

OTTAWA LETTER.

(Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

Mr. Alexander Fraser, the well known lumberman of Westmeath, who recently took up his residence in Ottawa, has commenced to invest capital in enterprises that will tend, no doubt, to build up the city. He is the leading figure in the erection of a \$20,000 vault in the central portion of the city for the storing by the public of valuable documents and articles.

Mr. J. R. Booth has decided to begin the sawing of dimension timber at his Chaudiere mill. Machinery suitable for this work is being put in. The timber will be cut in the new addition to the mill built on the west end of the site of the old mill.

The completion of the Ottawa, Arnprior and Parry Sound Railway will prove of considerable benefit to Ottawa Valley lumbermen, passing, as it will, through a well timbered section of the country. Upwards of one million dollars will be spent during this year on its construction.

Mr. H. K. Egan returned recently from a trip to his limits on the Pittawawa, where a steam log roller is about to be operated. When Mr. Egan left, the roller was only being taken from the railway station to the woods. The result of its operations is regarded as a matter of importance by the lumbermen here, and will be eagerly sought.

After returning from a trip through the Ottawa lumbering district, Mr. R. Hurdman stated that the winter was very favorable for work in the woods. There were not so many men engaged in that district as last winter, and as a result the output would not be so large. He calculated that the output would be about half a million logs less than last year. This would not curtail the manufacture of lumber, however, as the leading mill-owners had large quantities of reserve logs in the rivers.

It is understood that the deputation of pulp manufacturers which waited upon the Government with the view to having an export duty imposed on pulp-wood, received every assurance from the Government that the matter would receive their earnest consideration. A number of gentlemen composing the deputation expressed themselves highly pleased with the favorable manner with which the ministers received the representatives. Mr. F. H. Clergue, of the Sault Ste. Marie Pulp Mills, submitted a strong argument why the Government should impose the export duty. He pointed out the great natural resources Canada had in spruce, and the big advantage Americans were taking by its free entry into their country. About 15,000 men were employed in the United States in manufacturing into pulp the wood taken from Canada, and there was no reason why nearly all this employment should not be given to men in this country, and with an export duty this would be gradually accomplished.

OTTAWA, Ont., Feb. 24, 1896.

NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER.

(Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

LOG DRIVING CONTRACT.

A LARGELY attended meeting of the log owners along the St. John river was held at Fredericton, on the 29th of January, to consider the contract with Messrs. Moore for log driving from Grand Falls to Fredericton. Among those present were: W. H. Murray, C. F. Woodman, Henry Hilyard, H. R. McLellan, James Holly, J. Fraser Gregory, C. P. Baker, Geo. B. Dunn, Geo. Cushing, A. P. Barnhill, W. C. Purvis, Horace King, St. John; John A. Morrison, Donald Fraser, jr., R. A. Estey, Allen Randolph, Fredericton; Fred H. Hale, Woodstock; G. R. Britt, D. H. Nixon, David Keswick, J. E. McCallum, Hartland; John McSweeney, B. W. Mallett, W. H. Cunliffe, Fort Kent; L. W. Pond, Edmundston; A. J. Beveridge, Andover. Henry Hilyard was appointed chairman, and J. Fraser Gregory secretary.

The meeting was a lively one, and much discussion took place, some of the up-river lumbermen complaining of the manner in which their lumber had been treated the past season, and expressing the opinion that the up-river districts were not sufficiently represented on the board. It was pointed out by the St. John directors that they were doing the work without remuneration of any kind, and having their private business to look after, they could not be expected to give the matter as much attention as its importance deserved.

After considerable discussion the following resolution, moved by B. W. Hallett and seconded by J. A. Morrison,

was unanimously adopted: "It is the opinion of this meeting that the log owners regret that Messrs. Moore did not satisfactorily perform their driving contract during the season of 1895, and would therefore be glad to relieve the Messrs. Moore of further performance by cancellation of the contract."

Another resolution, moved by A. H. F. Randolph and seconded by T. H. Hale, was adopted. "Inasmuch as it is the opinion of this meeting that the Messrs. Moore did not satisfactorily perform their driving contract for 1895; therefore, resolved, that the directors of the Log Driving Co. be authorized to negotiate with them for the surrender of their contract."

The contract held by Messrs. Moore is for a period of three years, and cannot be withdrawn without their consent. Several claims for damages have been made, which will be considered at the annual meeting of the St. John Log Driving Company, who hold bonds from the contractors for \$10,000 for the faithful performance of the work.

THE MASTERMAN PULP MILL.

The extensive pulp mill recently erected on the Miramichi, at Mill Cove, N. B., by Mr. William Masterman, cost upwards of \$100,000. It consists of seven buildings, and is one of the most complete establishments in the province. The walls of the digesting building, which is 84 by 32 feet, are built of free stone to a height of 30 feet, while the structure, 60 feet above, is of wood. The store-room is 100 by 50 feet, and the paper mill rooms adjoining 150 by 50 feet, while to the rear of these is the engine and boiler buildings, 100 by 40 feet in extent. There are two other buildings, measuring 20 by 100 and 50 by 40 feet. The large digester building has a tank house of one storey, adjoining, measuring 84 by 30 feet. This last is connected with the waters of the Miramichi by a slip 240 feet in length. The new mill will be as large as any similar establishment on the continent. The largest in the United States will turn out 50 tons of wet pulp per day, while this one will make 30 tons of dry pulp in the same time, wet pulp being 30 and 40 per cent. moisture. Some two million feet of logs have already been contracted for, in connection with the mill.

BITS OF LUMBER.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie has submitted to the Provincial Parliament his annual report on Crown Lands.

Mr. Benson, the representative for the Waterous Company in this province, is meeting with good success in the sale of band mills.

Mr. Cushing's new mill at Pleasant Point will commence operations about the last of March. The band saws and shafting are now being placed in position.

The machinery is now being placed in W. C. Purves new mill at Carleton. He is putting in a single gang, and expects to have the mill running early in the spring.

ST. JOHN, N.B., Feb. 24, 1896.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

(Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

DURING the past month the lumbermen of this province have experienced a revival of trade, which, for the season of the year, is most encouraging. There has been considerable local demand, but the export trade has furnished the basis for congratulation. At the time of writing, thirteen vessels are loading lumber at the various ports for foreign countries, four being destined for Australia, three for the United Kingdom, one for South Africa, one for South America, three for China and one for Chili. The local lumbermen anticipate that quite an extensive foreign trade will be done during the present year, and present conditions would seem to justify their anticipations.

A number of our mill men have become members of the recently-organized Central Lumber Company, which proposes to take such steps as will place the lumber business of the coast on a more satisfactory basis as regards prices. It is probable that, at an early date, an advance in prices will take place. It is held that employers will pay higher wages as a result thereof, and that the timber men will get better prices for their logs.

The Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Co. held their annual meeting in Victoria a fortnight ago. Directors were elected as follows: J. A. Humbird, E. J. Palmer, W. J. Macaulay, John E. Glover and W. H. Phipps. The new officers are: President, J. A. Humbird; vice-president, W. J. Macaulay; secretary, W. H. Phipps; assistant secretary and general manager, E. J. Palmer;

treasurer, D. C. Fulton. It is said that the company, in view of a good foreign trade, have decided to reopen the Chemainus saw mill, which has been closed for three years.

COAST CHIPS.

Messrs. Tingley and Wilband recently purchased the Silverdale saw mill.

The Buckeye Lumber Company, of Spokane, is said to be backing E. H. Ragland in building a saw mill at Rossland.

The Royal City Mills, of New Westminster, recently shipped to Nova Scotia the second lot of big fir spars, for which this company has long been famous. This lot are 75 feet in length, and square 19 inches at the butt.

The Pacific Coast Lumber Co., of New Westminster, recently put in new wood-working machinery, which is said to be giving first-class satisfaction. By its use cedar lumber is being manufactured into various shapes.

A number of improvements have recently been made to the Royal City Planing Mills, of Vancouver, including a new iron dry kiln and a new boiler. The mill will now cut 100,000 feet per day. Upwards of 200 men are employed at the mill.

The Brunette saw mills, which were burned last year, have been rebuilt, and recently commenced cutting. Mr. John Wilson, president of the company, says that he intends engaging once more in the foreign export trade, and, if shut out of the United States markets by tariff changes, will find a market for the surplus output of the mill in other foreign countries.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C., Feb. 20, 1896.

MICHIGAN LETTER.

(Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

Mr. E. D. Cowles, an acknowledged authority on lumber matters, has completed figures showing the output of the Saginaw river mills during 1895. The cut for the season aggregated 433,683,083 feet, the smallest since 1868. In 1894 it was 481,000,000 feet. At the close of last year manufacturers alone had on hand 271,531,851 feet of lumber, of which only 30,090,400 feet were reported sold for future delivery. Adding the amount estimated to be carried by retail yards, the total stocks would reach about 550,000,000 feet. Because of the dullness of the market, many saw mills were permitted to remain idle. Shingle manufacturers experienced much the same conditions during last year, prices ranging about \$1 per thousand lower than usual during the entire season. The total amount manufactured during the season was 52,845,000, the amount on hand at the close of the season being 26,211,250.

The organization of the Michigan Maple Lumber Company was effected on the 5th ultimo. Over fifty hardwood firms are represented, and nearly every operator in northern Michigan has consented to join the Association. The membership represents an annual output of 125,000,000 feet of hardwood. The Association will have permanent offices in Traverse City, and members will make sales through the main office, which will be in charge of the secretary and president, under control of the board of directors. The board will appoint a chief inspector, who will appoint local inspectors. Every member must make monthly reports of stock on hand, sales and cut, and when sales are made 2½ per cent. goes to the general fund.

INDIFFERENT LENGTHS.

Three train loads of logs per day are being hauled from Montmorency county to Alpena.

Arrangements are progressing favorably for the third annual meeting of the National Wholesale Lumber Dealers' Association, to be held at Saginaw on the 4th and 5th inst.

Messrs. Alger, Smith & Co., of Saginaw, are winding up the business of rafting long timber from Black river. The firm began rafting in 1882, the annual output ranging from 70,000,000 to 90,000,000 feet annually until last year, when it dropped to 47,000,000 feet. They have large holdings in the Georgian Bay district.

Mr. F. W. Gilchrist, of Alpena, will engage extensively in the manufacture of hardwood lumber. He is making large purchases along the line of the Detroit and Mackinaw railroad, principally of maple, birch, elm and basswood. This timber will be cut at Alpena and shipped to Gilchrist & Co.'s planing mills at Cleveland, Ohio, where it will be worked into flooring, inside finish, etc.

SAGINAW, Mich., Feb. 24, 1896.