

## MICHIGAN LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THE statement has been made that not in a score of years has there been a more ready sale for lumber and at better prices than this year. Thus far the lumber interests of this district are enjoying a favorable season's trade. The one difficulty experienced is that common to the trade in other lumber sections, viz., the scarcity of saleable lumber. We hear of dealers buying logs and having them manufactured themselves to meet pressing demands of customers.

These conditions do not, however, presage a larger cut than usual. On the contrary the opinion is held that the cut will be lighter than was anticipated earlier in the season. The stock on hand in manufactured lumber at the close of the season last fall amounted to 342,000,000 feet, and probably 100,000,000 feet of this was sold for spring delivery, reducing the actual stocks to that degree. A good demand existed throughout the winter, breaking pretty well into the remaining surplus. An active season's cutting, with supplies of logs readily available, would have overtaken the call for stocks that existed all along, but, as has been pointed out in these letters before, logs were slow to come to the fore; mills stood idle for some weeks and, what is more, as you know, a migration of several of the larger operators has taken place to other fields. It is estimated that the cut will reach 600,000,000 feet, and it may be 700,000,000.

## BITS OF LUMBER.

The Alpena Cedar Co. has been incorporated with a capital stock of \$60,000.

The Gladwin hoop mill will be in charge in future of Mr. C. H. Hood, the former owner, Mr. Saylor having retired and removed to your country where he will engage in a similar line of trade.

The mills at Tawas are reported to be liberally stocked with Canadian logs, that point being ready of access for rafting. Sibby and Bearinger will manufacture 23,000,000 feet of logs here this summer.

In ten years the lake shipments of lumber from Saginaw ports has fallen off from 413,162,875 feet to 174,423,000 feet. The explanation is that the traffic has been diverted from the water routes to the railroads.

News from Bay City is that Canadian logs, in large quantities are at the mouth of the river, but some delay is being experienced in getting them to the mills, where they are much required. Turner and Fisher are in receipt of a raft of 26,165 pieces, scaling 2,811,040 feet, from Spanish River.

Among Michigan lumbermen who are engaged in the activities of lumbering in Canada, either on their own account or on behalf of others, may be mentioned E. L. Pratt and Thomas Pickard, Charles Woods, Charles Moore, McKeon & Glover, G. N. Fletcher and Sons, Alger Smith and Co., J. T. Hurst and S. O. Fisher. Their interests are chiefly in the Georgian Bay district.

James Hamilton, of Bay City, is under contract with F. W. Gilchrist and W. H. Potter, to cut 80,000,000 feet of pine. He expects to cut at the rate of 20,000,000 feet a year. A steamer, chartered by Mr. Hamilton, left Alpena for Thessalon, Ont., with camp supplies and outfit the early part of the month. F. W. Gilchrist and T. W. Fletcher have contracted to cut 100,000,000 feet of pine on the Sauble River, Georgian Bay district, for Ben. C. Morse. The cut for Mr. Morse this winter will be 5,000,000 feet, and 25,000,000 feet per year subsequently.

SAGINAW, Mich., Aug. 22, 1892.

## OTTAWA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

EVERYTHING I said last month touching the remarkable activity in lumber circles this season can be reiterated with renewed emphasis and fresh detail. Lumber is booming. The daily shipments at the Chaudiere are heavier than for years. Prices are firm and stiffening. As will be noted from particulars I shall give further on in this letter appearances point to a continuance of the season's activity by enlarged operations in the woods the approaching winter.

A development in the class of lumber shipped to Great Britain is interesting to note. The call of the British market had until late years been altogether for square timber. John Bull had an idea that he could save his particular requirements far better than one by the Canadian manufacturer. Consequently he had the logs trimmed down to what is known as "square" timber. About ten years ago Mr. Cox, an Englishman, regularly visits this market, and is by no means a supply of thin lumber, which he has been selling since then the trade here. Our English friends find here cheaper than they do elsewhere in this trade works

favorably for our mills, which of course secure the benefit of the extra outlay for sawing.

## ANOTHER BIG LUMBER DEAL.

Lumber changes on a large scale in this district this season are becoming somewhat common. One of the most important is that completed this month in the purchase by F. R. Booth, of the booms, piers, mills and piling grounds, wharves, docks, and all the plants connected with the Perley & Pattee buildings in Ottawa. The price paid, to use Mr. Booth's words, was "under a half million dollars." The mills purchased lie alongside those of Mr. Booth. It is rumored that Mr. Booth has been planning for some time extensive improvements in the terminal facilities of the Canada Atlantic Railway at the Chaudiere, and this he could not accomplish without first acquiring the Perley & Pattee mill property. The death of Mr. Perley in the recent past opened the way for a sale of the estate of this firm. Mr. Booth will take possession of the newly purchased property at the close of the sawing season. Perley & Pattee have still 1,500 square miles of limits to dispose of. Just what their plans will be for the future is uncertain. One rumor is that they will erect new mills on their Petewawa limits.

Another large transaction that is likely to be closed any day is the sale to Mr. A. Lumsden of about 400 miles of timber limits on the Kippewa and Temiscamingue, the property of the late James MacLaren. The transaction is one representing from \$200,000 to \$300,000.

## WORK IN THE WOODS.

Preparations for work in the woods are active. Buell, Orr & Hurdman have already sent about 100 men up to their shanties to make repairs for the opening of fall operations. Shepard & Morse have a large gang at work on their recently acquired limits on the Kippewa. The limits are familiarly known as the old Pierce limits. They will open ten shanties, and when their force is complete it will embrace 500 men. Alex. Gordon, of the firm of Booth & Gordon, who will operate on the Kippewa and Gordon Creek, says that they will send a large number of men into the woods this month. Other firms of the Chaudiere are moving in similar lines and the engaging of gangs of men for these purposes is a leading work of the month.

## A NEW LUMBER CONCERN.

The purchase of the timber limits of the late David Moore, which took place on the 11th inst., has brought into existence a new lumber concern known as the Moore Joint Stock Lumber Company, and composed of E. D. Moore, C. A. Moore, F. D. Moore, W. Moore and H. T. Moore and Mrs. E. S. Skead. The company intend carrying on the business formerly carried on by their father and operations will be commenced this winter. Shanties will be opened at once and about 500 men will be employed getting out timber this winter. The Kippewa limits are thickly covered with excellent timber, and it is thought the firm will only take out square timber for the first year. The sum of \$255,000 was paid by the new company for the limits sold at auction, comprising eight berths, which cover fifty miles each.

## SHORT PIECES.

Lumber shippers complain of a dearth of cars for the freight of local consignments, though there is every accommodation for export trade.

Messrs. Perley & Pattee will erect on the site of the old Baldwin mill, which is now being demolished, a power house for the Ottawa Electric Co.

Shantymen's wages will range the coming season from \$24 to \$25 per month, and arrangements with hands on square timber are being closed at \$40 per month.

MacLaren & Co. are negotiating the sale of all lumber piled in the Ottawa yards, about 6,000,000 feet. Rumor states that the Rideau falls power and the old MacLaren's mill will be sold by Edwards & Co. to an American syndicate for electrical purposes.

T. Walklate, superintendent of lumber for the C.P.R., is authority for the statement that the shipments of square timber from Chateaufort and Eau Claire for England via Quebec are through for this season. Two million five hundred thousand feet have passed through his hands between these points.

Shepard & Morse will work their new Pierce limits with splendid energy. They will at once get out two rafts of square timber for the English market, which, it is claimed, will be of very superior quality and will fittingly inaugurate the company's operations. They will specially cultivate a South American trade turning out lumber adapted for that market. They will also go extensively into log making and lumber manufacturing on their own account. Mr. Robert Hurdman will be in charge of this branch of the work, and his long experience in shantying will be most valuable to the firm. Last year's cut of logs will be manufactured this year at Conroy's mill on Lake Deschene by arrangement with that firm.

OTTAWA, Ont., Aug. 22, 1892.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

SHIPPING intelligence tells of a fair measure of activity in lumbering circles. Several clearances and a number of arrivals are to be noted. The British ship Nineveh, 1174 tons, Captain Broadfoot, arrived in port in ballast on the 4th inst. from San Diego, under charter to load lumber at the Hastings mill for Sydney on owners' account. The same date the American barkentine, Robert Sudden, 594 tons, Captain Uhlberg, sailed from Vancouver with a cargo of lumber from the Hastings mill, consisting of 375,437 feet of t. and g. flooring, and 395,703 feet of rough lumber, making a total of 771,140 feet. The value of the cargo was \$8,797. She is bound for Iquique. On the 8th the Chilean ship Hindostan, 1,543 tons, Captain Welsh, sailed from Vancouver with a cargo of lumber from the Moodyville mill, consisting of 999,702 feet of rough, and 200,139 feet of clear lumber, making a total of 1,199,841 feet. She has also 1,503 bundles of laths, the value of her cargo being over \$11,000. The American schooner, Robert Searles, 570 tons, Capt. Piltz, has been chartered to load at the Hastings mill for Adelaide at 41s. 3d., and word is received that she had arrived at Port Townsend from San Diego. The Norwegian ship, Morning Light, 1,216 tons, which loaded a cargo of lumber for Melbourne the early part of the year, may probably load here again. British bark Zabena Gowdy, 1,087 tons, Capt. Manning, loading lumber at Vancouver for Wilmington, Del. Chilean ship Atacama, 1,235 tons, Capt. Caballero, loading lumber at Moodyville for Valparaiso.

## COAST CHIPS.

Local trade holds its own.

The Brunette saw mill have closed up their Mud Bay logging camp for the season.

Houston and Wilson will shortly erect a machine shop and sash and door factory at Golden.

Messrs. Wiggins and Green have the honor of establishing the first steam saw mill on the River Tabusintac.

J. McLaughlin, one of the patients admitted to the Vancouver smallpox hospital, was an employee of the Buse saw mill at Hastings. The authorities are taking steps to quarantine the mill.

A considerable loss has been sustained with a boom of logs anchored in the cove between Deadman's Island and the Park, and many of which have broken away and passed through the Narrows.

Mr. W. Clark is in charge of a new camp at Hemming Bay for the Hastings saw mill. The camp will be situated on the lake and a railway will be built from the lake to suit water and the logs handled by locomotive power.

Among the exports from Nanaimo for the past quarter were 46,000 pickets and 1,715,000 feet of lumber valued at \$7,799 to Chili; 63,500 feet lumber valued at \$789 to Russia; 962,000 feet lumber and 132,000 laths valued at \$8,121 to Australia; and 54,000 feet lumber and six spars valued at \$699 to Gilbert Islands.

Dr. Dunn, late of Hall Bros. and Co., Three Rivers, Que., and Messrs. Rathbun and Co., Deseronto, Ont., has got employment at the Hastings mill in Vancouver. He worked at the building of the MacLaren-Ross mill till it was completed, then at Grant and Kerr's, Ladner's Landing, putting in additional machinery.

Although "Douglas fir" is classed as "Oregon pine" in Australian markets it is to be hoped that the duty they have imposed on the latter will not apply to the former. Should it not, shipments from British Columbia may be expected to increase shortly, even though that trade is very dull at present. The promises made the New Westminster Board of Trade that these numbers would be correctly named and quoted separately in their market has not yet been carried out.

The Brunette Saw Mill Co. have put themselves in good shape to fight the flames should circumstances require this step. They have purchased from the Gutta Percha and Rubber Manufacturing Co., of your city, who are well represented in this province by Mr. W. L. Ogle, a complete fire-fighting outfit, consisting of 500 feet of Maltese cross hose, hose reel, play pipes, and all necessary accompaniments. The fire hose is the same as is used by the city fire department, and the couplings are threaded so as to fit the waterworks' hydrants.

Mr. Sargeant's mill at Nelson broke all previous local records for fast sawing on Friday of last week, when one gang cut 97,230 sup. feet of merchantable lumber. The logs sawed were pine for about six hours; the remainder of the day they were cutting spruce. The men who can claim the greatest amount of credit for this big day's work are: D. Creighton, engineer; George Meagher, foreman; P. Gorman, edger, and Wm. Dolan, surveyor. On the same day the lath machine—Matthew Gorman, foreman—cut 48,800 laths.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., Aug. 18, 1892.