# CORRESPONDENCE

## THE BRITISH COLUMBIA LAW.

VANCOUVER, B. C., 15th August, 1902.

Editor CANADA LUMBERMAN

Dear Sir, —Allow me to correct the second item under the heading "Editorial Notes" on page 10 of the August number. The legal opinion referred to was to the effect that the change in the law did not prevent the export of timber cut on special licenses To rectify this, an order-in-council was passed in July last.

Although the loggers were aware of this defect in the law, they saw that it was clearly the intention of the government that it should refer to licenses as well as to leases, and made no attempt to make any shipments to the American side, which they might have done.

Thanking you for inserting this correction, I remain,

Yours truly,

H. G. Ross,

Secretary B. C. Lumberman s Association.

## THE OTTAWA VALLEY.

[Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

Letters patent have just been issued for a new lumber company to be known as the Read Lumber Company. It will have headquarters at Ottawa. The members are Charles Edwin Read, George Halsley Perley, Frederick Wells Avery and James Adam Laing, of Ottawa, and Walter Gillespie White, of New York City. The total capital stock is $500,000.

The company asks the usual extensive privileges covering the purchase of limits, operation of mills, building of roads, wharves, movement of boats, etc. The letters patent cover sawmill, furniture, planing mill and pulp wood branches.

The personnel of the firm is practically that of the Hull Lumber Company, which is now operating the Mason mill in the suburbs of Ottawa, and which before the fire of April, 1900, operated the Hurdman mill at the Chaudiere. Mr. Perley was accepted in partnership a year ago. He operates under his own name a mill at Calumet, Que., at the juncture of the Rouge and Ottawa Rivers, formerly operated by the Ottawa Lumber Company. It is understood the company will engage in the manufacture of California sugar pine.

Ald. Desmarais, of Hull, recently secured an order for 1500 telegraph poles from an electric company in Sydney, Cape Breton, which is establishing a new line.

In all probability the Upper Ottawa Improvement Company, which has charge of the movement of all saw logs on the Ottawa River between Des Joachims above Pembroke and Ottawa City, will extend its sphere of operations and erect booms and place tugs on Lake Temiscamingue and the upper reaches of the Ottawa River in that district. Mr. Alex. Lumsden, Ex. M. L. A., has at present full charge of the business on that section of the far reaching river. He works in conjunction with the above company.

## VENEER-CUT STAVES.

I no not believe there is a mach ne made that will inspire as much enthusiasm and cause a man to see such enormous profits as a veneer machine when cutting ⅝-inch stock and geared up to full capacity, says a correspondent of Packages.

If a back roller is employed to cut the staves to ramdom widths, and an apron conveyor carries the staves from the machine, 50,000 staves can be cut in ten hours. The way the staves roll off the end of the conveyor reminds one of the way straw is discharged from the elevator of a thresher. You will at once commence to figure on the output and the sight of the cost of finishing the staves, which is the most expensive part of the process.

After seven years experimenting in cutting veneer staves, the writer has learned that the following facts cannot be ignored if one succeeds :

First. The stave must be bone dry before it is jointed. Well air-dried will not do. Staves that have been air-dried until they weighed only 700 pounds per thousand changed after being jointed so much that they could not be used They would swell and shrink like a sponge, and seemed never to settle to any one bilge, the change ranging from 7/16 to 1 inch, the bilge originally put on the staves being 11/16. After numerous tests we came to the conclusion that on account of the position of the grain of the wood, it was impossible, at any stage of air-drying, to secure a joint that could be relied upin to remain unchanged, and abondoned it as a failure.

Second. If the staves were joined as soon as they were cut and put through the kiln green, the joint was so bad the staves were ruined. One experiment was ample to settle the matter.

Third. We next air-dried the staves thirty days, put them through the kiln and jointed them after being dried. This was a great improvement, and we felt encouraged, but the nice circle the staves had when cut was destroyed, and they were flat boards instead of staves. We supposed, as they were cut in random widths, varying but a little above and under 4 inches, they would make just as good barrels. We were led into this error by the argument that the more uniform the stave the better the barrel, but the report we got from the cooper who tried them did not warrant us in continuing this method, nor were they a howling success. It would take too much valuable space to enumerate the defects that the cooper heaped on those staves.

Fourth. We now decided to cut the veneer in sheets wide enough to make four staves when dry. This was done by putting one knife in the back roller which cut the sheets 20½ inches wide. The sheets were passed through the kiln and ripped at random widths by a gang edger. Here we encountered another serious obstacle. In cutting in sheets, we lost all the circle in the stave. They were simply slats, flat and stiff. In fact, they were so stiff the cooper could not work them, and both sides of the stave looked so near alike that no one but an expert veneer cutter could tell which was the outside, and, if jointed on the wrong side they would cup in and cause the barrel to fall.

Fifth. Our faith was still strong and we continued to experiment. We were informed that if the slats could be steamed after they were bone dry they could be jointed and rolled to proper circle and bent to any desired curvature, and that they would dry out afterward, without changing the joint. We did this and secured the most perfect stave that has ever been produced ; but the moisture did not leave the stave and they were a failure also. If we dried the stave in the kiln again it spoiled the joint, and we decided to let some other fellow solve the problem.

It will be observed that we come out just where we started—simply that the veneer staves will not remain as they are jointed. They will, on account of the way they are cut, take up moisture more easily than the ordinary stave, and it is impossible to get them dry without ruining the joint. That staves can be cut smoother, more solid, more even in thickness, length and width, than by the old method, is a fact that cannot be disputed, but when the enormous amount of waste, the extra cost of drying and jointing, the uncertainty of the stock being right, are considered, they so greatly overbalance the advantages that the old method still remains the better process.

If the output of the veneer machine could be passed through the complete process as perfectly in every detail as it comes from the machine, there would be no question about it being much the better method, but to finish the stave after it is cut is where all the trouble is encountered. If the stock is cut to width by the back roller and dried before being jointed, there will be a loss of fully 50 per cent. of stock that cannot be jointed, and those that are jointed will be so stiff that the cooper cannot work them. If the staves are jointed before they are dried, the joint will be ruined.

This is equally true with veneer staves cut in sheets and clipped to random widths. The shrinkage of veneer while drying is over 10 per cent. If the sheet is dried before it is clipped to widths, it becomes so warped and buckled that good staves cannot be made from it. It makes no difference how successfully the kiln does its work ; the shrinkage will be uneven, on account of the laps drying slower than the balance of the sheet or stave.

What we have stated above are facts secured from experience, and these results must be expected by every one who attempts it. On the other hand, if a system of drying is employed that will dry the veneer flat and smooth, and free from checks, without making the sheets as hard as a bone, the process will be a success, because more staves can be made from same amount of timber by the veneer process, and they can be made much cheaper

## WHAT BECOMES OF TIMBER.

Some interesting figures are quoted by a contemporary on the subject of the consumption of timber by various industries. Over 4,000,000,000 feet of pine are used annually for matches, the equivalent of the product of 400 acres of virgin forest. On American railways about 620,000,000 cross ties are put in and 90,000,000 new ties for renewals are required annually. The amount of timber used every year for ties is equal to 3,000,000,000 feet. There are now standing on the 7,500,000 telegraph poles. The average life of a pole is ten years, so that about 750,000 are required every year for renewals. These figures do not include telephone poles or railway telegraph poles. The amount of timber consumed annually for poles and ties is equivalent to the timber grown on 1,000,000 acres of virgin forest. For making shoe pegs every year the amount of timber used is equal to the second growth on 100,000 acres of hardwood land. Lasts and boot trees require about 500,000 cords of wood. Although the making of paper from wood pulp is a comparatively new process, the annual consumption of wood for this purpose is equal to over 800,000,000 board feet of timber, for which it would be necessary, were the trees growing together, to cut about 80,000 acres of forests. America is now using for the lumber and paper trade about 40,000,000,000 feet of lumber a year, which is equivalent to about 4,000,000 acres of virgin forest—an area equal to Rhode Island and Connecticut. These figures do not include the wood used for fuel, which is four and one-half times as much. With these statistics in view, it is easy to appreciate the need for scientific forestry.