

MICHIGAN LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

MICHIGAN lumbermen have their plans well matured for a busy season in the Canadian woods. Contracts have been let by J. T. Hurst and S. O. Fisher, of Saginaw, to Canadian woodmen to cut and put 50,000,000 feet of logs into the Wahnapiac River, Georgian Bay, on the tracts of timber recently purchased from the McArthur Bros. Albert Pack, of Alpena, who has about 200,000,000 feet of standing timber in the Georgian Bay district, will cut about 15,000,000 feet this winter, to be towed later to his mill at this point. He will take his camp outfit per steamer from this city. Four Alpena lumbermen, Messrs. Pack, Gilchrist, Fletcher and Potter, will have camps in the Georgian Bay this winter cutting logs. The statement is made that not less than 100,000,000 of Canadian logs will reach Alpena this season. The holdings of Alpena lumbermen in Canada are said to be not less than 1,000,000,000 feet. Sibley & Bearinger, of Saginaw, have put in four camps in the Georgian Bay district, and figure on putting in about 25,000,000 feet of logs. The Emery Lumber Co. will have not less than six camps in the same territories. Their Canadian work is in charge of Thomas Pickard.

BOUGHT OUT THEIR PARTNERS.

A change has been made in the composition of the Emery Lumber Co., a concern that for some years has operated largely in Canadian timbers. The members of the Saginaw Lumber and Salt Co., who owned a one-third interest in the Emery Co., have sold their interest to Nelson Holland and Temple Emery, who held the other two-thirds interest. They now become sole owners. They hold about 200,000,000 feet of standing timber in the Georgian Bay district. Nelson Holland has purchased what is known as the old Bearinger mill site at East Tawas, and his mill here will be removed to Tawas at the close of the season. Tawas will be made the base of operations for the Emery Lumber Co., and the supplies for cutting will of course consist of Canadian logs. Tawas is possessed of splendid shipping facilities, and logs are towed there with much greater ease than to Saginaw. On the other hand there is not nearly the same profitable outlet for surplus refuse in Tawas as Saginaw, which will be an extra item of cost. The Saginaw Lumber and Salt Co. are themselves owners of a considerable body of Canadian timbers.

MADE OUT OF WHOLE CLOTH.

As the CANADA LUMBERMAN was closing its forms for September a story was being widely circulated through the press of the United States and Canada stating that the steam yacht Wahpiti, owned by Isaac Bearinger, of Saginaw, a partner in the firm of Sibley & Bearinger, had gone down in a gale near Collingwood, Ont., and the eight persons on board were drowned. It was stated that she had on board Mr. Sibley, wife and family and other friends. The firm of Sibley & Bearinger are known as large operators in Canada and this country, and lumber circles were naturally agitated. It has turned out that the whole story was the concoction of a half-breed cook who had been discharged for drunkenness. The Wahpiti, it is true, had been cruising in the Georgian Bay waters, but only a season of pleasure had been the lot of the party. The yacht, with the entire party, arrived safely home about ten days after the publication of the dispatch.

BITS OF LUMBER.

A number of large rafts of logs from Canada have arrived at our ports this season.

The Tittabawassee Boom Co. has delivered about 144,000,000 feet of logs to the mills this season.

McArthur Bros., of Cheboygan, have had land lookers prospecting at the head of the Spanish river looking over a 150,000,000 feet limit.

John Welch is cutting 5,000,000 feet of Canadian stock, mostly into dimension, for Gilbert & Hallenbeck, the most of it being sold to Chicago dealers.

Michigan lumbermen, who are preparing to operate in the Canadian woods, allege that provisions, hardware, blankets and camp supplies generally, cost more in Canada than in this State.

The Old Lady is circulating the story that Thomas D. Merrill, of Merrill & Ring, of this place, and who is not unknown to your people through his large holdings of Canadian pine, is shortly to wed the widow of the late Gov. C. M. Croswell.

Gen. Alger has purchased the half interest of his partners in the Manistique Lumber Co.'s mill, at Manistique, 200,000,000 feet of timber, logging railroad, etc. The consideration was \$6 stumpage for the timber; \$600,000; and \$100,000 for the other property. Gen. Alger is one of our millionaire lumbermen, and his name has more than once been named in connection with the Presidency. His "barrel" would be very useful in a case of the kind.

SAGINAW, Mich. Sept. 23, 1892.

PICA.

OTTAWA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

LUMBER affairs will be unusually active in the woods the approaching winter. Large numbers of men are being despatched thence almost daily. Wages are ruling considerably higher than a year ago, and in some respects it is difficult to engage the men required. As high as \$25 per month has been offered for log makers, with few to accept the figure. Contracts are being made by Reneaud Bros. for log cutters at \$1 a day; general handy men, \$16 to \$22 a month; cooks, \$35; hewers, \$40 to \$50; liners, \$30 to \$35; scorers \$30. All these rates include board. Last year log makers rarely got over \$21 a month, and square timbermen not over \$38. There will hardly be less than 5,000 men in the bush this season. The opening up of the Pierce and Co. limits by the Shepard and Morse Lumber Co. is one cause of the present scarcity of labor. This concern has already sent up nearly 300 men to its limits. The season's cut will no doubt be an exceptionally large one.

A NOTE OF WARNING.

We find an illustration of the changes taking place in the timber conditions of the country in the fact that it is impossible to get the same lengths in square timber now as in years gone by. Fire and the axe have got in their work and the woodsman is obliged to make his square timber to-day out of much shorter trees than formerly. The Department of Marine have recognized the changed conditions and have shortened the lengths given in all the specifications for the timber to be used in the Pointe aux Anglais pier construction.

INDIFFERENT LENGTHS.

Bronson and Weston Co. will work with fewer shanties this year than last, but their cut will remain the same.

J. R. Booth has no lack of logs on the river. Large numbers are arriving almost daily, whilst the pond is full and the boom is well stored.

D. Martin, of the Bronson & Weston Co., had his buggy wrecked the other day, the top being caught by a spike projecting from a telegraph pole.

The sailing vessel Ellen A. Reid, now loading at Montreal, Que., is taking 1,500,000 feet to South America for the Shepard & Morse Co. The load is the largest ever taken by a sailing vessel.

Shipping is active. Twenty carloads of lumber left the Chaudiere junction of the Canada Atlantic in one day for Montreal and United States points. Seven barges left for Burlington, Vt.

There is still considerable difficulty experienced in getting timber out of the boom in Deschenes lake. There is no jam, but the logs that are down are immense in number and great delay is arising in sorting them.

Perley & Pattee, who at the close of the sawing season will hand over their mill on the Chaudiere to J. R. Booth, are running night as well as day in order that they may clean up their work before the transfer of the property is formally made. None of the other mills are running a night gang.

The Baldwin sash and door factory in Hull, which has been idle for almost two years, will shortly be reopened and business begun on an extended scale. It is expected a large gang of men will be employed. Mr. Gagnon, recently city inspector of Hull, has returned from the State and will take the management of the business. It is rumored that the E. B. Eddy Co. will shortly give up their manufacture of sash and doors.

Messrs. Gilmour and Hughson have finally decided to rebuild their saw mill at Hull Point, destroyed by fire some years ago. Building will begin shortly, and it is expected the mill will be completed in time to begin operation next spring. It is possible that in the near future the firm will tear down their mills at Chelsea and rebuild them with the new structure at the point. Mr. Hughson is at present on a business trip to the States.

OTTAWA, Sept. 23, 1892.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

LUMBERMEN of Oregon, Washington, Tacoma and certain other sections of the Pacific coast are ambitious to form a big combination of all lumbermen shipping by water from Lower California to Alaska, and would like to include the mills of British Columbia. The scheme is something like this: Small mills, numbering something over 100, will receive from \$400 to \$1,000 per year, according to the figure they cut in water shipping. It will cost the "combine," if it goes through, between \$50,000 and \$100,000 per year for subsidies alone. A Mr. Moore, of the lumber firm of Moore and Smith, San Francisco, has been working the scheme, and will, it is said, visit this province. His claim is that such a combination would place the mills of Victoria, Washington and Oregon on an equal footing in foreign markets, thereby profiting these two

states. I am very doubtful if British Columbia lumbermen are likely to go into a scheme of this nature. My impression is that a Victoria paper has sized up the situation about right in saying that this very claim of Mr. Moore's is what is likely to make the scheme fall to the ground. British Columbia mills, owing to the more liberal trade laws of this country, which has no McKinley Bill, have a decided advantage in foreign markets, which they are not likely to surrender, no matter how much it might benefit their brethren to the southward. Australian lumbermen would certainly not relish the change, as they recently, as your readers know, had the duty on lumber raised in retaliation for the McKinley Bill.

A RIVERS' AND STREAMS' CASE.

The Burnaby Lake Lumber Co., Messrs. H. I. Rowling and Co., have closed down their logging camp at Burnaby Lake, and all their men have been paid off and discharged. This action has been taken by the company on account of an injunction obtained by the New Westminster water works commissioners to prevent them floating logs down the Brunette River, as it is claimed their pipes would be damaged by the logs. If the injunction is made absolute the camp will be shut down for good, and thus an important industry will be nipped in the bud. The Burnaby company own about 1,200 acres of timber land, and in order to get this timber to market by water it is necessary to float it down the Brunette River from Burnaby Lake. It is not unlikely that the case may be carried beyond our provincial courts before it is finally settled. Important interests on both sides are involved.

COAST CHIPS.

W. Losee, shingle mill owner, Victoria, has assigned to C. E. Pooley.

The Michigan Lumber company has closed out the balance of its stock of lumber in Victoria to W. Lang.

Mike King, of Reed Island, one of the most extensive loggers in the province, reports the weather unusually wet this summer up the coast, and the loggers have worked fewer days than in any year since 1884.

The Moodyville Lands and Saw Mill Co., Ltd. (foreign), has been registered by Mr. C. J. Leggatt, registrar of joint-stock companies. The capital of the company is £160,000, divided into £5 shares, 28,000 of which are ordinary and 4,000 deferred.

George Mercier, while on a visit to the Royal City logging camp in Surrey, was shown and measured what is said to be the largest log yet taken out in the camp. The first cut above the stump, which was thirty feet in length, measured eight feet and four inches in diameter at the butt, or larger end, and six feet at the smaller end.

Lumber freights are fairly steady. The latest quotations from British Columbia or Puget Sound are as follows: Valparaiso for orders, 40s. nominal; Sydney, 27s. 6d. to 30s.; Melbourne, Adelaide or Port Pirie, 37s. 6d. to 40s.; United Kingdom, calling at Cork for orders, 57s. 6d.; Shanghai, 45s.; and Yokohama, 40s. 6d., nominal.

Mr. David Maclaren, of Ottawa, Ont., one of the principal shareholders in the Maclaren-Ross Lumber Co., is spending a month in this province. He is accompanied by Mr. H. de Pencier, general manager of the company. It is expected, as a result of Mr. Maclaren's visit, that the date of commencing operations at the Westminster and Barnet mills will shortly be fixed.

The William Hamilton Manufacturing Co., of Peterboro, Ont., are supplying all the machinery, engines, boilers, etc., for the double circular saw mill now being erected at Sidney, North Saanich, for the Toronto and British Columbia Lumber Co., of which Messrs. White and Hamill are the principal movers in this province, and Messrs. Davidson, Hatton and Strathy in Toronto. The machinery, etc., will amount to seven carloads and will arrive about November 1. The mill will cut from 75,000 to 100,000 feet per day, and will compete for export trade.

The Vancouver shingle mill, owned by Mr. H. H. Spicer, lays claim to a record breaker in shingle cutting. In ten hours the other day, the grand total of shingles cut was 223,500. The cut was made as follows: Gus Arndt, of a Challoner's double block machine, 125,000 shingles; David Burns, on a Challoner's hand machine, 49,250; John Donohoe, on a Waterous "Boss" machine, 49,250, thus making up the total of 223,500 shingles. During eleven days of August and September the average cut per day with these three machines was 165,000 shingles. Mr. Louis Arndt is foreman of the mill, and he and the men are justly proud of the record they have made in shingle cutting. The Pacific coast is becoming celebrated for its red cedar shingles. The sale this year, it is estimated, will show an increase of over 200 per cent. over last year. They are being shipped in large quantities to all parts of Canada and the United States.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., Sept. 20, 1892.