

## OTTAWA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

FROM the fact that a general election is near by in Ontario, and the time cannot be far distant, before there will be an election for the entire Dominion, is no doubt a partial explanation of the attention that is given to lumber matters in the House of Commons. To an outsider not conversant with the whole situation this may seem difficult to explain, but when we remember that the timber resources of Ontario are among its largest assets and that criticism is being leveled at the timber policy of the Ontario government, we can understand how opponents at Ottawa will endeavor to make circumstances turn to the disadvantage of the Government at Toronto. When members of the Commons, therefore, rise to talk on export duty and other phases of the lumber question, it is sometimes the case, particularly when these gentlemen are representatives of Ontario constituencies, that they are not talking to the House of Commons, but making a stump speech for or against the local government in this province.

One of the liveliest debates the House has had on the question of lumber was that of a few days ago, when Mr. John Charlton was called to account for tendering his advice to Washington how to overcome opposition that existed in Canada against free lumber. I am not going to express an opinion on the merits of the debate, but to say the least, it does appear to have been an impolitic move for the member for Norfolk to have, seemingly at least, been so solicitous of American lumber interests. But I expect we may safely leave a settlement of that matter to Mr. Charlton's own constituents and the votes of Norfolk.

## INDIFFERENT LENGTHS.

Senator Clemon has withdrawn his bill with reference to the sawdust pollution of the Ottawa river. An estimate puts the sawdust and mill refuse thrown daily in the river from the Chaudiere equal to about 150,000 feet of boards, say 12 car loads.

A prominent lumberman has said that a million and a quarter feet would be the full amount of this year's square timber drives down the Ottawa, where 4 years ago almost five million feet went down and 6 years ago there was almost eight million.

An official of the Canada Atlantic railway is authority for the statement that the shipments of lumber over that line are falling short of last year, owing to the continued depression in the American market.

W. C. Edwards & Co. are the purchasers of a large tract of timber from McKay & Hough on the Black and Colounger rivers, and over 4,000 logs of last winter's cut. The Klock timber limit of Bear creek, north of the Ottawa river, has been sold to Gillies' Bros., of Braside. The limit measures 52½ sq. miles and the price obtained was about \$310,000.

A valuable lecture on forestry was delivered here about a week ago before the Royal Society by Prof. Fernow of the Division of Forestry in the United States Dpt. of Agriculture.

A grand reception to members of the House of Commons and Senate and others was given by Mr. W. C. Edwards at his Rockland farm on the 2nd inst. It is needless to say that a jolly time all round was spent, and every one admired the prettily situated and growing town which clusters around Mr. Edwards' mills. The cut of these mills is over 300,000 feet per day.

W. C. Edwards & Co. are shipping large quantities of lumber from the New Edinburgh piling grounds. The firm's saw mill at that point is cutting a large amount of green lumber. It is not anticipated, however, that there will be any night work.

OTTAWA, Can., June 22, 1894.

## TRENTON LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THE effect of the recent coal strike was distinctly felt by some of the local manufacturing and railway companies here, and a great deal of alarm was occasioned by the prolongation of the dullness, consequent upon the refusal of the Grand Trunk to move freights of a certain class. The Central Ontario Railway ran short of soft coal, and were obliged to purchase a car load or so from Messrs. Gilmour & Co., in order to tide them over the strike. Freights are moving now, however, and business in this locality is beginning to assume a brighter color.

The Rathbun Co.'s logs are now passing through the corporation boom here, on their way to the Deseronto mills. A large gang of men is employed in the work.

Lumber prices continue about the same throughout this county, but dealers are looking forward hopefully to a change for the better.

American buyers are making fair purchases, and a boom in the right direction is shortly expected. Messrs. Gilmour &

Co. have made large shipments to the other side this spring, in addition to their extensive local sales.

During the past few years the logs passing through the Government Works in the Newcastle district have been subject to a toll, the amount of which, although not much per piece, is considerable at the end of a season's driving. The lumbermen in this district are petitioning the Government to abolish these tolls, claiming that the works were made for the benefit of steam cuts etc., and that the driving of logs and timber is not facilitated by the presence of these works. A large number of timber and lumber dealers are interested in the matter, and will meet the Hon. Mr. Haggart at an early date, and place the facts before him with a view to having the tolls removed.

Over fifty thousand logs have already been run over the Gilmour log-way at Dorset, and a drive has now started from Raven lake for the Trent waters, the alligators being used for this purpose.

Mr. David Clark, General Supt., has just returned from the new limits and reports everything progressing favorably; so that in all probability the logs will be in Trenton this fall.

TRENTON, Ont., June 24, 1894.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

IN a letter to the press, Mr. H. H. Spicer, the extensive shingle manufacturer of Vancouver, takes a rather gloomy view of the shingle situation. He figures up the markets in Canada for red cedar shingles not to exceed 200,000,000 per year. A moderate estimate of the capacity of the shingle mills of the province he places at 300,000,000 per year, and which can be increased by the present mills to 400,000,000. This is not a healthful condition for shingles, and it is feared that the inevitable result will be that "most of the mills will have to close down for lack of orders. Under conditions of this kind the temptation, of course, is to cut prices, and this has been done too much in the past. The association of British Columbia shingle manufacturers, recently formed, will, it is hoped, be helpful in preventing anything of this kind. In answer to the criticism that the combine among shingle manufacturers will result in an unfair advance in prices, Mr. Spicer says, that "manufacturers in our association are not making 10c. per thousand profit on their shingles, when they reckon \$1.30 per thousand as the cost of production." With shingle manufacturers occupying so important a position in the lumber economy of the province it is to be hoped that matters will shape rather better than Mr. Spicer anticipates.

## COAST CHIEFS.

W. L. Johnson & Co. are making considerable shipments of shingles. 500,000 went forward a few days ago for Ontario.

The Royal City mills are shipping several car loads of lumber to the East.

It is estimated that the Royal City planing mills of New Westminster will have lost \$60,000 by their recent fire. The machinery was nearly new and of the most modern description. Insurance covered only one-third of the loss. Warehouses and mills are now being rebuilt.

The Burrard Inlet Red Cedar Co.'s saw mill at Port Moody is cutting considerable quantities of all grades of cedar, fir lumber and shingles. A specialty is being made of the bevel cedar siding, which has become so popular in all the fashionable class dwellings in the Sound and eastern cities.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C., June 16, 1894.

## NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

A FINE lumber district of the province, embracing altogether 360 sq. miles, has come into the hands of the Muskoka Mill & Lumber Co., of Toronto. These limits are said to contain some of the best timber of the province, and represents one unbroken district, extending from the Restigouche river to the St. John, and up to the Quebec boundary line where it adjoins the company's timber limits in Quebec. The company intend to operate on both rivers. It is possible that at a later date they may build a mill at either Fredericton or St. John, where manufacturing will be carried on on an extensive scale. The custom here is for lumbermen to be placed in the woods about Oct. or Nov., but the Muskoka Co. will put their men in in July or August.

The drives have suffered through want of rain, though at present date most of them have been got through, but not without an increase of expenses. It was feared that Gilman Bros. and Borden had 6,000,000 or 7,000,000 tied up on the upper St. John, but they have got through safely. The drives in Queen's county are safe, but the cut is only about half of last year's.

The first week of the month showed 1,000,000 feet of long

lumber cleared for United States ports; 5,000,000 feet of oak for the United Kingdom, and 4,500,000 laths for the States.

Some large shipments have gone out from Miramichi and there will be more to follow.

A. Cushing & Co. have shipped a car load of lumber for a port in Brazil.

James Miller & Co. have 10,000,000 feet safely down St. Mary's river, said to be the largest drives ever taken down that stream. In Queen's county, N. E. Douglas, J. A. Freeman and James Hunt have got about 6,000,000 into the booms near Milton.

ST. JOHN, N. B., June 20, 1894.

## MICHIGAN LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

WITH few exceptions Michigan lumbermen have received with favor word from Washington, that lumber has been placed on the free list, subject, of course, to the final authorization of the bill by the president. It may be taken for granted, however, I think, that lumber has gone through all right this time. Already lumbermen from here have crews out looking up limits in Canada, and when the tariff may be taken as a finality, some further purchases will likely be made. It is recognized by lumbermen that they will have to take up their calculations, in case of free lumber, competition from Canada, but they think that this will be more than offset by the advantage in receiving logs free, as without any doubt our lumbermen largely look to Canada, under present conditions, for supplies.

## SLOW TRADE.

It is quite remarkable the extent to which the lumber business in Michigan is depressed. Letters coming to mill men from different points are of a very discouraging nature. What buying is being done is in quantities that would have been indignantly refused a year ago. More than likely a number of the mills will be closed down, unless the demand for lumber looks up speedily; for, what is most unusual, the piling grounds are really now taxed to their utmost capacity to hold stocks on hand. There can be no doubt that the close of the season will show the reduction in the size of cut to have run into large figures. The depression in lumber is reacting seriously upon the labor classes, throwing large numbers of them out of employment.

## BITS OF LUMBER.

J. L. Hurst, who is well known as a holder of Canadian limits, is negotiating for a large trade in Minnesota.

R. A. Loveland, of the Saginaw Lumber and Salt Co., does not take so gloomy a view of the situation as others. His experience is rather different, having shipped by rail during April and May fully as much stock as he might have expected.

It would be remembered what a falling off there was in lake shipments of lumber last year, the business being the smallest in twenty-five years. It is quite likely that the figures this year will come still lower.

Mills at Alpena have been forced to shut down, owing to the rains having swollen the waters of Thunder Bay river.

The Waubaushene and Muskoka of Toronto, two large Canadian vessels, have been loading at Ontonagan, Mich., taking 700,000 feet of board timber to Quebec for Geo. McBurney, and from there it goes to England. It is said to be very choice white pine.

Heavy rains the first week in the month have, in some cases, caused hard work for drives. In other cases, of course, the rains have been a help.

Lumber circles in Michigan lose one of their most prominent representatives in the death of Mr. Wm. McArthur, of the W. & A. McArthur Lumber Co., of Cheyogan, Mich. The deceased was one of several brothers, all of whom have been active and extensive operators in lumber for many years. The name is well known among the lumbermen of Canada.

In May 1893 the shipment of lumber from Bay City showed 21,577,000 ft. and from Saginaw 16,310,000 ft. Cut these figures in half and the shipment for the same period this year would not have been reached.

Three large rafts arrived at Bay City from Canada a week ago and have caused renewed activity in the mills.

All mills at Menominee and Marinette, numbering 21, are running their fullest capacity.

It is computed that up to the first of June over 30,000,000 ft. of Canadian logs have reached the Saginaw river. The Michigan Log Towing Association is doing an extensive business in bringing Canadian rafts here. Among those who are receiving logs in large quantities are the Saginaw Lumber and Salt Company, the South End Lumber Company, Merrill Ring & Co., Hargrave and Co. and the Holland, Emery Co.

SAGINAW, Mich., June 23, 1894.