

LUMBERING IN THE NORTH-WEST.

MANITOBA and the Northwest Territories, although famous for their grain production, are not without considerable timber resources. In the northern and eastern portions of Manitoba large quantities of spruce are to be found, while bordering on Manitoba to the east is a large timber country, extending for hundreds of miles. A large portion of Saskatchewan and Alberta territories are covered with timber, and farther north again in the unorganized regions there are vast forests.

The principal source of lumber supply for Manitoba and the eastern portion of Assiniboia territory is the Lake of the Woods region. The mills of this district are located at and near Rat Portage, on the main line of the C. P. R. At this point the railway touches the lake, thus affording shipping advantages for the lumber, while the lakes and streams running into it afford facilities for gathering in the saw logs to the mills. The lumber cut at Lake of the Woods is principally white pine, with some red pine. About two years ago the mills at this point were amalgamated into the Ontario and Western Lumber Company, a description of whose mills appeared in the CANADA LUMBERMAN for January last. The company owns six mills at Rat Portage and Keewatin, and lately have established a sash, door and box factory in connection with their business. They employ about 500 men.

At Keewatin a large mill is operated by the Keewatin Lumber Company, an illustration of which is herewith presented. The capacity of the mill is fifteen million feet per annum. Mr. Richard Fuller, of Hamilton, Ont., is president of the company, Mr. John Mather, of Ottawa, managing director, and Mr. R. A. Mather, local manager.

The mills have been running since 1880, cutting from 10 to 12 millions annually, the whole of which is shipped to Manitoba and the Northwest. The saw mill has a rotary and band mill, with the necessary edgers, trimmers, etc., and has a capacity of about one hundred thousand feet per day. The planing mill is supplied with the latest machinery for making flooring, siding, ceiling, mouldings, etc. The motive power is water, of which there is an unlimited supply from the Lake of the Woods, and the planing mill is run all winter. The supply of logs has been chiefly obtained for some years from Minnesota, being driven down streams tributary to Rainy River, and thence towed across the Lake of the Woods to the mills. The company have also large limits on the Lake of the Woods and adjacent country.

Tributary to Lake Winnipeg is a large area of timber country, and a portion of the Manitoba

supply is drawn from this region. Spruce is the principal timber cut there.

Winnipeg has one saw mill of considerable capacity, which cuts logs brought down tributaries of the Red river, from a timber district in south-eastern Manitoba. The timber is white and red pine, spruce, etc. Another mill is located at Whitemouth, on the C. P. R., east of Winnipeg, and still another mill is at Brandon, the latter supplied with spruce timber brought down the Assiniboine river from the Riding Mountain district. These comprise the principal mills of Manitoba, though there are a number of smaller mills at other points engaged in sawing for local trade.

In the northern portion of the organized territories, Prince Albert and Edmonton are the principal lumbering points. Both these towns are situated on the North Saskatchewan river, though a long distance apart. At Prince Albert, particularly, the lumber industry has assumed considerable importance.

In Western Alberta, comprising a portion of the Rocky Mountains and bordering country,

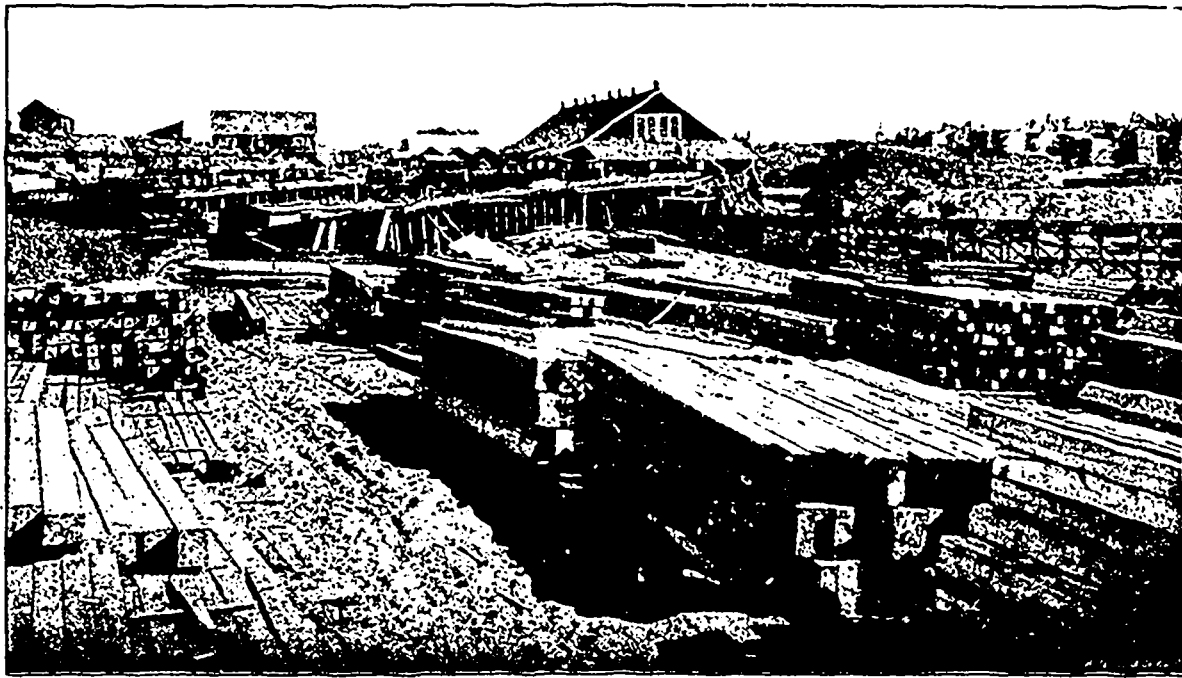
J. W. HOWRY & SONS, FENELON FALLS, ONT.

The above firm are making preparations for a greatly increased business, and are erecting an addition to their mill 20 x 100 feet, besides providing additional office room. Private offices will be afforded for Mr. Howry, Mr. Swan, Mr. Perrin, and Mr. Lee.

An illustration and brief description of their planing mill and box factory at Fenelon Falls appeared in our issue of September, 1895.

Hitherto the firm have run what are technically called two mills, that is to say, there are two saws, two carriages, two steam feeds and two "niggers," etc.; and the addition mentioned above is to cover a "third" mill, which will increase the capacity fifty per cent.

An Allis bandsaw, 48 feet long, is to be put in, and three steel carriages, two of which are to replace those used last year. The Prescott saws now in use are to be retained. The additional machinery will necessitate additional power, and a 56-inch wheel, made by Paxton, Tate & Co., of Port Perry, is to be put in to run the planing mill and box factory. The work is nearing completion, and it is expected that the machinery in all the buildings will be running night and day early in April. The firm have logs enough in Cameron lake to make about 15,000,000 feet of lumber, and in the vicinity of their nine shanties at different points out north enough logs to make about 40,000,000 ft. are skidded up. In 1894 the mill cut about 9,000,000 feet, and 25,000,000 feet in 1895, while nearly that amount is piled in the extensive yards. The firm had 250 names on the



KEEWATIN LUMBER CO.'S MILLS, KEEWATIN, ONT.

there is abundance of timber, and there are several mills on the line of the C. P. R. in the Bow river valley, in Alberta, principally at Calgary. The western portions of the territories draw their supply of lumber principally from these Alberta mills, or from British Columbia. There are several mills on the main line of the C. P. R. in the eastern portion of British Columbia, which ship lumber eastward into the prairie country, but they cannot ship as far east as Manitoba to advantage.

The large coast mills of British Columbia also send considerable lumber into the prairie country, but only special classes of lumber are shipped as far east as Winnipeg. Lumber from the British Columbia coast mills which comes to Winnipeg is principally cedar siding and fir flooring. In common boards, dimension, etc., they cannot compete with the pine and spruce cut so much nearer to the Manitoba consuming markets. British Columbia red cedar shingles, however, have come into general use in Manitoba, owing to their superior quality as compared with the native pine.

pay-roll last year, and this season they expect to be able to get along with 325, as the improved machinery that has been introduced will enable them to cut fifty per cent. more lumber with an increase of less than fifty per cent. in the labor. Their books show that in the last two years they paid out \$106,879 in wages alone to men employed in Fenelon Falls, and they estimate that it will take \$100,000 to pay the 325 to be employed this season. Mr. Swan is general manager, and Mr. John Thompson superintendent of the mills. Mr. C. L. Perrin is head bookkeeper and cashier, Mr. F. W. Stewart has charge of the planing mills, Mr. D. Lee is timekeeper and billing clerk, and Mr. W. S. Perry has charge of the timber yards.

The Sutherland Innes Co. will make large additions to their works at Munising, Mich. They will put in a two band saw mill and two factories, a slack barrel factory and a syrup barrel factory. One mill is almost built, two more have the machinery in and will be completed shortly and the foundation is being laid for a fourth mill. The head office of the company is at Liverpool, Eng.