

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters are invited from our readers on matters of practical and timely interest to the lumber trades. To secure insertion all communications must be accompanied with name and address of writer, not necessarily for publication. The publisher will not hold himself responsible for opinions of correspondents.

THE TEMISCAMINGUE DISTRICT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADA LUMBERMAN.

SIR, In view of the present and prospective improvements in the facilities of transport from the Temiscamingue district, it would not be amiss to review the lumbering possibilities and prospects of that region. Though hundreds of thousands of saw logs are annually brought from there down the Ottawa river to the mills at Hull, still there seems to be no apparent signs of the output lessening. A quarter of a century ago it was generally considered that in less than twenty years the pine of this region would practically become exhausted, and yet to-day one could not buy the very limits which were even then considered nearly denuded for the same figure at which they were freely offered then, nor in many cases for even double the amount. The principal operations have so far been confined to the province of Quebec. On the Ontario side licenses have only been issued for just those limits that fringe the shores of the Ottawa river to the extent of about ten to fifteen miles back. Beyond that, south, west and north, and tending south and west nearly to the C. P. R., and north to James' Bay, there still remains a virgin forest. The finest pineries now standing in Canada are contained within these limits, and though beyond the height of land the pine becomes scarce, all up the valley of the Montreal river, and west of it, there is no scarcity; and judging by what has taken place in Quebec, this generation—or the next—need have no anxiety lest the supply should fail in their time.

Since the opening up of the north-western shores of Lake Temiscamingue for settlement, considerable attention has been called to other classes of wood growing here. Of hardwood, such as beech, maple, black birch and white ash, there is comparatively none. A little oak, of excellent quality, grows on the deltas of the streams that traverse the clay flats, but there is not sufficient to supply the local demand even. In the lower townships, such as Lorain, Burke, Dymond and Harris, and, in fact, in all the country back of and adjacent to Haileybury, there is an extraordinary growth of cedar, reaching in some cases up to thirty-six inches across the stump, and wonderfully sound. Poplar also grows to an extraordinary size, and in immense quantities.

If only some good market could be found for this wood and the means of transport still further improved, the manufacture of it should grow into an important industry. Spruce is very plentiful, but will hardly bear the expenses of shipment. Pulp wood is the feature of these immense clay flats now being thrown open for settlement, and it would not be considered unwise to predict an early development of this industry. Owing to the short distances that the wood in its raw state would have to be carried, it should be possible to manufacture pulp on Temiscamingue at a figure that could compete with any other mills, and more than counterbalance the slightly increased freight upon the manufactured article.

Yours truly,

"A READER."

DIFFERENT RESULTS IN SCALING LOGS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADA LUMBERMAN:

SIR,—Kindly allow me space in your valuable paper to refer to the culling and measurement of saw logs, which is of vital importance to all parties interested in lumbering. The Department of Crown Lands organized a system of examination of cullers, and all parties who passed such examination, before procuring a license entitling them to measure logs for a return to the Department, were required to subscribe to an affidavit to measure honestly and fairly and to the best of their judgment, all logs they were called upon to measure. Again, the culler, before completing his returns to the Department, is obliged to swear to the correctness of his returns in every particular, therefore he is doubly sworn to do justice to the Department, as well as to his employer. No defined rule, however, was laid down in such examination as to what allowance was to be made for rots, shakes and other defects, but is left entirely to the judgment and knowledge of the scaler; therefore lumbermen in selecting their cullers endeavor to secure the services of experienced men, who have had a practical knowledge of

not only the woods, but of the saw mill where the logs are sawn into lumber, for the saw reveals all defects and gives to the culler a knowledge of how defects of all kinds affect logs.

We believe as a rule we have honorable, upright men on the staff of cullers, who respect their oath and will do justice according to the best of their judgment. We must admit, however, that some licenses have been issued to men who have not had that practical knowledge they should have to qualify them as scalers, therefore every applicant for a license should be able to satisfy the examiners that he has worked at least two years in the woods and one season in a saw mill before he should be allowed to compete for examination, so as to raise the standard of cullers to as high a state of proficiency as possible, which would have a tendency to dispel the feeling of distrust that has been aroused in the districts of Muskoka and Parry Sound during the last two years, which would appear as if all lumbermen were dishonest robbers. As lumbering is one of the chief industries and sources of revenue of this province, it necessarily follows that a great many persons are engaged in the business, and we believe that those so engaged are honorable and upright men, and should be treated as such until it is proven to the contrary.

The following test of a quantity of logs, which can be verified, will show the difference of opinion in the judgment of three different licensed scalers, and will also show the necessity of the Crown Lands Department adopting some uniform system, which will not only protect the Department, but will also give protection to the lumbermen against loss as well. We purchased last season 18,878 logs from another firm, not with a view of manufacturing, but for the purpose of reselling them at a profit. The logs were first measured on the skids by a licensed culler and resold on the same measurement at a profit of \$2,000, less cost of culling and management. After the logs were hauled to the lake, the wood-ranger in charge of these districts came to inspect and make a sample measurement of the logs, to see that justice was done the Department, as the result of which it was reported that the logs were undermeasured at least 50%. Consequently we were notified that a re-scale would be required. On the opening of navigation two scalers were sent by order of the Department to make the measurement, which occupied twenty-one days, this delay preventing the delivery of the logs in time, and consequently the sale was cancelled. We then determined to have the logs sawn without mixing with other logs, as a test as to which scale was correct. They were taken to a band saw mill and again measured over the jack ladder of the mill by an independent licensed culler, and the following is a statement of the four different measurements, together with the actual output of the logs into lumber:

	Total.	Av. per Log.
Logs measured on the skids by licensed scaler	1,200,810 ft.	63' 60"
Logs measured in the water by Government scalers	1,529,215 ft.	81'
Logs measured over jack ladder of mill by licensed scaler	960,099 ft.	50' 85"
Sample measurement made by Government wood rangers, with logs on ice, 50% over bush scale, or say	1,801,215 ft.	96'
Lumber measured over the trimmers at the mill by an independent inspector.	Com. and Better 1,161,210 ft. Mill Culls	398,800
	Total	1,560,010 ft.

At first sight it would appear that the re-scale made in the water was a very close scale to the actual output of the logs, mill culls included; but when it is considered that when Doyle's rule—which is the rule adopted by the Department—was compiled, four inches was allowed for slabs and one quarter was allowed for saw kerf, and as small logs of the size of the above do not require more than two inches for slab, and with the improved and up-to-date band saws there is a saving in saw-kerf alone of one board in ten, and with the lighter slab, there should be at least 20% of an overrun if the logs were measured honestly according to the Doyle rule. Had the logs been made up according to Scribner's rule, they would have contained 1,812,385 ft., or an actual loss to the purchaser of 252,375 ft., mill culls included, as Scribner's rule is made up according to diagrams and is supposed to give the actual contents and allow 15 ft. per 100 more than Doyle's rule, on logs averaging 100 ft. per log.

We would be pleased to have the opinion of other lumbermen who have made a practical test as to which of

these measurements would be considered a fair, honest scale of logs cut on a band saw.

We well know that the Crown Lands Department neither asks for or expects anything but what is fair and just, and that is all that can be expected by any honest lumberman. We also acknowledge that many of the wood-rangers employed by the Department are thoroughly competent men, who would not only do justice to the Department but to the lumbermen as well, and care should be taken by the Department that only well-tried and competent men be selected to fill the position of wood-rangers who would decide fairly between the Department and the lumbermen, giving justice to both, as a re-scale of a quantity of logs invariably entails not only loss to the lumberman, who is obliged to supply men to handle the logs, but also a loss to the Department, which has no doubt been verified during the past year.

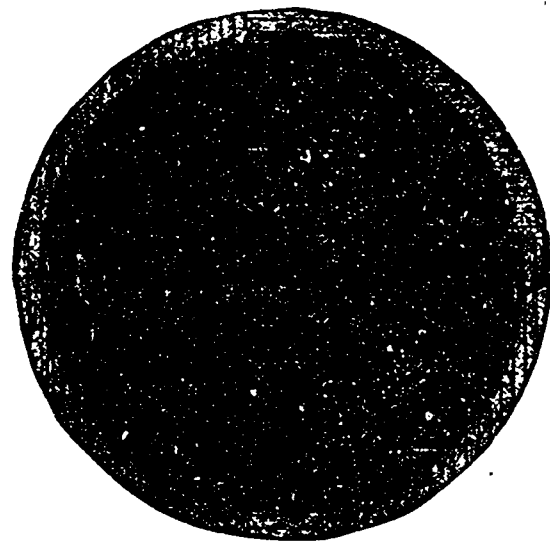
As to the sample measurement made by the wood-ranger in this case, which was 50% over bush scale, we must infer that either the ranger does not understand his business or that he wilfully overmeasured the logs with a view of building up a reputation for himself as a zealous officer—at our expense. We also think it would be in the interest of both the Department and the lumbermen as well to cancel all assistants' papers, and only employ licensed scalers to assist, who would, in our opinion, give better results. Pardon me for taking up so much space of your valuable paper. One of the unfortunate

LUMBERMEN.

METHOD OF SAWING HARDWOOD.

A WRITER in the Chicago Timberman gives the following description and illustration of what he considers the most approved method for the sawing of hardwood, as practiced in Michigan:

From observation, and from consultation on the subject with some of the most capable men in the trade, I find the consensus of opinion to be that the best side of the log should be turned to the saw and worked down until the heart defects begin to manifest themselves. The log



METHOD OF SAWING HARDWOOD.

should then be turned, sawn surface down, and the operation repeated. The log then being given a quarter turn, and sawed to leave a cant of 6 1/4 inches full, is then reduced to strips that will season full six inches. This leaves the heart to be thrown away if worthless, without the expenditure of any labor upon it, or it is in shape to go into strips. This method of sawing gives good average widths of stock, and produces a larger proportion of firsts and seconds than any other. The accompanying diagram will more explicitly illustrate the method outlined.

Between 20,000,000 and 30,000,000 feet of lumber were imported by China during 1896, of which 14,000,000 feet were shipped from the United States.