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THE EXPLOITS LUMBER COMPANY.

Canadian capitalists have recently been attracted to Newfoundland as a promising field for investment. One of the foremost companies now engaged in developing the lumbering industry is the Exploits Lumber Company, which controls about eight hundred thousand acres of timber lands situated in the Exploits Valley, through which runs the Exploits river, the largest in Newfoundland. The North-Western Railway also extends nearly the entire length of the valley, and for about fifty miles through the limits of the above company.

The mill of the Exploits Lumber Company is situated at Botwoodville. Recently it has been remodelled and equipped with modern machinery and appurtenances, and is now up-to-date in every respect. The upper or log floor of the mill comprises block gang, rotary and re-saw, lath and shingle machines, edgers, trimmers, steam feed and steam canters. In connection with the mill there is a fully equipped machine shop, the whole being under the superintendence of Mr. John McLean, late of New Brunswick, one of the most expert millwrights of the day.

Live rolls are employed for conveying the lumber to each machine, from which it is carried on surveyors and classers to the particular pile for which it is intended, where it is lifted from the rollers for the first time since leaving the gang saw. The refuse is carried to burner in sluices, through which run endless chains.

It is estimated that the limits of this company contain from one hundred to two hundred and fifty million feet of white pine timber, and an average of forty cords of pulpwood per acre. Their annual cut is about ten million feet, chiefly white pine. The company also control the water powers of Grand and Bishop's Falls, on the main river, where fifty thousand horse power might be developed if required. The facilities for shipping are excellent, as the largest ocean steamers can load at mill wharf in perfect safety in any kind of weather. Shipments are made direct to Great Britain.

Mr. Geo. A. Fowler, manager of the Exploits Lumber Company, may be said to be a lumberman by birth, his father having carried on lumbering operations at Apple River, Cumberland county, Nova Scotia, until the time of his death. For twenty-five years Mr. Fowler, now 47 years of age, has been engaged in the lumbering business. He has spent the past two winters in Newfoundland, and reports that the conditions there are equally as favorable for lumbering as in New Brunswick or Nova Scotia. The average depth of snow is about two feet, and the sledging season lasts about three months.

In the American Monthly Review of Reviews, which publishes a frontispiece portrait of Rear-Admiral Kautz, the Samoan difficulty is reviewed by the editor in the department of "The Progress of the World."

ONTARIO FOREST RESERVE.

The Ontario government is making rapid progress towards the adoption of a complete system of reforestation, having recently set apart an important reserve in Frontenac and Addington counties.

Having caused inquiries to be made from time to time as to the most eligible territory for a reservation in the eastern part of the province, the Commissioner of Crown Lands came to the conclusion that the McLaren limits, now operated by Mr. Isaac Allan, of Mississippi Station, were the most suitable for the purpose. These limits cover parts of the Townships of Abinger, Miller, Barrie, Clarendon, Palmerston, Ashby, Denbigh, Effingham, South Caninto, Olden, North



MR. GEORGE A. FOWLER.
Manager Exploits Lumber Company, Botwoodville, Nfld.

Sherbrooke and Oso, and contain an area of 273 3/4 miles. The territory is watered by numerous lakes and streams and lies on the head waters of the Mississippi river, a stream of considerable importance flowing into the Ottawa river, and on the head waters of a branch of the Madawaska river. All the available good land has been either sold or located, and the merchantable pine timber has been almost entirely cut away, the pine growth remaining consisting of young trees springing up, which are spread over considerable areas of the territory, and if protected from fires and allowed to attain a fair growth will, it is deemed, become a valuable asset of the province in the not distant future.

Negotiations were opened between Mr. Allan and the department, and ultimately the former agreed to surrender the limits on the following conditions:—

That last year's dues, amounting to \$759.14, and ground rent, amounting to \$828, in all \$1,587.14, shall be waived; that subject to the direction of officers or agents appointed for the purpose by the Commissioner of Crown Lands, he shall be allowed to cut on the territory surrendered for a

period of five years; that he shall not be charged dues on worm-eaten or dead pine cut during this period, and that dues shall not be exacted on hemlock bark where the timber from which the bark is taken is made into logs and sawn into timber; that he shall be permitted to renew his licenses in the ordinary terms for any small areas which, from their situation, may not be included in the reserve.

In regard to the first condition as to remission of ground rent and dues, it will readily be seen that bearing in mind the magnitude of the territory surrendered and the purposes for which it is required the amount of \$1,567.14 is of little consequence. With respect to cutting, under the direction of officers of the Crown Lands Department, the Commissioner of Crown Lands came to the conclusion that having made a considerable outlay in the refitting of his sawmill and expended further sums in the repairing of dams, etc., on the steams, Mr. Allan could not be expected to surrender the territory immediately and remove his plant. As the cutting is to be under the direction of the officers or agents of the department, it can be confined to such trees as might be, from their age or other circumstances, cut and disposed of, and at any rate can be limited to such an extent as not to interfere with the beauty of the landscape or the purposes for which the area has been set aside, and it is only to continue for a period of five years. The concession that Mr. Allan shall not be charged dues on dead and worm-eaten pine is not important. This class of timber has very little merchantable value, and the removal of the tall, bare poles will remove an eyesore from the woods. The amount involved in dues on hemlock bark will not be of great consequence, and where the full duty is exacted on the timber from which the bark is taken the waiving of the dues upon the bark is a concession which might well be made.

UTILIZING STOCK FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES.

Speaking of utilizing different kinds of stock to supply material that is scarce, a writer in the Mississippi Valley Lumberman says: I had an unusual experience the other day. An order for some No. 1 boards, twenty-four inches wide, surfaced one side, was going the rounds without a taker. We took the contract and arranged to have it sawed out of two-inch plank, although the buyer was very particular about having perfect, even width lumber, full thirteen-sixteenths in thickness. The usual way of filling such an order would be to re-saw the plank and then run the stock through the planing mill. This would have produced uneven, wavy lumber. To smooth it down afterwards would have resulted in making it too thin. So we insisted on the plank being first planed on both sides and then run through the re-saw. The result was we had two perfect boards; the rolls having smooth surface to press, kept the saw exactly in the middle.