

DESERONTO.

A GREAT WOOD CENTRE—RATHBURN & SON'S EXTENSIVE OPERATIONS—WHAT ENTERPRIZERS AND ENERGY HAVE DONE.

About the year 1848 H. B. Rathbun, Esq., arrived in these parts, seeking a site to establish himself in the lumbering business. Picton, Napanee, Belleville and other points were all approached in turn, but none would offer a suitable site or hold out sufficient inducements to secure the location of his business, and he consequently settled at Culbertson's. Facts have since proven that in giving Mr. R. the cold shoulder, is just when the other corporations missed their golden opportunity.

ITS GROWTH.

The original saw mill, which was of a primitive character, was soon found to be entirely inadequate for the requirements of their business, and was therefore replaced by one of a more approved pattern, and supplied with better machinery. In the year 1872 this mill with the other shops which had been added, together with the lumber surrounding them, was entirely consumed by fire, but the buildings and machinery were immediately replaced by a more substantial structure, fitted up with all the economical and labor-saving machinery known to the business.

THE BIG MILL.

As it at present stands, is built of stone, covered with an iron roof, and with the excellent facilities for avoiding and overcoming fire, is as safe from the destructive element as it is possible to make it. The size of the main building is 173x137 feet. The sawing floor is 145 feet long by 90 feet wide. The sawing machinery consists of 165 gang saws, and 38 small circulars, for edging, making lath, etc. The machinery for handling the logs is the most effective and economical in time and labor known to the business, while the arrangements for sorting and carrying off the manufactured lumber and the refuse is complete. An elevated railway was constructed a little over a year ago for conveying the edgings, etc., to the adjacent wharves for convenient shipment to the steamers which use them as fuel, and for shipment to other places where large quantities are consumed as firewood. The product of the mill for the year 1881 will be at least 28,000,000 feet of pine lumber, besides lath, barrel heads and short lumber, running by day only. Not a single inch of lumber which is adapted to any use is allowed to go to waste, and even the sawdust is henceforth to be utilized and turned into a valuable commodity which will give it a market value.

DRY KILNS.

South of the mill are five large dry kilns for the quick seasoning of lumber. The bay, in the immediate vicinity of the mill, furnishes ample storage room for the large quantity of logs required to keep the mills in operation during the season.

BLACKSMITH SHOP AND BOILER ROOM.

Adjoining the "big mill" and to the east of it is the blacksmith shop and boiler rooms. These are filled with the best machinery, such as steam hammers, etc., for the building of the largest boilers and other machinery, and making necessary repairs. A large staff of skilled mechanics are employed.

MACHINE SHOP.

If there is one department in which Messrs. Rathbun endeavor to excel, it is in their machinery department. No trouble or expense is counted loss in securing the services of the most skilled artisans, to perfect not only the machinery of their own establishment, but of the steam vessels which are entrusted to their workmanship. Some of the very best marine engines employed on the bay and lake service are from this establishment, and the satisfaction which they are giving is the best proof of their excellence. They are at present engaged upon a large double engine to be placed in a freight and passenger propeller now on the ways, and to be employed by the Deseronto Navigation Company, between Oswego and the bay ports. Repairs are promptly executed in this department, and already the firm has established a wide reputation among marine men.

PLANING MILL AND SASH AND DOOR FACTORY.

To the north of the machine shop is the planing mill and sash and door factory. This is an industry which has been in operation only a

short time, but it promises soon to rival even the big mill in the range of its products, and its importance to the future of this place. A trade in this line has been opened up with Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, and other countries, and as the foreign demand is practically unlimited and is constantly increasing, the possibilities of this trade cannot be estimated. Shipments are made weekly to all parts of the globe, and the facilities for production have to be constantly increased to meet the demand. The following is the product of this mill during 1880:—

Doors	25,000
Turned Maple Rods	60,000 pieces.
Chair Stretchers	100,000 "
Mouldings	100,000 feet.
Broom Handles	75,000
Window Sash	7,000
Blinds	4,500
Matched Flooring	3,000,000 feet.

This year they will turn out lath, 10,000,000; doors, 40,000; besides sash, mouldings, &c. A large part of the above was exported to European countries and the antipodes.

To the east of the collection of mills is located the

SHIP YARD

where on an average about forty men are constantly employed, and a large number of steam and sailing vessels have been constructed during the past few years. Perhaps half of the bay fleet now employed in the bay and lake trade is from this yard, and the industry is increasing year by year. A large freight and passenger propeller is now on the way, and it is expected she will be completed for business some time in August, to be ready for the fall trade. An immense repairing business is done at this yard.

THE CEDAR MILL

is located just east of the ship yard. Unlike the "big mill" this is kept in operation throughout the year, and the amount of manufactured material turned out is enormous. For the season of 1881, they expect to turn out 12,000,000 feet of ties and lumber.

Besides the above the Messrs. Rathbun & Son have contracts for the delivery of cedar ties and lumber from outside mills amounting to 10,000,000 feet.

During the year 1881 they will manufacture 20,000,000 shingles.

OTHER MILLS.

Besides the above mills Messrs. Rathbun & Son own the Eagle Mills at Ferry Point, and the Walbridge at Shannonville is operated for them. At the former they will saw 12,000,000 feet of lumber this year, and at the latter 75,000 feet. The magnitude of all the figures—the product of Messrs. Rathbun's Mills, can be scarcely comprehended even by those who are accustomed to lumbering operations on a large scale, for instance we have the

Big Mill	28,000,000
Cedar Mill, ties and lumber	12,000,000
Eagle Mill	12,000,000
Walbridge's Mill	750,000
Contract for ties and lumber	10,000,000

Making a grand total of 62,750,000 feet of lumber and ties, besides the lath, shingles, doors, sash, blinds, moulding and other goods which are in constant course of manufacture. In their mills at Deseronto they now employ about 500 men, and in all their operations about 1,500 hands on the average are kept constantly employed. The operations of the firm are amazing to the novice, and an inspection of the mills and factories is always interesting. We have several times had the pleasure of visiting the mills, and have always found both proprietors and employees willing, courteous and obliging to visitors, and those who can make it convenient to visit the village and make a tour of inspection will be well repaid for their trouble.

We almost forgot to mention that the logs that will be brought down the Napanee, Moira and Trent waters this year by the firm will aggregate 300,000 pieces, besides 125,000 pieces of cedar, timber and floats.

THE STABLES.

An important adjunct to the other interests of the place is the stables of the firm. These are located just east of the road and are the most extensive and complete in their equipment of any to be found in the province. The stable is 40x140 feet—two stories high, with horse fork and other apparatus for hoisting feed, and is

provided with granary, root cellar, harness room, straw cutter, etc. About eighty horses and mules are kept stabled here, and from an inspection of the stock we know that the firm has some of the finest draft horses in the district. They also keep some good road stock. The animals are kept in excellent condition.

THE GRIST MILL.

This is Messrs. Rathbun and Son's latest enterprise, and it is one of the greatest importance. The mill is situated in the eastern portion of the village Deseronto, and is a substantial stone structure, 45x70 feet, four stories in height the stories ranging from twelve to sixteen feet high. At the north end of the building is the engine-room, also of stone, 40x40 feet. To the south or rear of the mill, on the water front is the elevator, entirely sheeted with iron, 60x60 feet, forty-five feet high, and surrounded by a cupola twenty feet high. This elevator has a storage capacity of 45,000 bushels, and the mill is supplied with wheat from it by means of an iron screw conveyor, which passes into the mill in the third storey. About sixty-five feet west of the mill is a bran and flour warehouse, 40x60 feet, forty-five feet high. The upper portion is used for the storage of bran, and has a capacity of 400 tons, while the lower portion is intended for a flour warehouse, having the capacity for from 1800 to 2,000 barrels. This mill operates on a system which is entirely new in the Dominion at least, and very few such mills are in operation on this continent. Instead of employing stones in grinding, the kernel is crushed, by means of a series of iron rollers revolving at great speed, and which gradually reduce the grain to flour of the finest and purest grade. This mill has twelve sets of these rolls, and is regarded by milling experts as one of the most complete on the continent. The sample of flour turned out in every day work equals the finest brands manufactured, and is, in every way, of superior quality. The mill is now turning out daily an average of 125 barrels. In an article upon this mill the *Milling World* says:—

"The mill, in the fullest sense of the word, is a model, and reflects credit upon its proprietors for the liberal spirit evinced in its fitting up, and upon its designer for the perfect manner in which every portion of the machinery performs its allotted functions. The Deseronto mills are unquestionably far in advance of home competition. The Messrs. Rathbun are to be congratulated upon the ownership of the finest mills in Canada."

The location of these mills in our midst is an advantage which should be appreciated by both producers and consumers. The quality of flour produced is unquestionably the finest and best in the market. Another advantage is that farmers taking their grists to the mill will immediately have the proper amount of flour weighed out to them, and may return to their homes without delay.

THE GRAIN ELEVATOR

adjoining the grist mill is also a public accommodation which the people of this district are not slow to appreciate, as it increases competition for their staples, and enables them to get full value for their productions.

THE COAL TRADE.

Messrs. Rathbun & Son engage largely in the coal trade and have coal sheds at Deseronto, Belleville, Napanee, Kingston, Gananoque and other points. Last year they handled about 20,000 tons of coal, and the prospects are they will handle a much larger amount this year.

THE DOCKS.

Nowhere are the improvements which Messrs. Rathbun & Son have effected in Deseronto more noticeable than in the magnificent docks and wharves which they have constructed. These now reach over a mile and a half in length, and are of the most substantial character, having been built for permanency and not for temporary accommodation. These are constantly filled with huge piles of lumber, and it is a rare thing indeed for a visitor to call at the village and fail to find vessels loading lumber therefrom for foreign parts. The steamboat landing and storeroom is the principal point of attraction, but our space will not admit of a detailed description of this. Suffice it to say that it is one of the most convenient and com-

modious on the Bay. They have also extensive docks at Belleville, Napanee, Kingston, Gananoque and other places. Directly opposite the steamboat wharf is an immense coal shed, of very substantial construction.

THE BIG STORE.

Messrs. Rathbun & Son are also the proprietors of a large store in the village, through which they supply their employees and the public with everything from a needle to an anchor.

BANKING.

The firm has also within the past few months added banking to their other business, which is found to be a great accommodation to the people of the village.

THE OFFICE.

Their offices are at present located in a two storey building between the big mill and the steamboat wharf, but we are informed that the firm contemplate erecting, at no distant date, a large and commodious suite of offices possessed of more conveniences than the present business quarters.

Every department in their mills is connected with Mr. Rathbun's private office by means of a Bell telephone, so that orders and directions may be given promptly by word of mouth.

DESERONTO NAVIGATION COMPANY.

The business of the firm of Messrs. Rathbun & Son is of itself sufficient to keep a whole fleet of steam and sailing vessels employed. Until very recently, nearly the whole of their immense transportation business was done by steamers owned by the firm. Last year, however, a new company styled the "Deseronto Navigation Company," was organized, composed principally of Messrs. Rathbun & Sons and their employees, and the principal steamers are now under control of the company. The principal of these are the steamers *Armenia*, between Deseronto and Ogdensburg, tri-weekly; the *Deseronto*, between Picton and Trenton, daily; the *Pilgrim*, between Deseronto and Napanee, and the steam barge *Norman*. The Company has another large propeller on the way which, it is expected, will be completed in August. She is intended for passengers and freight, and will be run between Oswego and Bay ports. The engines have been constructed in Messrs. Rathbun & Son's machine shops, and are nearly ready to be set up. R. C. Carter, Esq., is manager of the Company, and the steamers being swift and commodious, and so placed that they make sure and convenient connections, they are fast becoming popular with the travelling public. The route of the *Armenia*, passing through the Thousand Islands by daylight, both going and returning, is particularly pleasant. F. S. Rathbun, Esq., is Secretary-Treasurer of the Company.

THE FARM

Messrs. Rathbun & Son have, within the past two or three years, added a magnificent farm to the other industries. The farm is located immediately north of the village, and contains two hundred and thirty acres of the very best arable land to be found in this favored agricultural district. An experienced manager has been engaged, and already the transformation that has taken place is amazing to those who have been content to spend their lives plodding along on the old system. Messrs. Rathbun & Son have undertaken to test the value of scientific farming in Canada. They have some excellent thoroughbred stock, and in every respect the farming operations are carried on in the most approved principle. It will not take many years for Messrs. Rathbun & Son to make their farm the model of the Bay district, if not the Province. Like every other department of their business, the aim is to make the farm self-sustaining, and we are assured this object will not be lost sight of in its management, as is too often the case in farming on scientific principles.

RAILWAY CONNECTION.

Until now Deseronto has depended entirely upon water communication for their intercourse with the outside world, but it has been a fact patent to all that this state of affairs would not be long tolerated. Last year the village granted a handsome bonus to secure connection with the Grand Trunk Railway, and with the promptness which marks all their enterprises, the contract for grading has already been given out, the ties are upon the route, and in a few weeks—two or