

A NEW LUMBERING CENTRE.

Midway between Shawville and Waltham, on the Pontiac line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, is located the new town of Davidson, established by the well known lumber firm of Davidson & Thackray, of Ottawa, and so named by the railway company. The new town, or village rather, has an ideal location at the junction of the Coulonge and Ottawa rivers and Coulonge lake.

Last season a dimension mill was erected, which has been in operation since May 1st and is shown on this page. It has the orthodox equipment, including trimmers, butters, steam feed, circular saw, double edgers, steam nigger and shingle machines. It is operated by steam power, and this season two dutch ovens were erected, permitting of the use of saw-dust as fuel, serving a two fold purpose, the disposal of the refuse and the reduction of the fuel bill. These ovens were erected at a cost of \$1,000 apiece. Since the mill was started it has cut 3,500,000 feet of dimension timber and 2,500,000 feet of shingles. This summer a shingle

river, and during the coming winter 700 cords will be secured. The object of the work being carried on in this direction is to increase the capacity of the log pond.

The company is conducting extensive operations on the limits and a large supply of logs is assured. Two camps have been established, each with 37 men and 16 teams. The company also has seven jobbers at work, each with a camp of about 15 men and five teams.

Altogether fully 200 men are employed at the mills and on the limits. When the new mill is completed next year, employment will be given to 60 more. Ald. James Davidson and ex.-Ald. Robert Davidson, of Ottawa, members of the firm, have ambitious plans for the new town of Davidson. It promises to become in a few years one of the most prosperous in the direction.

HOOPS AND THEIR MANUFACTURE.

The great majority of hoops for slack barrels are made according to the sizes required by either sugar barrels or flour barrels. There are

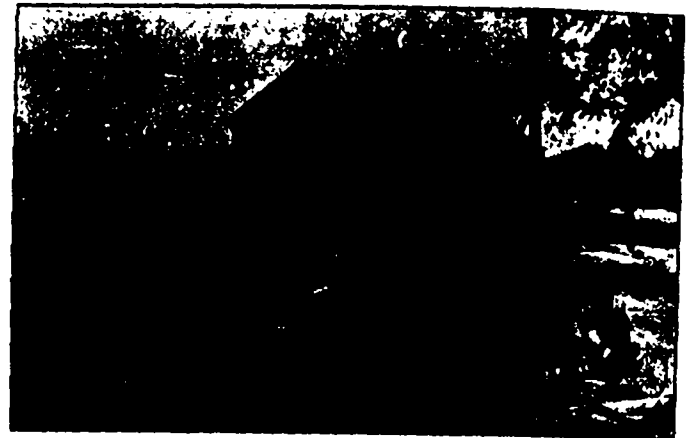
of the subject to any length, but the prevailing scarcity of timber that will turn out hoops to advantage calls for at least a few words on the subject before taking up the matter of building a hoop factory.

Elm is the timber generally used for hoops; in fact, its use so greatly exceeds that of all other woods combined to-day that hardly anything else is thought of for making coiled hoops. But elm of a quality to make hoops is getting so scarce and high in price that to find a good location for a hoop plant—where there is a timber supply—has already become one of the serious problems of the trade. Not only must it be a good class of elm timber to begin with, but it is practically only the butt cuts that will work up to advantage.

Of course, any clear piece of good elm plank long enough for hoops is all right, and where one is operating a sawmill in elm there is an opportunity to get more or less of this plank, even from the top cuts, and, where there is not a sawmill or something of that nature to help the cause along, it is pretty generally neces-



OFFICE ERECTED BY DAVIDSON & THACKRAY AT NEW TOWN OF DAVIDSON, QUE.



PARTIAL VIEW OF DIMENSION SAW MILL ERECTED BY DAVIDSON & THACKRAY AT NEW TOWN OF DAVIDSON, QUE.

mill was built and made ready for operations, and will be started shortly.

At the close of next season the company's two mills on the Quyon river, in Bristol township, near the Pontiac line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, will be closed down and all sawing concentrated at Davidson. For this purpose the erection of a double cutting band mill, with all other necessary machinery, is under contemplation. This mill will practically start in on the cutting where the Bristol township mills leave off.

A word as to the auxiliary work already completed at Davidson might not be amiss. The firm has erected the following buildings—substantial and commodious office, blacksmith shop, boarding houses, sleeping camp, detached five room cottages for the married men, railway station and stables. The station was erected by the railway company, and is an attractive looking building, as are the office, residences and other quarters, all finished in wood.

The Canadian Pacific Railway has laid nearly a mile of sidings through the yards, enabling the lumber company to load direct from the pile to the car. A haul of a mile had to be made at the Bristol township mills, entailing a considerable expense, which will be avoided at Davidson. Streets have been laid out and raised platforms erected. Last winter 650 cords of stone were placed in the piers in the

hoops made both longer and shorter than these, but these represent the bulk of the trade, and the others are generally made on individual specifications. The Slack Cooperage Stock Manufacturers' Association has outlined the following as specifications for the two classes of hoops most generally used:

Sugar barrel hoops shall be 6ft. 4in., 6ft. 6in. and 6ft. 9in. long, cut so as to be not less than 5/16 in. and 3/16 in. in thickness when finished and seasoned, and not less than 1 3/8-in. wide when seasoned.

Flour barrel hoops shall be 5 1/2 ft. and 6 ft. long, and shall measure, when seasoned, not less than 5/16-in. to 3/16-in. in thickness, and not less than 1 3/8-in. wide.

There has been some effort to separate hoops into grades, for it is pretty generally recognized that there is a wide distinction in the quality of hoops, but no distinct classes have so far been pointed out, the only action by the association being to specify that No. 1 hoops shall be of good, sound timber, fully up to specifications, free from broken hoops in the coils and well finished.

TIMBER REQUIRED FOR HOOPS.

When you want to start a hoop factory, the first point is, obviously, to secure a supply of timber that will make hoops. It is not the purpose of this discourse to deal with that end

sary now to make staves or something else along with hoops in order to get a reasonable close clean-up of the stumpage.

The manufacturer of hoops is not entirely confined to elm, but it seems that the trade prefer elm, and do not take kindly to substitutes, even of oak. Still oak is being used to quite an extent, and there is really nothing to prevent it being used more, and being accepted right along with elm, except that in many instances the timber is too valuable for other purposes to be made into hoops to advantage. Others substitutes have been tried more or less, but while any wood that is reasonably tough and can be bent into a hoop should answer the purpose, there does not seem to be any that has come into use to any great extent. That is not saying they will not, however, and the near future may bring several kinds of wood into notice in this connection. But whatever the wood may be, the first step towards starting a hoop factory is to secure timber from which to make the hoops.

The first point to be decided when you make up your mind to build a hoop factory is the process of manufacture that will answer your purpose best—cut or sawed. There is some variety and choice of machines in carrying out the work in either cutting or sawing hoops, but the first question is: "Will you cut or saw your hoops?" Nor is this question as easy