

OTTAWA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

MUCH has been said and written here at various times about the sawdust nuisance of the Ottawa river. Protests in the House of Commons, and out of it, have been entered, and the law has, at different times been called into requisition to abate this alleged nuisance. But the mills here grind out the sawdust in as large quantities as ever, and it finds a home in the Ottawa river as usual. A fresh effort to remedy the trouble is now being made in the case of Ratte v. Booth, a petition to the Privy Council of Canada having been prepared, asking that the sawdust nuisance in the Ottawa river be ended. It alleges that these deposits of sawdust constitute a serious interference with the public rights of navigation, that they lower the value of property along the banks of the river and are liable to cause increasing damage as time passes. It is suggested in the petition that the refuse of saw mills can be economically utilized or the destruction thereof easily and successfully accomplished. It is asked of the government to place Ottawa river, between the Chaudiere falls and McKay's bay and the Gatineau river, from the mill pond above Gilmour & Co.'s mill at Chelsea, to its mouth, under the provisions of the Fisheries Act and the Act for the Protection of Navigable Waters. The latter of the statutes expressly declares that no owner or tenant of any saw mill or any workman therein or other person shall throw sawdust, edgings, slabs or rubbish into any navigable river or stream. The extent to which the river is being obstructed by the sawdust is not commonly known, but the engineer of the Gatineau Valley railway in making soundings recently between Nepean point and Hull found 68 feet of sawdust in the bottom of the river.

INDIFFERENT LENGTHS.

The fear grows that a good many logs on the smaller streams will be "hung up" owing to a lack of water.

The ice has gone out of the Ottawa but there is no perceptible rise of the water.

Towing in the Ottawa, between Ottawa and the Chats lake, is now in full swing. The tugs have begun taking down the logs of the lake, most of which, however, are of last year's drives.

Both big and little mills of the Bronson & Weston Lumber Company are cutting, giving employment to about 300 hands.

Green lumber is beginning to come up in large quantities from the lower yard of the Canada Atlantic railway at the Chaudiere. The majority of the piling grounds at Rochester-ville, Stewartson and Hurdman's are pretty well filled up on account of the slackness of shipping during the past winter.

OTTAWA, Can., April 26, 1894.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THE lumber trade, at least the shingle manufacturers, are somewhat agitated over the news that has reached them from Puget Sound, that the shingle association there has decided to cut the prices of shingles 10c. per thousand. Manufacturers here realize, unless they are ready to make a similar cut, that the Puget Sound shingle men will capture a large amount of their trade with Manitoba and the North-West, especially since the change in tariff, removing the duty of shingles. It is calculated that under this arrangement American manufacturers would be able to discount British Columbia men by about 30c. per thousand. Just what the decision of our shingle men will be, it is a little difficult to say, as this unanimity of prices fixed by the British Columbia association was expected to level up the losses that had been made by over production and ruinous competition in shingles in this province for some time past. Duty on shingles under the old tariff was 20% ad valorem, which was sufficient to keep American shingles out of the market.

COST OF LUMBERING.

The lumber trade, altogether, in the province is not in the healthiest condition. We have suffered, as do all new provinces, with over production and a cutting of prices that is usually to be associated with this practice. The volume of business during the past year has been considerable, but for the reason stated it has not been done at much profit. We learn that pine in Ontario is being sold at \$7.00 on the stump. Our magnificent timbers do not net perhaps more than that f. o. b. Considerable of our lumber goes to Australia in cargo, but largely on speculation. It is sold by auction, and does not net the mills more than about \$7.25 per thousand feet. It is calculated that it costs \$4.00 to bring these immense logs from stump to the mill. Government dues are 50c. Sawing costs \$2.00, so that the cost of production almost touches \$7.00. Time will probably remedy these evils, for if there is any truth in the forestry estimates that are made of the amount of timber in other parts of the Dominion, and particularly in Ontario, it cannot be a

great while before the rest of the Dominion will have to look to British Columbia for their supplies. In the meantime, we do, as other youngsters do, as you have done in Ontario, I fancy, act prodigal-like with our riches.

COAST CHIPS.

A number of new charters are reported, including the British ship Astoria, to load lumber at the Hastings mill. The British ship Grace Harwar, now at Yokohama, and the British bark Xanthippe, at Honolulu, these also to load at the Hastings mill. The American schooner Aida, and the Chilean bark India, are loading at Moodyville. Ship "Thermopylae," of Victoria, Capt. Winchester, is loading 800 at B. S. M. Co., for Shanghai, some sticks measuring 22 x 22 x 100 and 82 x 24 x 100.

Mr. S. M. Wharton is building a sawmill at New Denver.

Messrs. Bailey & Sparks sawmill, Vancouver, was burnt on 7th inst., loss about \$2,000.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., April 25, 1894.

NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THE mills are commencing to resume operations. 2,000,000 feet are being cut by Barnhill for the Australian market. King Bros' mill, it is said, will be idle this summer.

At the annual meeting of the St. John River Log Driving Company, the following officers were elected. President, C. F. Woodman; secretary-treasurer, J. F. Gregory; directors, C. F. Woodman, David Keswick, George Barnhill, John A. Morrison, Robert Connors. The company expects to handle 100,000,000 feet of logs this season.

A number of export shipments have gone forward during the month including about 100,000 feet of deals for Belfast, Ireland, 185,000,000 feet of long lumber for Buenos Ayres and a cargo for Barbadoes and Bermuda. Some 6,000,000 shingles, 2,500,000 lath and about 2,000,000 feet of deals etc., have gone forward to United States markets. The lumber cut in Cumberland county, N.S., is given as follows: Young Bros. & Co. have 3,000,000 to saw at River Herbert, and 5,000,000 at Half Way lake; Kelly Bros. 3,000,000 on river Herbert; B. B. Barnhill, 3,000,000 at Two Rivers; Prescott, Gillespie & Co., 3,500,000 at Shulee; the Shulee Lumber Company about the same quantity; Chas. T. White between 6,000,000 and 8,000,000 at Apple river; E. I. White, 1,500,000 at Sand river. A lot of piling has also been got out at the head of the bay.

Eighteen inches of snow fell in St. John a week ago. Nothing so severe has been known here since 1847.

Kilburn & McIntosh cut 6,000,000 feet of timber in Quebec, near the New Brunswick border, this season.

Unless a revival takes place in shingles, the mills of the province will cut very light this summer.

ST. JOHN, N.B., April 23, 1894.

MICHIGAN LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

WITH navigation opened we are hoping for a turn in the tide of lumber, for there is no use denying that the closing six months of 1893 and the opening months of the new year were full of dreadful dullness. But how far our hopes are to materialize in actual business is just doubtful. Indications at present do not point to a large lumber trade this spring. Prices, I think, it is safe to say will show a decline. They have been keeping up with remarkable firmness, when we remember how dull trade has been, but these conditions cannot be expected to continue, not at least if trade is to remain slow during spring and summer.

BITS OF LUMBER.

It is anticipated that a good many logs will be towed from Canada to the Saginaw river this season and the towing companies are preparing for this work.

C. A. Merrill who is foreman of the Spanish River Lumber Company's mill at Spanish River, Ont., and who has resided in Bay City during the winter, has returned to his post for summer work. It is currently reported that S. C. Fisher has purchased 5,000,000 feet of Canadian logs to be brought to Bay City to be manufactured and that he anticipates securing another lot of 20,000,000.

The lumber firm of Begole, Fox & Co., who have been in business at Flint, Mich., for 27 years, have dissolved partnership. The firm will go out of business.

A Toronto tug is busy in these parts picking up the logs belonging to H. M. Loud & Sons, of Au Sable, which broke loose from Tonawanda and went over Niagara Falls.

The shingle trade is unusually quiet, the depression here being more acute than in lumber.

C. K. Eddy & Son's mill will not commence running until June, and their main stocks will come from Canada.

SAGINAW, Mich., April 25, 1894.

TRENTON LETTER.

[Correspondence of CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THE outlook for a good lumber trade in this vicinity is very encouraging this spring, and already American buyers are negotiating for their season's purchases. Prices continue about the same in all lines, and until the tariff question is finally decided it is not likely there will be any important change.

Navigation is open here, and driving operations on the back rivers and lakes are in full swing. Messrs. Gilmour & Company, of this place, have started to drive the logs cut in the old limits last winter, and expect to bring the head of the drive into Belleville about the 30th inst., where the logs will be sorted, and finally towed to the Trenton mills.

Wages continue about the same as last year, and good hands are plenty on the river.

The ice has all left the lakes around here, and the only drawback to the driving is a scarcity of water, but notwithstanding this obstacle the logs are being rushed through very rapidly.

The mills at Trenton will start about the 28th inst., with new improvements; and a large cut is expected.

Mr. David Gilmour, who has been spending the winter at Menton, France, is expected home in time to see the first logs transformed into good merchantable lumber, and Mr. Allan Gilmour is also making arrangements to leave his Ottawa home for Trenton.

The steamer "D. R. VanAllen" has already moved several cargoes of wintered lumber to Oswego, and local shipments are quite heavy for this season of the year.

Just at present all interest is centred in Gilmour & Co.'s new limits, where the tramway is situated. Ten shanties have been in active operation all winter, and about 20,000,000 feet is the result of the season's work. These logs are now being towed to the tramway, or logway, to be taken over the height of land separating the Muskoka and Trent waters, a distance of about two miles. A test will be made in about two weeks, and the opinion of all the expert engineers who have visited the place is that the result will be highly satisfactory.

It is the desire of the company to have logs in Crow Bay this year from the new limits, and everything points to a successful completion of their plans.

TRENTON, Ont., April 26, 1894.

CANADIAN SHIPMENTS TO THE U. S.

ACCORDING to the United States Treasury statement, the importation of lumber from Canada to the United States for 1893 was as follows:—

LONG LUMBER: Total quantity, both rough and planed, feet, 692,218,010.

Duty collected on white pine, hemlock and bass-wood, at \$1 a thousand.....	\$ 529,262 93
Additional for dressing.....	7,282 53
Duty collected on spruce, oak, elm, etc., at \$2 a thousand.....	325,910 16
Additional for dressing.....	7,194 75

Total duty on long lumber.....\$ 869,650 37

SHORT LUMBER.

Clapboards—Pine, 67,990, at \$1.50 a thousand.....	67 99
Spruce, 6,997,440, at \$1.50 a thousand.....	10,496 19
Hubs for wheels, etc., rough hewed or sawed, valued at \$28,227, at 20 per cent.....	5,645 46
Lath—327,442,000, at 15 cents a thousand.....	49,116 34
Paving posts, railroad ties, and telephone and telegraph poles of cedar, valued at \$271,235.91, at 20 per cent.....	54,247 19
Pickets and palings, valued at \$36,699.93, at 10 per cent.....	3,670 00
Shingles—Pine, 216,781,000, at twenty cents a thousand.....	43,356 15
All other, 253,221, at 30 cents a thousand.....	75,966 26
Sugar-box shooks and packing boxes, and packing box shooks, valued at \$45,745, at 30 per cent.....	13,723 66
Staves—Valued at \$646,613.40, at 10 per cent..	64,661 34

Total duty on short lumber.....\$ 320,850 58

Aggregate duty collected on lumber in 1893....\$ 1,190,500 95

A THREE CENT STAMP DOES IT.

ON receipt of a three cent stamp we will mail free to any address a copy of our little hand-book entitled "Rules and Regulations for the inspection of pine and hardwood lumber," as adopted by the lumber section and sanctioned by the Council of the Board of Trade, of Toronto June 16, 1890. Address, CANADA LUMBERMAN, Toronto, Ont.