., on the 8th ultimo, consuming the building and a quantity of lumber in the yard. The loss is roughly estimated at \$7,000; no insurance.

—No sooner had our September number gone to press than the news reached us of the destruction by fire at Ottawa of from eight to ten million feet of lumber owned by J. R. Booth, and valued at from \$150,000 to \$200,000. About 60 per cent of the loss is covered by insurance. Only a few weeks previous Mr. Booth lost a mill valued at \$150,000, on which the actual insurance paid was \$140,000.

CASUALTIES.

—John Matteson was drowned at Fort William recently while working on the boom at Graham, Horne & Co.'s mill.

—Egbert Barnes, foreman in W. C. Edward's mill at New Edinburgh, Ont., was struck on the head with a lever a few days ago and seriously injured.

—While working at an edger in Booth's saw mill at Ottawa, a man named Champagne was hit by a flying plank. One arm was broken and lacerated and he was otherwise seriously injured.

—J. A. Gagnon's saw mills at Three Rivers, Que., were wrecked by the explosion of a boiler on the 7th of September.

The fireman, Samuel Beaumier, was instantly killed, while several others were badly scalded and otherwise injured. The mill was a new one and had just been put in operation.

PERSONAL.

Mr. A. Barnett, lumberman, of Renfrew, Ont., recently paid a visit to Manitoba and the Northwest Territories.

We learn of the death the early part of last month of Mr. William McClymont, long a resident of Ottawa and a well-known lumberman.

The marriage is announced on the 30th August of Mr. Geo. Gordon, a prominent lumberman of Pembroke, Ont., to Miss Minnie Parry, of Dunnville. A hearty reception was given the newly-wedded couple by the townspeople, in recognition of the popularity of the young lady.

TRADE NOTES.

Messrs. McKee Bros. & Co., of Ottawa, have purchased the handsome sawmill carriage recently exhibited at the Toronto exhibition by the Waterous Co., of Brantford. It will be placed in their extensive mills at Calabogie.

The Brunette Saw Mill Co., of New Westminster, B. C., have recently put in operation a new "King" lumber planer, weighing 27,000 pounds, manufactured to their order by Messrs. E. & B. Holmes, of Buffalo. This machine is capable of dressing timber up to 16 x 30 inches on four sides at one operation.

Messrs. White & Co., of St. John, N. B., have ordered from A. R. Williams, of the Soho Machine Works, Toronto, one of his new brake lathes to swing 86". This lathe is to embody all the latest improvements in lathes of this description, and is calculated to do a very wide range of work. It is similar in many points of construction to the one exhibited by Mr. Williams at the World's Fair, Chicago, but of larger dimensions.

PUBLICATIONS.

The Review of Reviews for September gives surveys of recent Congressional and State legislation in special articles; the comparative table of tariff rates, especially, will be found useful for reference purposes, as it shows at a glance all the important changes made by the enactment of the new law.

UTILIZATION OF SAWDUST.

IN large lumber manufacturing districts the utilization of waste products, such as slabs, sawdust, etc., in some way other than burning these as fuel, is, says Mr. Leicester Allen in the Tradesman, worth considering. One of the methods whereby profit has been made from sawdust, is the manufacture from it of oxalic acid, which is a simple process producing a material in wide commercial demand in the arts of dyeing and other chemical arts. As intimated, the process is not only simple, but the outfit for conducting it does not involve a large investment. The principles involved are not complicated and the process can be carried out by cheap labor under the superintendence of a fairly intelligent director.

Oxalic acid is frequently met with in the vegetable kingdom, especially in combination with gases which destroy its poisonous character. Oxalate of lime is found in considerable quantity in the rhubarb plant; oxalate of potash is found in the sorrel, and axalate of soda in salicornia and salsoda. Formerly the acid was obtained from the sorrel, oxalis acetosella, but more recently from sugar, by the action of the nitric acid upon it. The nitric acid and sugar are boiled for some time, then evaporated to dryness, and the oxalic acid formed is purified by recrystallization from water. A much cheaper material than sugar is sawdust. In this case an alkali must be employed instead of an acid, as well as a higher temperature. The operation is conducted in an iron vessel of suitable size and shape; and either caustic soda or potash is employed, the yield being greater with the latter.

Some recent experiments made by William Thorne, in Stuttgart, go to prove that a mixture of forty parts of caustic potash to sixty parts of caustic soda, will produce as large a yield as when potash alone is used, provided the operation be performed in shallow vessels with thin layers of the material, avoiding as far as possible the fusing of the mass. Soft woods, such as pine and fir, produce larger quantities of oxalic acid than hard wood like oak. The proportion of the wood to alkali should not exceed 75 to 100, and the temperature should be about 480 degrees Fahrenheit.