

LUMBERING OPERATIONS IN NOVA SCOTIA.

[Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THE lumbering industry has been very quiet during the past month in Nova Scotia, owing to a fall in prices in the English markets and an advance in freight rates, together with extreme drought. The latter part of the season was so dry that reserve logs could not be got to a good many of the mills, which was probably fortunate now that the difference in value in the English market since spring is so great. Taking the season for sawing as a whole, it has been considerably above the average so far as water mills are concerned. The wet spring was very favorable for getting the logs to the mills early, so that sawing began in good time, and the continuance of wet weather enabled most of them to get their cut through by July or August, which is a very unusual occurrence, as they generally have to finish up the sawing season with fall rains.

The general feeling for the coming winter's operations is that about the average stock of logs will be cut throughout the province. The English deal operations will probably be somewhat under those of last year's, and the average kept up by the hope of a revival in the United States, South American and West Indian markets.

The Gold River Lumber Co., Gold River, N.S., have finished sawing for the season. They had a very good year's business; the winter was favorable for logging and the spring very favorable for driving, resulting in all their logs reaching their pond with good water. Their fine steam gang mill being in good order, ran without interruption until the stock of logs was sawn, thus enabling them to clean up their operations earlier in the season than usual. Their cut was about two and a half million feet, nearly all of which was deals for the English market. Formerly they sawed for the South American and Boston markets, and deal sawing was an experiment with them, but it has been satisfactory. They expect to operate the coming winter to about the same extent as last season.

Messrs. E. D. Davison & Sons, Limited, Bridgewater, have done a very large business this season. Their logging operations last winter resulted in the neighborhood of twenty million feet of logs being got into the water and practically safely to their large mills at Bridgewater. The water kept up well through the summer, so the mills ran a good part of the time day and night. Their mills, yards, stores and houses are all lighted by electricity, by a complete plant of their own. Their cut this year has been largely deals, but they do not confine themselves to any particular market. Net financial results is their prime object, and being in touch with all markets, they manufacture and ship to those giving the best financial results. Mr. Frank Davison is president and manager, and Mr. Archie F. Davison secretary-treasurer of the company. The high business standing attained by the late E. D. Davison, the founder of the company, and continued and increased by his son, the late C. Henry Davison, will not suffer under the present management. Owing to the extensive drought, their mills are not being operated fully at present. The outlook for lumber for next season does not point to quite their usual output this winter.

W. & G. Colp purchased a timber property

between Mill Village and Brooklyn, N. S., and have engaged Mr. Isaac Harnish, of Greywood, to put his large portable saw mill on it to saw during the winter. They expect to cut about one million feet of deals, and also intend getting out a large quantity of pulp-wood to ship to the best paying market.

J. & J. Coop, Milton, with mills at Brooklyn, will get out about the usual quantity of logs—one million feet. They also intend going into the pulp-wood industry and fitting up their mill for the purpose by putting cutting-off saws and barkers into a building adjoining their saw mill.

Harlow & Kempton, Milton, are taking advantage of the low water in the river to put another water wheel in their saw mill, and to give it all necessary repairs for a good season's cut next year. Their output this season was about two and a half million feet, and they intend operating on about the same scale the coming season. Their cut this year was principally for South American, West Indian and Boston markets.

Eldred Minard, Milton, has a gang mill, water power, in which he cuts about three-quarters of a million feet, custom work. He expects to cut about the same quantity next season.

Allen & Henry Tupper, Milton Cove, put a new live gang into their mill and made other changes and improvements while the water was low in the river. They saw boards, pine, spruce and hemlock, shipping to American and southern ports. They also manufacture boxes for all purposes.

John Millard, Liverpool, has a saw mill at Milton with rotary saw, stock gang and patent edger. He has not run his mill fully this season, but expects to saw four to five million feet next year. Mr. Millard and Ira P. Freeman have a gang mill at Milton in which they cut about one million feet this season, and intend sawing about the same quantity next year.

H. W. Freeman, Jordan River, has had a very good season for operating his water power gang mill, having cut about three million feet. He is putting in two of the famous Buchanan water wheels in place of Leffel turbines, a new rotary saw mill, made by Burrill-Johnson Iron Co., Yarmouth, a patent three saw edger, made by the Lloyd Mfg. Co., Kentville, N. S., and besides is overhauling his gang mill, shafting and all other machinery in the mill. His intention is to saw six million feet next season. Mr. Freeman has added largely to his timber limits by the purchase of the Doull property adjoining his limits on Jordan River. This property has not been operated for some fifteen years, and is reputed to have a large quantity of good timber.

Young Bros. & Co., Limited, St. Margarets Bay, have about completed their cut for this season, which is nearly six million feet. One million of this was hemlock and the balance spruce. Their operations will be about on the same scale this winter at the head of St. Margarets Bay, while at Ingram River, five miles west, they intend to get out a large quantity of piling and pulp wood. This company owns an immense tract of timber land along the coast, reaching from the head of St. Margarets Bay to East river, a distance of twenty miles, and extending back fifteen to twenty-five miles. There are four large streams through the property and

entering the Atlantic ocean at different points along the coast. The value of the stumpage of one river is said to be one hundred thousand dollars.

W. J. P.

SAWDUST IN THE OTTAWA RIVER.

SIR Louis Davies, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, has notified all lumbermen on the Ottawa river that there will be no further postponement of the law which was enacted to prevent the dumping of sawdust into the river. The law will be allowed to come into force on the 1st of July next.

The act prohibiting the dumping of sawdust into the Ottawa river was passed three or four years ago, when Sir Hibbert Tupper was minister of marine and fisheries, but the lumbermen petitioned for delay to enable them to get the necessary re-arrangements in the mills. Year after year since that time a bill has been introduced every session postponing the operation of the act, but the fear that the law will now be enforced is causing some of the lumbermen much anxiety.

Of the six big lumber firms in Ottawa two already burn their sawdust, namely, W. C. Edwards and Gilmour & Hughson. One other mill, that of the Hull Lumber Company, was burned recently, and will doubtless be reconstructed with a view to disposing of its sawdust otherwise than by the river. Wm. Mason & Sons utilize their sawdust to make ground around their mill. There are, therefore, at present, only two mills discharging sawdust into the river, namely, those of J. R. Booth and the Bronsons & Weston Company. But these are two of the largest saw mills in the world.

Mr. Booth states that he has given the question of the disposal of sawdust some serious consideration, but could not arrive at any solution of the problem. The difficulty was owing to the construction of the mill. This is also the case with the Bronsons & Weston Company. Asked if the sawdust could not be burned, Mr. Crannell replied that the question was how to re-arrange the mills and put in machinery to carry the sawdust to the incinerator. He explained that the large mills that have been in operation for from 20 to 40 years were built very close to the water level. Under the mills was a network of beams and girders, which it was impossible to remove. The mills could not possibly be altered to provide for the disposal of sawdust in any other way than at present. The question was one, he said, which had caused much discussion among the members of the firm, and none had been able to work out a satisfactory solution. Mr. Crannell thought it would be a great mistake to enforce the law in the case of old mills. A law might be passed forbidding all new mills that should be erected from depositing the sawdust in the river, and compelling the owners of the old mills, whenever their mills were being reconstructed, to provide other means of disposing of the sawdust.

The mill hands, fearing that the law may effect their interests, called a meeting to discuss the question, at which it was resolved to form an association. It is probable that this association will memorialize the government to exempt the two firms above mentioned.