

THE LATE W. H. HURDMAN.

The oldest and one of the most extensive lumber operators of the Ottawa Valley died on Wednesday, February 20th, in the person of William Henry Hurdman. For over half a century deceased was actively engaged in the lumber industry with his brothers, of which Robert alone survives. He was a son of the late Charles Hurdman, who emigrated to Canada from County Caven, Ireland, in 1818. The family settled in Hull township, where William was born the same year, he being the first child of old country parents born in this section of the Ottawa Valley.

At the age of 23 deceased, in 1841, took a contract with his brother Charles to grade a section of the Aylmer and Bytown Turnpike road. Later in the same year he entered the lumbering business, drawing timber for John Egan, then one of the leading operators. He continued in this branch of the business till 1866, when he secured a limit, 50 miles in extent, on the Chalk river above Pembroke. This limit was worked for square timber till 1864. Mr. Hurdman next secured a limit on the Mattawa, part of one formerly owned by A. H. Baldwin. This was part of the old E. B. Eddy limits, and it is now worked by Mr. Hill. Square timber likewise was secured on this one, as the distance was too great to permit of logs being cut and hauled down.

In 1865 Mr. Hurdman secured a limit, 150 miles in extent, bounded by the Mattawa, Petewawa and Amable du Fond rivers. The present limits of Wm. Mackie, M. P., adjoins the old Hurdman limit. The square timber cut on this limit had to be drawn to the Ottawa river and there formed into rafts, which were floated down to Quebec by wind and current.

Mr. Hurdman was one of the first lumber operators to go up the north branch of the Petewawa river. This was in 1866, and work was carried on above Cedar lake. At this time the late Richard McConnell had limits alongside Mr. Hurdman's on the Petewawa. Wm. Morris, the late Andrew Irving, of Pembroke, and A. & P. White were operating on the south branch. That season the square timber rafted at the mouth of the Petewawa at the opening of navigation did not reach Quebec by way of Ottawa till September 29th. The following year, 1867, Mr. Hurdman pushed on still further and took out square timber on Hurdman's creek, a branch of the Petewawa river. He improved the waterways, but on account of the low water was unable to get his rafts of square timber to Quebec till the following season.

There were five of the Hurdman brothers, William being the oldest. The others were Charles, John, George and Robert. In 1857 the well known Hurdman firm on the cut-kirts of Ottawa, at Hurdman's Bridge, was purchased, and on this George took up his residence, farming in the summer and lumbering in the winter. He died last summer. The farm, which contains 160 acres, was purchased in 1857 for \$2,700. The price now placed on it is \$24,000. John Hurdman died in 1861, and the lumbering operations were carried on by William, Charles and Robert. They were known as "square timber men" till 1879, when they commenced taking out logs for the mill men. Previous to this, in 1872, they purchased limits on the Kippewa from John Wilson. In 1879 the partnership known as Sherman, Lord & Hurdman was formed. In it with the Hurdman brothers were T. E. Lord, of Albany, and Augustus Sherman, of Postdam, N. Y. The firm operated the Cromwell mill in the Chaudiere district, between Hull and Ottawa, the logs being cut by the Hurdman brothers on their limits. In this same year a limit was secured on the Coulouge. From the foregoing it can be seen that the Hurdmans were extensive operators. Each season they forwarded to Quebec four rafts containing about 500,000 cubic feet of white and red pine. The timber cut by them was always select stock, mostly white pine. The last square timber was cut in 1878.

In 1879 Charles G. Hurdman, of Mattawa, and W. H. Hurdman, jr., of Ottawa, entered the partnership, buying out the share of their father, Charles Hurdman. In December, 1884, Sherman died and his son-in-law, Lemon Thompson, succeeded him in the business. About this time a yearly cut of 40,000,000 to 50,000,000 superficial feet was made. The firm was known as Lord, Hurdman & Co. till 1886, when Mr. Lord died. His share was bought out and the firm name changed to R. Hurdman & Co. Mr. Robert Hurdman acted as manager at the mill, and William Hurdman managed the "up river" business, assisted by his nephews.

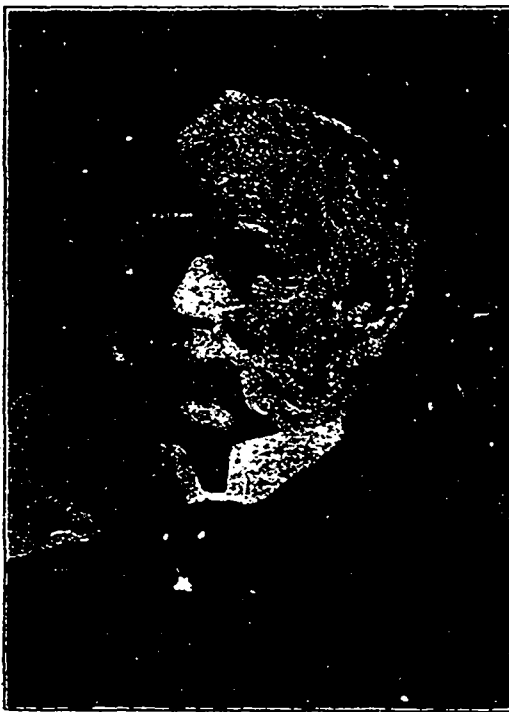
Previous to Mr. Lord's death, however, the firm made

extensive purchases of limits. These were situated on the Maganassippi on the Ottawa at Deux Rivieres, at Bois Fram, and on the Kippewa lakes up the Ottawa. Part of these limits were secured from A. & P. White and J. & G. Bryson.

In 1891 another change was made in the firm, when A. E. Buell, of Burlington, and John C. Orr, of New York, secured part interests. The firm name became Buell, Orr, Hurdman & Co. Other gentlemen who became identified with the business were W. G. White, Albany, F. W. Avery, Ottawa, and C. E. Read, Ottawa, son-in-law of W. H. Hurdman, the subject of this sketch. The latter retired, but was further identified with the Hull Lumber Company till 1896. Charles Hurdman died in 1893.

About this time the celebrated and complicated legal proceedings between the Hurdmans and the other parties mentioned were instituted. The Hull Lumber Company, it is said, was formed under protest from the Hurdmans, who claimed an interest therein, although not recognized as holding any interest by the other parties. The case was not settled till last March. One of the last acts of the late Wm. Hurdman, it is said, was to sign the final document in this celebrated case.

Mr. Hurdman was active despite his 82 years of almost continuous service in the lumber business. He was a man of unimpeachable character and stood high in the esteem of the hundreds who knew him. Up to 1873 he resided in the family residence on the Aylmer road. In that year



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he moved to Hurdman's Bridge, and in 1885 he took up his residence in Ottawa. He was actively identified with municipal politics and was reeve of Gloucester township and a member of the county council. He was a staunch Conservative, and at one time recognized as a lieutenant of the late Sir John A. Macdonald. Mr. Hurdman's intellect was clear and his powers unimpaired till the last.

The generation of lumbermen to which he belonged has narrowed down to few representatives. On the list at different times were Richard and Benjamin Rinaldo, Richard McConnell, John Egan, James and Robert Skead, Wm. Morris, Andrew Irving, Pembroke, John and A. Dunlop, Wm. Mackie, M. P., A. and P. White, Alex. Fraser, Wm. Fairclough, Daniel McLachlin, P. Supple, Pembroke, John Poupore, R. H. and James Klock. Mr. Hurdman leaves a family of one son, W. W. Hurdman, of Hartford, Conn., and three daughters, Mrs. (Dr.) J. F. Kidd, Mrs. C. E. Read, and Mrs. (Rev.) H. H. Stevens, of St. Henri, Montreal. Mr. Geo. C. Hurdman, of the lumber firm of Hurdman & Elmitt, is a nephew.

The annual meeting of the Tracadie Lumber Co., of Tracadie, N. B., was held in Bangor last month at which F. W. Hill was elected president, C. D. Standford treasurer, and H. B. Foster general manager. It was stated that prospects for this year's business are as good as could be wished for. The cut of logs this winter will be about 11,000,000 feet. These, it is expected, will be driven to the mill at a cost of \$1.90 per thousand feet.

THE OTTAWA VALLEY.

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

When King Edward VII visited Ottawa as Prince of Wales and heir apparent in 1860, he was given a welcome by the lumbermen. The arrangements were in the hands of Allan Gilmour, J. M. Carrier, John Egan, and other well known lumber magnates, and they were carried out on an elaborate scale. The Prince came to Ottawa by steamer, and a few miles down the river he was met by a flotilla of canoes and river boats manned by 500 lumbermen and Indians, who cheered lustily when the Prince appeared. These smaller craft raced the steamer up the river landings. Many of the canoes were brought to the occasion, and the men, all of whom sported red shirts, were brought from a considerable distance. While the lumber workers were entertained at the expense of their employers. Hugh bonfires were built and cooked and served to them in the open.

The following day the royal visitor and the members of his distinguished suite enjoyed the unique and entertaining pleasure of a trip through the government slides at Chaudiere on a raft of square timber. He afterwards witnessed a series of boat races. In these crews of different strength competed, two oar up to ten oar races being on the programme. The different lumber firms were represented by crews, and the keenest good natured rivalry prevailed. In one race an Indian crew won, however, from the timber hewers.

The lumbermen also erected an immense and imposing arch near the Suspension bridge at the Chaudiere district, then as now the centre of the industry. This arch was built of square timber, as were several others erected along the principal streets. The future King was presented to Mr. Allan Gilmour with an address from the lumbermen and settlers of the Gatineau district. At the Chaudiere on his way to Arnprior the distinguished tourist was presented with another address on which were conveyed the loyal wishes of 13,000 river men and lumbermen. The presentation took place on a raft, and the address was written on birch bark. The address was unique from the fact that it contained the expression "may you long remain the Prince of Wales." The loyal river men, wishing the heir apparent all joy and a long life, showed their love for his royal mother, whose reign they desired to see long continued. The true hearted feeling had their wish realized, as the Queen reigned for another 30 years. At the time of the Diamond Jubilee one of the gentlemen interested in preparing the address, in presenting it, forwarded another copy to the Prince of Wales renewing the sincere wishes of 1860 then obtained. The Prince in reply stated that he remembered and treasured the circumstance of the first presentation and would convey to the Queen the renewed loyal wishes of the Ottawa lumbermen. The Prince and suite were conveyed from the Chats rapids up the Ottawa river to Arnprior in canoes manned by hardy river men. Arnprior this distinguished guest was entertained by Mr. Lachlin, whose name is also prominently identified with the lumbering interests of the Ottawa Valley.

CHECKING OF BASSWOOD.

A correspondent writes to the American Lumberman as follows: "Would you please give me advice as to how to keep basswood from checking both in logs and square? I have tried different ways, such as putting in a shot of the rain and sun and keeping it with the bark on it, it does not seem to help the difficulty very much." The answer given is that painting the ends, if the process of checking is of enough importance to warrant the expense, will be the best means of overcoming the difficulty.

It is reported that the Ship Harbor Lumber Company, owned by the estate of the late Hon. A. R. Dickey, has been sold to a pulp-making concern.

W. E. Kelley & Company, of Portland, Me., are starting a planing mill to be operated by electricity, and expect it to be second to none of its size. The shafting and exhausters is to be run from a countershaft; instead of tight and loose pulleys the motor will be connected direct to counter, so that when the machine is stopped the exhausters will also be idle. This construction is a view to economy in not having to pay for extra power. There will not be a piece of shafting in the mill, except in the filing room, where one piece, 12 feet long, will be run by one motor, the filing room tools being belted to this shaft.