

THE MANUFACTURERS SPEAK.

Some Interesting Correspondence Concerning Prospects for the Coming Season's Trade.

From A. & P. WHITE, Pembroke.

We have cut about 3,000,000 ft. saw logs, and 1,000,000 ft. dimension timber at Duex Riviere. Part of this will be sawn at Duex Riviere and part at Pembroke.

From T. A. KIDD, Burritt's Rapids.

There will be about 500 to 1000 saw logs taken out here, all used for local improvements; 5000 to 7000 railway ties; 15,000 to 20,000 cedar fence posts; 200 cords cord wood.

From ONTARIO LUMBER CO., Toronto.

We have cut during the past winter about 28,000,000 feet of logs. This will be manufactured into lumber at Midland, French River and Gravenhurst. The prospects for the next season's operations are satisfactory.

From W. E. TENCH & SON, Chippawa, Ont.

The timber in this locality is fast being cleared out. Pine has already been cleared. About 200 M Oak, together with probably 100 M of Elm, Ash, &c., will be a fair estimate of the season's cut. The outlook points to a high price for oak.

From MANHARD & COMPANY, Brockville, Ont.

Business opens well. More orders booked now than at any time during the past three or four years. Some American customers feel a little shy over the Retaliation Bill. A fair crop of logs taken out this season, but I fancy not as many as people generally suppose.

From JOHN VANNOSTRAND, Aurora, Ont.

We have just about finished logging for this season. I have got in 7000 pcs., consisting of Pine, Hemlock, Basswood, Maple, Oak and Elm. These logs when cut will make about one million ft. We do only a retail trade now, as our standing timber is very limited and there is no more to be had in this locality.

From T. S. DOBSON, Harriston, Ont.

All the mills in this neighborhood are only small country mills and do not amount to much, as the timber in this part is pretty well cleaned-out. They usually run along most of the winter and stock up from 500M to one million. Buyers are on the road enquiring, but seem chary of closing at marginal prices.

From W. B. & S. ANGLIN, Kingston, Ont.

Saw and Planing Mills: We manufacture about 2,000 Hemlock logs (Standard); 1,000 Basswood logs (Standard); 1,000 Pine logs (Standard); 500 Ash logs (Standard); 500 Elm logs (Standard); 200 Maple logs (Standard); 10 thousand cubic feet of pine, ash, and other lumber. We handle about 1000 cords of cord wood.

From the MUSKOKA MILL AND LUMBER CO., Bracebridge.

The cut this winter will be about 10,000,000 feet, with 2,000,000 of last year's stock on hand. This year's stock was principally cut in the townships of Franklin, Wood and Gibson, the season has been very favorable for taking out logs. Preparations are now being made for driving and the mills will start as soon as Navigation opens.

From CASSELMAN, Ont.

Logging operations have not been as extensive as was anticipated last fall, owing to the unfavorable nature of the season. It is probable that the cut for the present summer will be from 2 to 3 millions less than last year which was about 11 millions. Prospects are an improvement on last spring as orders are coming in very freely. Mills will probably commence work some time in April.

From J. HADDEN & SONS, Foxmead, Ont.

Our manufacture is almost entirely confined to Bill Timber, which we are now manufacturing up to fifty feet in length. We have the only steam logging railroad in this part of Canada, and bring our logs direct from the woods in this way. We also operate a shingle mill in an adjoining building. The output of lumber averages 1,000,000 feet each season. Prospects for this season are good.

From M. BRENNAN & SONS, Hamilton.

In reference to logs and lumber prospects we think through out the Muskoka and Parry Sound Districts, the prospects for a fair stock is very good. The season has been favourable and most of the lumbermen will have full stocks. For ourselves, we have got out about 12 millions, which we hope to get all safely down the rivers and manufacture at our two mills, together with a large quantity of shingles both XXX and XX.

From B. CAIDWELL & SON, Lanark, Ont.

The fall of 1886 was unusually good for log cutting on the upper Mississippi, and also on the Madawaska River. The winter months have been very good for hauling and the drawing was up early. However, the snow was too deep for cutting and upon the whole, consider the quantity of logs cut this season, 1886 7, will be somewhat less than the year previous, especially in that part of the country named. Consider the prospects for business during the coming spring favorable.

From CALABOGIE, Ont.

There has been a change made in the firm of Francis Carswell & Co., whose mills are situated on Calabogie Lake, with limits in the vicinity, Mr. Francis having sold his interests in limits and mills to Mr. E. MacKay, of Kenfrew. The business will be carried on under the firm name of Carswell, Thistle & MacKay. A busy season is anticipated. There are sufficient logs at the mills to last until the new logs arrive, and everything is in order to begin operations as soon as the ice breaks up. Estimated cut for season 8,000,000 feet.

From THOS. OUELLETTE, Gordon Ont.

The output of logs for Essex and Kent, of oak, ash, balsam, sycamore, maple and a small quantity of chestnut will be about 18 million feet. There is a very large quantity of elm, put out for hoops and staves. Although we had about six weeks of sleighing it came so early that the mill men were not prepared for it, which accounts for small output. Demand for lumber is very good and business looks good for the coming season. Think there will be a large quantity of logs put out this season on trucks, &c.

From GREEN & ELLIS, Fenelon Falls.

We have only the two firms operating here now in lumber and shingles, ourselves and Messrs. Thompson & McArthur, which are taking out about their usual stock. Thompson & McArthur will start cutting custom stuff about the first of April, Green & Ellis will start their mill about the first of May. They have about one and one-half million feet of lumber on hand, composed of shipping lumber and bill stuff of all kinds, which they are shipping to all points in Canada and United States. Prices from \$6 to \$16 per thousand feet.

From J. K. WARD, Montreal.

I think that there will not be over two-thirds the usual quantity of logs got out this winter, in the part of the country I am operating in, *a.e.*, the River Rouge, P. Q., the snow being at least five feet deep in the woods, making it very expensive lumbering, where the timber is scattered. I am told that there will be at least 25 per cent. shortage of logs on the Ottawa, and not more than one and a half million feet (cubic) of timber got out, with a prospect of any amount of water for driving. Demand for lumber bids fair to be good the coming season.

From DICK, BANNING & CO., Keewatin.

Our winter operations will be about six million feet, this we intend sawing, as also three-quarters of a million on hand, and one and a half million of logs, part of drive hung up. Providing the proposed dam is built at the falls near Rat Portage, a heavy sawing season is expected. The season promises to be an unusually busy one. Demand is firm at present with every indication of a good season's trade. Stocks are decreasing at all points here and west. From reliable reports the proposed large Grist Mill will soon be commenced, and points to a large influx of settlers for this place.

From MESSRS. BERTRAND & CO., Quebec.

The three planing mills which prepare wood for the retail trade here in Quebec are well enough employed. The local retail trade is only middling and appearances for the future are not bright. The pine that is in demand here is deals of 2 inch, 1½ inch, 1¼ inch and 8 inches and up, 1st and 2nd quality, and the consumption is limited in our old city of Quebec. We would be glad to have an address where we could purchase Hardwood, Walnut, black and soft; Cherry, Birch, Ash, Basswood, &c. As for news we await your interesting journal to find that, and the opening of navigation to give a little life to our trade.

From PERLEY & PATTEE, Ottawa.

The present winter has been the worst for logging operations known in this part of Canada for many years; the snow has been exceedingly deep with a heavy crust and the slush on the lakes has been troublesome throughout the winter. In consequence of these drawbacks the cut of logs will be fully 10% less than anticipated, which must make the cut of lumber for 1887 less than 1886. The prospects of the lumber trade for 1887 are exceedingly good (the strikes in the United States being the only uncertain element in the situation,) and we look for an advance in prices, particularly in the lower grades.

From THE MUSKOKA MILL AND LUMBER CO., Toronto.

The Company's operations this winter have been confined to the Muskoka river and lakes. Their stock, with the logs wintered over, will be about fourteen million, including long timber. It would have been larger but for the great depth of snow in the woods and the crust which is severe on the horses. The Company are getting the Hamilton Manufacturing Co., of Peterborough, to put up a Band Saw Mill for them, which they hope will prove a success, and save much good lumber going into saw dust. The mill will probably start about the middle of April, or as soon as the ice breaks up. The prospect for the season is considered fair although the price of common lumber is still low.

From TRAIN & SON, Burk's Falls.

The Victoria Harbor Co. will have a 5,000,000 feet drive to go over the Magnetawan to the Georgian Bay this season. Train & Son will manufacture here about 2,500,000 feet, part of which will be put into shingles. E. H. Smith will also have sawn here about 500,000 feet of basswood. Business throughout will be lively. The only thing this place lacks to make it a splendid point, is proper switch accommodation.

From DAVID ROSS, Whitemouth, Man.

In compliance to your request for a report of this season's cut of timber, the following is as near the mark as can be given:—G. H. Strevell, ties, 300,000; Wm. S. Reade, ties, 75,000; McKinty & McKinnon, ties, 30,000; J. Ferguson & Co., ties, 40,000; David Ross, logs, 2,000,000 feet, besides a large quantity of cordwood. This has been a remarkably fine winter for work. The camps will be closed up here next week.

From P. O. BYRAM, Madawaska, N. B.

Our log hauling from the stump was done some time ago, but considerable yet to haul off of yards. The repeated snow storms has prevented a good bottom being made to roads, and it is doubtful if all will be got off of yards. A falling off of fully one third of lumber may be expected, owing principally to the large quantities of snow. American lumbermen hang on still, slaughtering our cedar, to manufacture on the American side, leaving the best half of the lumber in the stump only to the depth of the snow, but they pay no export duty for slaughtering our forests, and can afford to lose heavily in the getting, but that don't save the destruction of our lumber. It's a piece of outrageous blindness to allow our forests to be slaughtered yearly to build up American enterprise at the sacrifice of our own.

From GODERICH, Ont.

Firms doing business here the past season are: Williams & Murray, H. Secord, Diment & Company, Jno. D. LeBel. W. & M. and D. & Co., manufactured their own stock, the former at Blind River, the latter at Thessalon. The other purchase from mills North of this and on the Georgian Bay. The amount of business done has been rather small, probably did not exceed ten million feet by all the dealers (4). Their market extends from Goderich to London, St. Thomas, Port Colborne, Guelph, Norwich, and intermediate points, with occasional shipments of better qualities to the United States. Lumber consists principally of white pine, with some few small cargoes of Norway or Red pine. Prices for the past season have remained very steady, about as follows, f. o. b. cars here:

W. P. Mill Culls.....	\$ 00
“ Common Stocks.....	11 00
“ Joist and Scantling.....	11 00
N. P. Joist and Scantling.....	10 to 10 50
“ 1¼, and 1½ in. Flooring.....	13 50
W. P. Dressing.....	16 00
“ 1 in Clear and Picks.....	24 to 26 00
“ 1¼, 1½, 2 in Picks.....	33 to 35 00
“ Lath, 1½ in., 4 ft.....	1 85 to 1 90

Very few shingles come here by water. Dealers supply their customers direct from mills on the Midland and N. & N. W. Rys. Williams & Murray, who have been in the business since 1867, have just dissolved partnership, the senior partner continuing the business. They sold the Blind River Mill and limits to Lawton Bros., of Toledo and Geo. A. Butterfield of Alpena, who compose the new company of “Blind River Lumber Co.” They expect to get out about five million feet this season on the Blind River, which will go to Toledo. Diment & Co. may get out from six to eight million at Thessalon, which will likely be brought to Goderich for distribution.

MANITOBA AND THE NORTH WEST.

—The Canadian government is establishing agricultural stations in the northwest provinces, and a special feature of these stations will be the attention paid to the forestry. As large a variety as possible of fruit and forest trees will be tested with a view to future forest planting in the prairie sections. For the more rapid distribution of desirable varieties of trees, a nursery will be started for their propagation, and the distribution of such as may be found adapted to the climate.

—In the district of Alberta, in the Northwest, all the timber limits under license, except one, are situated west of the meridian of Calgary, and chiefly on the Red Deer, Rosebud, Bow and Clearwater Rivers, and upon the Old Man's River north of Fort Macleod. The average amount collected for dues in the Calgary agency amounts to about \$5,000 annually, and for bonuses for timber berths along the Bow and Kanaskis Rivers, the large amount of \$62,426.61 was received at this agency in one year.

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