

OTTAWA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THE intimation made in my letter a month ago that Mr. J. R. Booth would not likely rebuild his big mill at the Chaudiere, recently destroyed by fire, is, I am sorry to say, proving correct. Spoken to on the question some days ago, Mr. Booth said: "I have no intention of ever rebuilding on the site of the big mill. I have not changed my mind since the morning after the fire when I took in the whole situation. The old story was always some new complaint about the lumbermen, either from employees or other parties in the city. I have felt that there was little or no encouragement for me in this work, as enterprise of this sort does not seem to meet with the public appreciation". Asked as to what he proposed doing with the site, he said that the property was one of the most valuable of its kind in this part of the country, possessing some of the very best water power obtainable on the Ottawa. Such being the case it would be foolish to think of letting it stand idle. He had little doubt but that the land and water power privileges would meet with a very ready sale or if parties did not seem desirous of purchasing, he might rent the property to any firm that might want to establish itself at the Chaudiere. Mr. Booth said that his intentions regarding the old mill would have no influence upon the Peiley and Pattee property, which he has fitted out as one of the most complete saw mills in this locality. The Peiley mill will be operated right along.

INDIFFERENT LENGTHS.

About 400 men left the city a week ago for the Pettewawa and Mattawa limits. These are mostly road cutters and general hands, known as the improvement gang. They will get things ready for the majority of the men who will go up in September. Wages will likely range about the same as last year; road cutters \$16, general hands \$18, loggers \$20 to \$24 and teamsters \$20 per month.

A cablegram has been received by the Hon. Mackenzie Bowell, giving as the reason why Norwegian lumber products have a preference over Canadian lumber in the Spanish West India Islands is due to a treaty concluded in July 1893, in which Spain agreed to give to Norway tariff treatment in her West India colonies. The treaty, however, has not yet gone into effect.

A raft of 155 cribs of the Moore Lumber Co. left a week ago for Quebec in charge of a crew of 95 men.

The last of this year's drive of logs for the Booth Lumber Co. passed through the Mattawa river a week ago. The logs are said to be very fine and will make up a total of about 400,000 logs which that firm have sent down the Mattawa this season.

An average of about 40 to 50 barge loads of lumber goes down the Ottawa every week for the Montreal and United States markets.

It is not unlikely that several rafts of square timber will be left on the Upper Ottawa this year owing to the low condition of the water.

OTTAWA, Can., August 22, 1894.

NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THE British market is thought to be somewhat easier, which is not bad news for these provinces.

The following timber regulations will be rigidly enforced by the Surveyor-General: "No spruce or pine trees shall be cut by any licensee, under any license, not even for piling, which will not make a log at least 18 feet long and 10 inches at the small end, and if any such shall be cut the lumber shall be liable to double stumpage and the licence be forfeited". The application is to all government timber logs.

A subsidy of \$32,000 has been granted to Alex. Gibson to extend the Miramichi end of the Canada Eastern, 6 miles below Chatham to Black Brook, where there is a big saw mill and also \$32,000 for making a loop line 4 miles above Chatham to Nelson taking in several other large mills and just across the river from Newcastle and its mills. This extension will materially facilitate the lumber business of Mr. Gibson.

A crew of men have gone into the woods in Victoria county on account of Beavrage Bros. They expect to get out about 5,000,000 feet next winter.

A ship load of lumber is going from the Dorchester port to Buenos Ayres on account of Rhodes, Curry & Co.

It is calculated that the cut on the St. John's river this year is about 30,000,000 feet less than the average.

Smith & Wright, of Memill, are putting a new edger and trimmer in their mill.

Hale & Murchie's mill near Fredericton, which has been closed down for some time, owing to the depression, has commenced operations again sawing for Alex. Gibson, who re-

quires outside assistance to keep in sufficient supply to meet orders for the British market.

ST. JOHN, N. B., August 21, 1894.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

WITH the C. P. R. service fully resumed after the derangement caused by the floods the mills here are now daily shipping to Manitoba and Ontario. Manitoba dealers are ordering cautiously wanting to satisfy themselves first as to the condition of the crops. An improved demand for lumber is reported from Ontario.

Three Winconsin mill men have been looking over Port Angeles with a view of erecting a mill with a capacity of 200,000 per day.

The Hastings and Moodyville saw mills have both been buying logs of Puget Sound, the prices being an encouragement. The quality, however, I am told, has not been too pleasing.

W. K. C. Manley, late of Grand Rapids, Mich., has opened a general store at Kettle river and also thinks of building a saw mill.

The Burrard Inlet Red Cedar Co. have appointed J. W. Prescott their agent at Vancouver.

Mr. W. J. Johnson, shingle manufacturer, has returned from a trip in Ontario and says there is no immediate prospect of a pressing demand for British Columbia cedar shingles in that province.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C., August 17, 1894.

MICHIGAN LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

WITH the tariff bill passed and lumber made free some buoyancy is given to trade within the last few days. The change may not be what everybody wants, but it is worth something to have the tariff finally a fixture. Opinion prevails here among the planing mill and box men that free lumber must prove injurious to their trade and in a previous letter I gave you the opinions of several prominent manufacturers, who intimated that should lumber become free they would be obliged to do their manufacturing on your side of the line. It cannot be long before we will all ascertain just what shape matters will take under the changed conditions. This seems quite certain that things could hardly be worse than they have been for some months. With little lumber going out stocks have been accumulating quite rapidly, and in some cases the docks are becoming uncomfortably loaded up.

BITS OF LUMBER.

Michigan lumbermen who are interested in Canadian lumber are commencing to make preparations for the fall and winter work in the woods. J. W. Howry & Sons expect to cut probably 80,000,000 feet of logs and have already despatched about 100 men into the woods. So far J. T. Hurst has given out contracts for putting in 80,000,000 feet in Georgian Bay waters.

It is quite likely that there will be present a number of Michigan lumbermen at the sale of Canadian timber limits, to take place in Toronto this month. Anticipatory to this a number of land lookers have been going over some of the territory in the Georgian Bay district.

The information has already been communicated to your readers of the operation of a saw mill at Fenlon Falls by J. W. Howry & Sons and the fact that William Peters has purchased a mill at Parry Sound and will cut there. It is now stated that a syndicate of lumbermen consisting of Arthur Hill, of Saginaw, E. M. Fowler, of Chicago, and E. C. Whitney, of Minneapolis, who purchased about 500,000,000 feet of timber in the Ottawa region some time ago, will erect a band mill at a convenient point and cut their timber.

Lumber freights are the lowest ever recorded; another drop of 25 cents has taken place.

Several rafts of Canadian timber from the Georgian Bay territory are arriving at Bay City.

SAGINAW, Mich., August 23, 1894.

THE TRUTH.

THE Mississippi Valley Lumberman gives utterance to the following truth, which is wide enough in its application to easily embrace the Dominion of Canada: "Lumbermen are learning to advertise. They are beginning to appreciate and value the opportunities afforded them by the lumber press of the country. Each year lumber manufacturers and wholesalers are coming to a better realization of the fact that to reach the retail trade, the great mass of country yard men to whom they expect to sell their product, there is no better medium than the lumber trade journal, and advertising is fast

being recognized as one of the legitimate and necessary items of annual expense. A few years ago the trade journals had to depend largely upon machinery manufacturers for their support, and in justice to them it should be stated that their support has been the best that the lumber trade papers have had, for they were quick to appreciate their value as an advertising medium, and the way in which they have continued to advertise is the best proof of the value of advertising that can be made. Lumbermen should not allow the machinery men to support the trade journals that are for their good and the advancement of the trade in which they are engaged, and that they are beginning to realize this themselves, the advertising pages of the lumber journals bear evidence. At the present time the lumber trade is quiet, and the far sighted lumberman should readily see that it can be stimulated in no better way than by judicious use of printer's ink. A word to the wise is sufficient."

TRADE WITH AUSTRALIA.

MR. Carter Troop, who has spent considerable time in Australia investigating commercial conditions, has issued a very practical and comprehensive report, pointing out a possibility of the profitable exchange of products between Canada and Australia. He is of the opinion that there is a good market in that country for Canadian timber. On these points he says: "In New South Wales the timber trees of hard woods predominate, both in variety and in the area covered by the forests, the soft woods being limited to the brush forests of the coast districts. The Morton Bay, or colonial, pine, which is much used for joiners' work and for flooring, is a very unsatisfactory timber, as it not only swells during wet weather, but rapidly decays if exposed to wet and dry weather alternately. Some of the most easily worked of the soft woods have a peculiar tendency to shrink, even after thorough seasoning, so we are not surprised to find that the importation of lumber is very considerable. In 1891 the quantity amounted to 17,147,100 feet of dressed timber, valued at £147,000; and 88,015,800 feet of undressed, valued at £575,600; besides which there are sundries to the value of £38,300, consisting chiefly of doors, laths, and shooks and staves, the total value of timber imported being £760,900. Over 49 per cent. of all the timber imported by New South Wales comes from South Australia and New Zealand. Scandinavia and the United States come next in order, and then follows the Canadian Dominion, which exports to Australia about 6,000,000 feet per annum. Other things being equal, the Australians are more ready to import from Canada than from the republic or Scandinavia. It should not be difficult, therefore, to increase greatly the amount of our exports in this important business. The shingles of British Columbia, for instance, are the best that can be obtained anywhere."

Mr. Troop further adds: "There is yet another article of commerce in which Canada and Australia might work up a trade; that is in hard timbers. Australia is well supplied with the syncarpia laurifolia, locally and popularly known as the turpentine. Its bark is peculiarly heavy and thick, and resists the ravages of the torredo. For this reason the turpentine is of great commercial value, being in large demand for piles, etc. It could be imported with ease by British Columbia, where torredo resisting piles are greatly needed. There are, no doubt, other hard woods grown in Australia that would be of value to manufacturers in Canada."

It is estimated that more than 2,000,000,000 feet of lumber is used in railway cross ties every year in the United States.

Bill Nye, the humorist, comes of a lumber family. His father was a lumberman, and that's how he came to move over from Cape Cod to Maine, in which state the funny man was born. All the Nyes in Maine were in the lumber business.

The Victorian tariff charges duty upon all dressed timber, but admits free Ash, Blackwood, Cedar, Hickory, Oak, Pine, Sycamore, Walnut, Whitewood, Hardwood (above nine inches square). It also admits American Pine, Sugar Pine, California Redwood (one inch and over in thickness), spars, spokes, fellies, box wood, oars and shafts, if undressed.