

THE NEWS.

CANADA.

—James N. Howard intends erecting a sawmill near Exeter, Ont., at an early day.

—Lumber at the rate of ten to twelve loads a day is reaching Thistle station, Ont.

—The new shingle mill, of Jas. Thompson, Terrawoon, Ont., is about completed.

—Alex. McLaren has removed the machinery in his sawmill at Snow river to Cobden, Ont.

—Snow is abundant in New Brunswick, at least two or three feet, and other big storms coming.

—Jas. Macaulay, lumber merchant, South Indian, Ont., has assigned to A. Mutchmer, Ottawa.

The Gillies Bros. Company, limited, of Ottawa, has been incorporated with a capital of \$200,000.

—David Campbell's sawmill, at Inverhuron, Ont., is now running with a considerable force of men.

—G. G. Scovil is cutting a large amount of lumber in Kings county to be brought to St. John by rail for shipment.

—McCrae & Son, of Everett, Ont., sawmill men, propose going extensively into the manufacture of lath this season.

—Clark Bros.' property on West side St. John's harbor, N.B., has been sold by auction, realizing \$2,000. Wm. Barnhill is the purchaser.

—A. Growlberger & Co., and Chas. Laundrie & Co., two new firms, are carrying on lumbering operations on the south branch of the Petewawa river.

—Wylie Bros., at Saginaw, Mich., will change their shingle mill into a band sawmill. They have closed a deal for a ten years' log supply from the Canada shore.

—C. W. Batreek & Son, of Midland, Ont., are going to build a large shingle and tie mill at Bying Inlet, Ont., and have it ready to commence cutting June 1st, 1894.

—Gilmour & Hughson will take out about 300,000 logs from their limits this winter, and calculate to saw next summer 2,000 a day in their Hull Point mill, and 3,000 in the Chelsea mills.

—Jos. Biette has rented the saw mills at Scone, Ont., and in the spring will erect a large cheese-box and heading factory and sawmill combined, on site of the one lately purchased by Krug Bros.

—The Brunette Sawmill Company, B.C., have, it is said, bought out the business of the Shoal Bay Lumber Syndicate and intend commencing logging operations there almost immediately.

—The explosion of a portable sawmill engine near St. Catharines, Ont., a few weeks ago, so shook the city, that the residents at once concluded, that an earthquake had visited them and so proclaimed it to the world.

—Ottawa lumber dealers say that the excellent prices obtained for timber limits at the sale of the Perley & Pattee property on Wednesday are due to the prospects of the abolition of the United States duty upon sawn lumber.

—An indication of how the shingle business has been overdone in New Brunswick is shown in the fact that W. A. Hickson, of Newcastle, who two years ago changed his lumber mill to a shingle mill is now changing back again.

—The Quebec Chronicle says that the ship "White Rose," 1,500 tons, and the barque "Prince Eugene," 1,300 tons, have been chartered to load timber at that port next spring. The rates are said to be 19s. 3d. for Liverpool, 18s. for Belfast and 17s. for Greenock.

—The spool mill erected by Clark, Skilling & Co., at Newcastle, N.B., is now in operation, employing a large crew. The spool mill at Oyster river, near Chatham, owned by McAiton, has been enlarged and is also in operation. A larger amount than usual of spool wood is being manufactured on the Miramichi, for the British market, chiefly to Scotland.

—Mr. J. Morrow, C. P. R. ticket agent for Eastern Ontario, is given as authority for the statement that the Hawkesbury Lumber Co., has just engaged over one hundred and fifty men from the vicinity of Little Metc, Rimouski county, Quebec, to work in their mills in Hawkesbury next summer. The men have hitherto been engaged in the fisheries along the coast of the gulf of St. Lawrence and work in lumber mills will be an altogether new industry to them.

—The News-Advertiser, Vancouver, B.C., says that shingle bolts cost \$4 to \$4.50 per cord, and that it cost \$1.30 per thousand to produce shingles, the very lowest price at which they can be put on board the cars at Vancouver being \$1.50 per thousand. At Tait's mill the wages paid are \$1.50 and \$1.65

per day; while at Spicer's mill they range from \$1.50 to \$2 per day. The latter firm employs sixteen white men and a number of Chinamen in the mill, but in the woods their hands are all white men.

—A Saginaw dispatch says: J. T. Hurst will have 70,000,000 feet of Canada logs, but he could not tell for the life of him if he will be able to find a market for them. One of his jobbers has 27,000,000 feet on skids, and is now hauling them to the water. Fisher & Turner are putting 20,000,000 feet into the Wahnapiatae. J. W. Howry & Sons are putting 20,000,000 feet into Georgian bay waters, and the Holland-Emery Lumber Company, Saginaw Lumber & Salt Company, C. K. Eddy & Sons, Bliss and others operating with him, are putting in from 15,000,000 feet each and upward. Several Bay City firms not named are also putting in stock there.

GENERAL.

—Over 40,000,000 trees have been planted in Switzerland in seven years in the effort to "reforest" the country.

—The tallest tree on earth is perhaps a gum tree, Eucalyptus regnans, recently discovered in Australia. It is 415 feet high.

—The output of the Saginaw river lumber mills for the past season will approximate 630,000,000 feet, against 708,000,000 feet in 1892.

—The forest area of the civilized world is 1,286,824,000 acres divided as follows: Europe, 766,824,000; United States, 380,000,000; East India, 140,000,000 acres.

—The strongest timber known is the "Bilian" or Borneo ironwood, whose breaking strain is 1.52 times greater than that of English oak. By long exposure it becomes of ebony blackness and immensely hard.

—What looks like a case of murder, the victim being a lumberman in Newfoundland, is recorded in the press of that colony. "An altercation took place at Exploits between Appleton Cleaves, foreman of Mr. Phillips' lumbering teams, and a man named Cater, a book-keeper for the same gentleman. It was all about a boat, alleged to have been owned by Cleaves and taken by Cater unlawfully. After quarrelling for some time, Cleaves struck Cater, and he picked up a heavy auger, and in retaliation struck his opponent two blows on the head with it. Cleaves fell stunned and was taken to his quarters in a half-stupefied condition. Cleaves was an elderly man and had been engaged in the lumbering business in Newfoundland for nearly twenty years. He was a native of the State of Maine and was born near Portland. He was married, and his wife, who is very wealthy, resides at Passadumkeag, in that State. He proposed giving up the business and returning home this year."

FIRES AND CASUALTIES.

FIRES.

—Vaughan's sawmill, situated near the C.P.R. station, Chatham, Ont., was burned on 1st inst. Loss, \$3,000. No insurance.

—S. S. Armstrong & Co.'s new steam sawmill and shingle mill, Cranbane, Que., was totally destroyed by fire a few weeks ago. No insurance.

—The sash and heading factory and planing mill with dry kiln, of Lawrence & Son, Watford, Ont., was destroyed by fire on the 1st inst. The loss is heavy with an insurance of only \$1,600.

CASUALTIES.

—Geo. Wilson had his two legs badly jammed between logs, while working at a lumber camp back of Orillia.

—Samuel Draper was killed by a falling log while at work at Mickle & Dymont's camp, near Draper township, Ont.

—A man named Patrick, living near Ratho, Ont., was killed on 1st inst. while hauling logs, becoming pinned under several large logs.

—Thos. McLaughlin, of Norval, Ont., was killed instantly while sawing a tree, which becoming lodged between two others, sprung back, striking him in the temple.

—While John Saunders, of Markdale, Ont., was tightening down the cap on the manhole of a boiler in a sawmill the cap blew off, striking Saunders in the breast and killing him instantly. The body was fearfully scalded with steam and hot water.

PERSONAL.

John McMurty, lumber merchant, Port Hope, Ont., died suddenly a fortnight ago of apoplexy.

J. B. Klock, of Klock & Co., lumbermen, is spoken of as the Conservative candidate for Nipissing at the next election.

The death took place on 12th Jan., of Mr. Wm. Merrill, a partner with Mr. H. Vari, in a large saw and planing mill, in Norwich, Ont.

The sudden death of Mr. Duncan McRae, of New Westminster, B. C., took place a fortnight ago. The deceased was a timber inspector for the Provincial Government. He had been a resident of the Province for twelve years, and been engaged in lumbering operations in one shape or another the larger part of his lifetime. He was highly esteemed by all who knew him.

QUEBRACHO WOOD.

QUEBRACHO wood is of a blood-red color, very bright when freshly cut. It is found in great abundance in large forests in North Argentina. The wood so far has only been appreciated in Europe by tanners, as it contains a large proportion (said to vary from fifteen to twenty per cent.) of its weight in tannin, to the presence of which has been ascribed its extraordinary durability. It is stated that when, for the purpose of extending railways in the province of Santa Fe, posts which had surrounded grazing inclosures were taken up, the wood, though having been for one hundred and fifty years, and sometimes longer, in ground alternately parched by great heat or sodden by tropical rains, appeared to be in as good condition as though recently cut. The wood is especially suitable for railway ties, on account of its stability, durability and weight, and by its freedom from attacks by insects. It weighs about seventy-eight pounds per cubic foot, does not decay, and is not compressible, so that holes must be bored clear through the wood, and equal to the diameter of the bolts.

PAVING BLOCKS OF BLAST FURNACE SLAG.

ABOUT twenty years ago it was discovered by a Mr. Woodward that blast furnace slag run into an iron mold and annealed would make an exceedingly tough block suitable for road paving, much cheaper than granite or any other stone. The manufacture of these blocks is now carried on in England, and has become a staple industry. The total product is a present about 100,000 blocks per week, of a value of about \$3.25 per ton. The process of manufacture is as follows:—The slag, when of suitable quality, is run into a ladle; from this it is poured into cast iron moulds secured to the periphery of a horizontal wheel. Each mould has a hinged bottom. The wheel is slowly rotated, and the bottom of the molds are released in succession. The blocks, molten inside, but solid at the surface, drop upon a soft bed of granulated slag, and are quickly removed and stacked in an annealing stove. When full, the doors of the stove are closed, and the blocks are allowed to anneal themselves without extraneous heat. In about eight hours the doors are opened and the blocks withdrawn. They are then fit for use. Without annealing they would soon crumble to pieces from internal stresses. The blocks are in great demand for street paving, not only locally, but also foreign towns where they can be conveyed by water.

HEATING IRON IN COLD WATER.

IT would now seem as though the common, but time-honored blacksmith's forge, and all other kinds of fiery furnaces, will become extinct and live only in the memory of a rapidly-receding past. The forge and furnace of the future will consist of a lead-lined glass or porcelain vase or cupola filled with cold acidified water, to which is connected a strong positive conductor. A pair of tongs with insulated handles attached to a flexible negative conductor are also provided, making the new forge and outfit complete.

The smith seizes the piece of iron he wishes to manipulate with the insulated tongs and plunges it into the sour water, which begins to boil and bubble the instant it comes in contact with the iron, which, in a remarkable short space of time, turns to a red and then to a white heat, ready for the work of the smith.

So rapidly is the heating done, that the water and the portion of the iron not immersed in the water is but slightly warmed.

The principle involved in this process is the same as in incandescent electric light. Resistance produces the light and heat. It is said that enormous heat can be produced by the method, much greater than is necessary to extract the iron from the most refractory ores.

Like all, or nearly all, of the late practical applications of electricity, this discovery will no doubt lead to marvelous results in the perfect and rapid handling of heavy iron and steel plates and bars that have to be hammered and welded, and more valuable still for tempering purposes, as the required heat for the immersed portion can be quickly obtained, while the remaining portion is kept comparatively cool, which cannot be done by present methods. By electricity we live and move, and by electricity some of us die.—Mechanical News.