

EXTENSIVE PURCHASES.

A syndicate of Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls, (Wis.) lumbermen and capitalists has recently purchased extensive timber limits in the British Northwestern territory. The Syndicate is composed of the following gentlemen: J. G. Throp, O. H. Ingram, V. W. Bayless, W. A. Rust, H. C. Putman, I. K. Kerr, J. B. and H. M. Stocking, H. D. Davis and Daniel Dolena, F. Holman of Eau Claire, and Alex. McLaron, A. Bruce, Irvine & McDonald, and L. E. Waterman of Chippewa Falls.

The nine berths purchased by this strong combination cover an area equal to about 13 townships and are estimated to contain 260,000,000 feet of pine, spruce and cedar stumpage. The limit is situated in the province of Alberta, on the Bow river, and its tributaries near the eastern footholds of the Rocky Mountains and some 700 miles west of Winnipeg. The conditions of these grants of timber limits from the Dominion Government are thus stated:—

According to the regulations governing the granting of yearly licenses to cut timber on Dominion lands under section 52 of the Dominion lands act of 1879, provision is made for the licensee paying a ground rent \$5 per square mile; for requiring that within 2 months after the date of the order in council granting a timber berth, the person in whose favor it is passed must pay the rent for the year in advance, the rent to bear interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum from that date until the same is paid; that when applications for licenses conflict, berths shall be laid off and described as the Minister of the Interior may direct, and tenders shall be invited for the same. Persons tendering are required to state the sum or bonus per square mile which they are willing to pay in addition to ground rent and a royalty of 5 per cent on the amount of the sales of all the products of the berth, and the limit is awarded to the person offering the highest bonus. Licensees are required to have in operation within a year from a date to be fixed in the license and to keep in operation for at least six months of each year of his holding, a saw mill capable of cutting daily at least 10,000 feet, board measure of lumber. It is further provided that when a licensee has complied with the conditions above enumerated, and where no portion of the berth is required for settlement or other public purpose, of which the Minister of the Interior is to be the judge, the license may be renewed for another year, subject to such revision of the annual rental and royalty to be paid; therefore as may be fixed by the Governor in council.

Several valuable timber limits in the same general region have recently been secured by Minneapolis capitalists, and the prospects for a large return upon the investment is excellent.—*Minneapolis Tribune.*

PREPARED FLOORING IN ENGLAND.

There is considerable discussion in England over the matter of importing prepared flooring, the dressed and matched article, furnished in bulk, being a comparatively new proposition to saw out a bill of lumber to order from the raw material, in the shape of deals. Assortments are hardly dreamed of, in the sense that is involved in the stocks of the Chicago lumberman. Recently a sample cargo of prepared flooring from Archangel was received at London, and bought by some merchant of a speculative turn of mind. On account of the high freights which obtain it is doubted whether a trade of any extent can be built up in prepared flooring. It is stated that the sample cargoes of such stuff which arrive, are generally the first and the last. The trade does not tackle kindly to the scheme. It is thought that if the extra freight and insurance could be offset by a lower free-on-board price, there might be a chance for White sea floor boards in the English markets. But in that event it is feared that competition would result in hammering prices till the Norway article would crowd out the new candidate for favor, and there would be necessity for insuring a supply of prepared flooring, if any considerable business in it was attempted. With Swedish flooring it is different, and the conditions will doubtless foster something of a trade with Swedish and Gulf of Bothnia ports. In this connection arises the question as to how American dressed and matched flooring will fare

in the English market, such exports having been sometime ago proposed. How many obstacles there are in the way has not yet developed but if the cost of yellow pine flooring, dressed and matched, is not excessive, when laid down across the water, it ought to compare favorably, in quality and service, with the foreign prepared article, since in what the preparation consists is a rather obscure proposition. The question of superior manufacture is an important one in this country, and doubtless is in England.—*North western Lumberman.*

THE CHAUDIERE MILLS.

A visit on Tuesday, July 31st, to four out of five of the "Chaudiere Mills," by a representative of the *Free Press*, revealed the fact that lumbering is not near as brisk as it has been for a few years back. Shipping is very dull, owing mainly to the stagnant condition of the American market, and in a measure to the greenness of the lumber. Matters may look up, however, as the season advances.

Mr. Booth's shipping is considerably ahead of that of last year, though his cut is behind. He hopes, however, to catch up before the season is out. The capacity of Mr. Booth's mill is 300,000 feet per day, and at that rate the cut for the season would be in the vicinity of 50,000,000 feet. He employs about 450 men inside and out, about thirty span of horses, 100 waggons, and about 30 shipping carts. There is in the mill amongst other new machinery added this year, a gang saw with a capacity of three logs at a time, or about 800 a day. There are also an innumerable number of "twin," "slabbing," "edging" and other saws. There are eight gates in this mill—the largest number in any mill on the Ottawa.

Closely adjoining Mr. Booth's mill is that of Messrs. Perley & Pattee, employing about 100 men night and day. The capacity of this mill is about 300,000 feet, for the day and night watches. The machinery in this mill is somewhat similar to that in Mr. Booth's. Near the large mill is a small one which turns out laths, pickets for window fixtures and such small wares. There are upwards of 90,000 laths turned out per day. In this mill are employed about fifty-three men during the day watch, and about 23 during the night. The wages of all these hands range from \$3 to \$8.50 per week. At the beginning of the season Perley & Pattee had on hand about 200,000 logs, and of this number about one hundred and fifty thousand are yet in the river.

The next mill visited was that of Captain Young, in which about 200 men find employment during the day and night watches. The capacity of the mill is about 100,000 feet per 24 hours. The season was opened with about 150,000 logs, and of this number about 50,000 are cut. There are three gates in each mill. Captain Young's mill is the only mill lighted with electricity.

The mills (2) of Messrs. Bronson & Weston are second to none on the Ottawa. The capacity of the two is upwards of 400,000 feet per day (24 hours.) Between 450 and 500 hands are employed. About 300,000 logs were taken out last winter, and of this number about one-half are cut. All the cuttings, edgings and slabs are run through another part of the mill, and come out either as laths, pickets, or boxing stuff. Thus scarcely anything else but the bark and the sawdust is wasted.

Mr. Eddy's and Mr. Rochester's mills will be referred to another time.

SWEDEN.

The Stockholm correspondent of the *Timber Trades Journal* says.—The aspect of affairs in Sweden shows at length that the modifications made by extensive exporters in their prices reported a few weeks ago have been taken full advantage of by buyers in Great Britain, and have also resulted in important transactions to London and other large ports, of which the somewhat heavy shipments by steam at present going forward bears witness. At the present moment exporters have relieved themselves of a good portion of their stock that had previously hung fire, and a degree stiffer in their quotations, and the general opinion seems to be that the worst is past. The reports from the prin-

cipal consuming districts, especially in England, are more favorable, while it is now seen that the aggregate production of the season must be considerably less than last year, even under the most favorable circumstances.

Notwithstanding the comparatively heavy shipments now taking place, all that I have been able to gather in respect to the probable export of the coming autumn leads me to the conclusion that the same will be decidedly less than last year, and that the total shipment of sawn and planed wood from Sweden in 1883 will, in all probability, be less by 50,000 standards than those of 1882, unless some of the smaller firms adopt the doubtful expedient of sending consignments.

A HILL OF TREES.

It is comparatively easy to render prairie farms beautiful by the judicious planting of forest and ornamental trees. A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* writes: A friend of mine moved from the picturesque hills and lovely woods of western New York to a prairie country, treeless and level. Although at first he duly applauded his new home for its practical utility in being so level, and blessed his luck in having no stumps to pull, yet its monotony became unbearably wearisome, and he was homesick for a sight of rugged but beautiful Cattaraugus. Trees he had, for his first care was to plant windbreaks, and a ten-acre forest of soft maple and cotton woods; but hills were missing. Finally he told his wife that he was "going to make a hill at least 100 feet high," about 1,000 feet in front of the house. When I saw his hill it was nearly 75 feet high, and one of the most beautiful sights I ever saw. This is the way it was made: In the center of a circular land about 200 feet in diameter he set a cotton-wood tree, and 20 feet away a circle of six cotton-wood trees. The centre tree was much larger and thrifter than the circle. Twenty feet distant was another circle—this one of willows, set 15 feet apart. Then followed catalpa, alanthus, osage orange, and holly. These outer circles were closer, and the trees, being of smaller kinds, were set closer. By cultivation and manuring he endeavored to incite the central trees to a more luxuriant growth than the outer ones, and has succeeded in a remarkable degree. The result is a solid green hill of foliage that soon will be one hundred feet high in the center, and slopes down to about ten feet at the base. My friend tells me that he does not think he made the best possible selection of varieties, but could do better now in making a uniform grade. My friend is "building" another hill on a modification of this principle. This is to be an evergreen hill, and for the place of honor he has a white pine surrounded by spruces, and the varieties graded as to size to the edge. To secure a greater hill appearance he allows five years to elapse between the planting of the different circles, so that when the last circle is set the central tree will be twenty-five years old.

PRESERVED WOOD.

We have from time to time called attention to the different methods of preserving wood from decay and from insect enemies, and urged that the processes in use abroad should give equally good results in this country. Though at different times considerable quantities of timber have been treated in this country by various methods the use has been somewhat spasmodic, and but little has been kept until lately in the shape of recorded results.

Lately, however, the American Society of Engineers has agitated the matter, and the results of their investigations have already been presented in our columns. Their exhibit at the railway exposition of wood and timber, both treated and natural, as exposed to different kinds of service for greater or less periods, is most interesting. It will be beneficial in directing the attention of those interested in the use of timber to the advantages of systematic treatment wherever there is to be exposure to the elements. The four methods of treatment represented crossotting, burnettizing, kyanizing and the Thilmany process. The first, as is shown by the name, consists in using the heavy oils distilled from wood; the second in using chloride of zinc; the third is the chloride of mercury

process, while in the fourth system two salts are used, one being of zinc or copper and the other of barium.

The most systematic exhibit in this collection is that from the works of the locks and canals on the Merrimac river, and represents the kyanizing process. The samples of timber displayed are of twelve different kinds, and each kind is shown as treated, and also in the natural state. The pieces were all treated alike as regards exposure, and the samples exhibited were taken near the ground line, where the strongest action of the weather would be shown. The time of the experiment was twenty years which is certainly long enough to decide the matter in the most satisfactory manner. It certainly has in this case, as in every instance the treated wood has lasted remarkably well, while in every specimen the natural wood is decayed so as to crumble almost at a touch. The effect of the preserving material has been clearly shown in the sample of poplar which after twenty years seems in as good, if not better, shape than some of the harder woods. If it is generally so susceptible to treatment it will greatly raise it in the estimation of engineers from its present low condition. The samples of kyanized timber from Fort Ontario after an exposure of forty years, are also interesting.

The exhibits of the other methods of wood preserving are valuable, though not showing such marked contrasts as that which we have just described, but all of them seem to show very good results under different circumstances and for long periods of time. The crossotied ties of fir from the English roads may be considered as good samples of that class of treatment.

The double salts methods, though newer before the public gives promise of good record.

A curious feature is an exhibit of portions of ties from the line of the Union Pacific, where the natural soil is of such character as to preserve the wood. A glance, however, at the analysis of this soil, which is attached to the samples, would seem to show "salts" enough to preserve anything.—*Railway Review.*

II. M. BRUCE recently cut a spruce tree, in Stowe, Vt., which made three logs 12 feet in length and measured 1,400 cubic feet, the butt log containing over 500.

E. HALL, of Detroit, is building a dam on the Tobacco river north of Clare, in order to run about 13,000,000 feet of Mr. Hall's logs which are hung up in that stream.

The *Lumberman's Gazette* of August the 1st, says:—The recent floods have destroyed numerous dams in this state, on which the only hope of securing logs from many of the tributary streams depended. Five dams on Hope Creek, a tributary to the Au Gres, went out last week, and over ten million feet of logs are thereby hung up high and dry. Some of our Bay City mill men will by this circumstance be considerably short in their expected log crop. Four dams on the Cedar were also carried away last week. It seems that the elements are persistent in their conspiracy to defeat any effort to overstock the lumber market on the Saginaw river.

The *Timber Trades Journal* of July 21, says: The torrent of wood goods from the Scandinavian and Finnish ports has abated this week and made room for our early North American fleet, as out of the sixty-six vessels arrived in London with timber about twenty are from the river and Gulf of St. Lawrence. But even with these the total arrivals for the week is 12 short of the number of either of the two preceding weeks, and under the circumstances it can hardly be considered an excessive supply. It is however numerically in excess of the corresponding week of last year by nineteen vessels. The difference occurs chiefly in the North American arrivals, only five being in the list of that from Canadian waters.

On Thirty Days Trial.

The Voltaic Belt Co., Marshall, Mich., will send Dr. Dye's Celebrated Electro-Voltaic Belts and Electric Appliances on trial for thirty days to men (young or old) who are afflicted with nervous debility, lost vitality and kindred troubles, guaranteeing speedy and complete restoration of health and manly vigor. Address as above.—N.B.—No risk is incurred, as thirty days' trial is allowed.