



A PROMINENT Ottawa lumberman was asked a few days ago when he thought the log drive would commence. "Ask me something easy," he replied. "I know a little something about lumbering operations, but when you come to ask me when the drive will commence, I must plead ignorance, for the commencement of the drive is one of the unknown things, for everything depends on the weather. If we had an extraordinary early break up it might begin the 1st of April, and if it was strangely late it might not begin before the 1st of May. Everything depends on the weather. Ordinary seasons, the drives in the up river sections are started about the 15th of April. "But come to think of it, it may be a little earlier this year than usual because the ice is very poor and I think will disappear rapidly once the spring thaw sets in." "How about the price of lumber this summer?" "Oh, I don't think there will be any change from last season's figures as conditions are about the same. Things are brightening up in the United States, and I think we should have a fairly good season. As to whether the tariff comes off or keeps on it will make but a very fractional difference. From all I can see I think we should have a reasonably busy season."

Government Statistician Johnson has prepared a comprehensive report to the minister of finance regarding the growth and extent of the lumber trade in Canada. Referring to the demand for an export duty on logs as necessary to the preservation of our lumber resources, Hon. Mr. Foster said: "During the coming session the government will not consider itself debarred from taking the course that is shown to be imperatively necessary because any persons have last year or this year, on the existing state of things, bought limits or invested in timber lands in our country."

Mr. E. C. Grant, of Ottawa, manager of the Ottawa Lumber Company, says, "The prospects of the lumber trade were excellent. A marked improvement had taken place this year, the American market was flat, but the English market, which had been dead for the last few seasons, had shown great signs of revival, and, in his opinion, the trade with England will be excellent during this year. One marked incident this season is that the great American contracts for lumber to be cut during the summer, which are usually made in February, have not been entered into owing to the Wilson tariff bill. These contracts will be made later on. As regards the season's output Mr. Grant thinks the cut will be larger than ever, and his own company will make a heavy increase over last season."

Frank McDonald, who recently returned from a business trip to the camps of the Ontario Lumber Co., says the snow was seven feet deep on the level. He says: "There was only the one track. When we met a loaded team we had to unhitch our horses and get them off the road and upset our sleigh off the track to let the loaded team past. When two teams with loads met they divided up the beaten track, the horses being hitched up in tandem fashion until the sleighs pass each other. No one unless by actual experience can understand the difficulty in getting off a beaten track where snow is seven feet deep. In our journey we saw great numbers of deer. In some places they were thick as cattle in a barnyard. I saw Indians shooting many of them but had no time for sport myself."

W. J. McFaul, son of H. A. McFaul, Hillier, was cutting saw logs on his place in Ameliasburgh a few days ago when his axe struck a file about a foot long, which was embedded in the timber. How it got there in that

shape is a mystery. Not far from that place in the same woods Mr. McFaul found a sum of money. The money had been placed in quite a large tree. The top of the tree being dead it was decided best to cut it into fuel. When splitting the first length a package was exposed to view. A hole had been bored in the tree about six inches deep with an inch and a half auger, and the money placed therein. The hole had been completely covered by a growth of wood and bark. The contents of the package was as follows. One \$10 bill, one \$1 bill, one 50c. piece, two 25c. pieces, one 10c. piece and two 5c. pieces. The money had been well preserved and was all good.

There is now in the river, says a Chaudiere lumberman, large quantities of logs which fill almost every boom for a long distance up the Ottawa. On the upper Ottawa there are five large rafts of square timber owned by Messrs. Barnett and Mackay, A. Fraser and Klock. These will, in all probability, be conveyed down to the Quebec market quite early in the season. There will not be many rafts of square timber on the Ottawa this year as the winter season was most detrimental to the taking out of large timber whether for dimension cutting or logs. It is safe to say that the amount of logs which will come down from the upper shanties this year will be less than that of 1893. Just what the difference may amount to is impossible to know just now. It is said on good authority that the cut of lumber in the saw mills of this city and Hull will not this year be so materially altered by the small cut of logs in the lumber camps along the Ottawa valley.

A California reader of the LUMBERMAN sends a bit of history of Mr. Robert Dollar, who has recently purchased a large interest in the Usal Lumber Company, and becomes general manager at a salary that would knock the salary-economists of the city hall dizzy. I am inclined to think that even some of the fat-fee-fed-officers of the Ontario government, to quote from the speeches of her Majesty's loyal opposition, would simply be no where along side of Mr. Dollar. But "Dollars" count, and especially when they are Canadian "Dollars," and the circulating locality is the United States. The Republic to the south of us owes much of its prosperity to brain and energy that has come from this side of the line. The name Dollar was for years a familiar one in Canada in lumbering circles. Readers of these lines will remember the late Mr. John Dollar, who was for years identified with the lumber interests of Midland, where he built his first mill, and later united with Mr. H. H. Cook, and others, operating as the Ontario Lumber Company. In 1889, John Dollar removed to San Rafael, Cal., and engaged in the lumber business there, meeting his death in his Pacific Coast home in August, 1892. Jas. Dollar was a brother, who until about a year ago resided in Bracebridge, where he carried on a lumbering business. He was like the other members of the family highly respected, and at the time he left for San Rafael, Cal., to take up his residence there, he was serving his second term as Mayor of that flourishing town. We have now before us a third member of the Dollar family—Robert Dollar. His chief operations before going to the Pacific Coast were in Michigan, though he had been a large shipper of Canadian woods, as well as those of Michigan, to foreign ports. Mr. Dollar has been a large shipper of sugar pine from the Pacific Coast, and the story is told of him that knowing that should he ship sugar pine direct from the Pacific Coast the dealers abroad wouldn't know what the blowed stuff was, and maybe would not touch it with a pole. So he cut the sugar pine logs into deals, shipped them to Quebec, thence to a foreign market branded as Michigan deals, and asked for a special report on them. The reply was that they were a very fair sample of wide Michigan deals. That the quality was first-class, and that the softness and fine texture of the wood was a surprise. Thus it was that Mr. Dollar showed how far he had developed Yankee cuteness, and at the same time did a good stroke of business. Having made the right impression for his sugar pine, Mr. Dollar now sends his sugar pine to the foreign markets on its merits, his three-inch deals going direct to London and Liverpool.

## AN OBJECT LESSON.

PEOPLE who do not believe that forest growths have any particular effect on streams are pointed to the present condition of the Muskegon river, in Michigan. Years ago, when lumbermen first began cutting the pine along its course, it was an ideal logging stream, deep and of even flow. To-day with the forests practically cut away from it, it is a comparatively shallow stream. When the primitive forests lined its banks it was little subjected to floods; now it rises and falls quickly, like any other stream that has no heavy forest growths to conserve the waterfall along its course.

## CANADIAN LOGS FOR MICHIGAN.

F. W. FLETCHER, of Alpena, Mich., states that Alpena will receive about 40,000,000 feet of logs from Canada the ensuing summer. There is in Thunder Bay waters about 75,000,000 feet of old logs and nearly as many new ones have been put in this winter, which will give the Alpena mills a full stock. He says that Alpena manufacturers are carrying over about 50,000,000 feet of lumber and trade has been on its back with them during the winter, but there is some inquiry now, and they are disposed to the idea that the stuff will be wanted later on. He says the cedar business has been carried on more extensively this winter than ever before on the Huron Shore, and this has given employment to labor, so that there have been very few idle men. A large quantity of cedar railway ties has been gotten out, besides poles and posts.

## TRADE NOTES.

The F. E. Dixon Belting Co., of this city, have issued a hand-book of useful information about leather belting, that ought to be, it seems to us, in possession of every man who finds a leather belt a necessary part of the equipment of his mill. And what mill can get along without leather belting? Their little book contains a variety of mechanical tables that are practically invaluable to all interested in mechanics.

The Canadian agency for the famous "Camel" brand belting manufacturers, is now in the hands of Mr. Fleming, of Montreal, who succeeds Mr. Fenwick, the former representative. A contract from the city of Montreal for a round lot of fire hose has just been awarded to Mr. Fleming.

## NEWS AND NOTES.

Dickenson's mill at Staples, Ont., started running on 2nd inst.

Shaw, of Windfall, Ont., has sold his saw mill to C. Mills, of Wheatley, Ont.

Over 2,000 feet of shingle bolts were burned recently at Allen's saw mill, Crossland, Ont.

D. E. Sprague, Winnipeg, has returned from his lumber camp on the Rosseau river. He states that the winter has been a splendid one to get out logs, and his cut has been the largest he has ever made.

Mr. Geo. Webber, cooper, who recently bought a large quantity of oak timber from Mr. Lakins, Freelon, Ont., found among the lot one tree which measured 42 feet to the first limb, 5 feet in diameter at the butt, and only 11 inches less where it was cut at the top. The tree, according to the rings, was 349 years old.

The largest contract for cutting timber ever made in the Duluth district has just been entered into by the Siskiwit Lumber Co., and the Cranberry Lumber Co. The Siskiwit has given the Cranberry Co. the contract for cutting 100,000,000 feet of logs in the vicinity of Cranberry river, the money consideration being half a million dollars.

The saw mills at Young Point, Ont., are getting into active work. Mr. C. Young's mill is cutting plank for the Peterborough Waterwork's dam and also custom logs for farmers and others. Austin Dunn's shingle mill has commenced work for the season. W. J. Young has taken out a large quantity of saw logs this winter, and about three hundred cords of beech and maple on the lots he purchased last winter from the Lakeside Lumber Co., in the township of Harvey. I. A. Gordon, and J. M. Godfrey are also taking out quite a quantity of stuff from same locality.