

LUMBERING IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

[Special correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

WHEN New Brunswick people speak of the North Shore they generally have in their mind the north-eastern portion of the province, or, to be more exact, that portion contained in the counties of Restigouche, Gloucester and Northumberland. It is in these counties that the most extensive lumbering operations in the province are carried on, so that the expression "North Shore lumbermen" has come to be pretty well known throughout the maritime provinces. Along the Miramichi, the Restigouche and the Nepisiguit rivers, and their numerous tributaries, are situated a number of the largest and best-equipped saw mills in Eastern Canada. Then there is a large number of smaller mills scattered all over the country, some stationary, many portable, a number sawing boards and deals, others manufacturing shingles and laths exclusively. Every winter the owners of these mills send hundreds of men and teams into the woods. They are there from about the first of November until the last of March or the first of April. Many of them are never home during this time. Their supplies are brought by regular supply teams and the five months are given up to lumbering in the strictest sense of the word. So soon as the ice breaks up in the streams the men are re-engaged for the drives, and so eight or ten weeks are spent in getting the logs to the mills or into the booms or ponds, or wherever the owner desires them to be placed. Sawing generally begins along the latter part of May and continues until the supply of logs is exhausted, or until navigation closes. This year the larger number of the mills closed down early in the season, having no more stock on hand. The lumber cut last winter was much smaller than usual. All the old logs having been used, the booms and ponds are practically empty. This is an abnormal condition of affairs, and because of it the lumber cut along the North Shore will be larger this winter than it has been for several years. There is another reason why these operators will carry on a larger business this winter than they did last. The United States market now stands open to them. While the recent tariff changes will not benefit them directly they will indirectly. It is thought that the Quebec and Ontario lumbermen will take advantage of the new law respecting Canadian lumber and find a market for their product in the large American cities, instead of shipping to Great Britain as they have been doing. This action on the part of the Quebec and Ontario operators will give the North Shore lumbermen an opportunity to sell in the British market.

The North Shore mills can quite properly be grouped under three heads, viz: those on the Miramichi river and its tributaries, those on the Nepisiguit river, and the mills situated along the Restigouche river.

Probably the most extensive operations are carried on along the Miramichi. The greater number of mills are situated along this river, the annual cut is larger, and the amount of lumber shipped from that port is larger than that sent out from any other North Shore port. Wm. Richards is one of the largest operators in the province. He has a mill at Chatham on the Miramichi, another at Boistown on a branch of this river and a third mill at Campbellton on the Restigouche. He ships about 30,000,000 feet annually.

Senator J. B. Snowball owns a large mill at Chatham. He gives employment to 650 men here. A short time ago he purchased the old Sweeney mill at Tracadie. The senator has had this mill thoroughly repaired and has cut some. He expects to cut 8,000,000 feet next year in this mill. It has been idle for several years.

Clarke, Skillings & Co. have a large spool factory at Newcastle on the Miramichi. This firm has shipped 1,000,000 feet of birch to Scotland this year. James Aiton owns a spool factory at Bartibogue on this river; he probably does about half as much business as the other firm.

There is at Chatham a sulphite fibre mill that has been running for five years. It has a capacity of 40 cords of wood or 20 tons of pulp daily. The wood is obtained near the factory. The pulp is sold in the United States. This factory employs 150 hands.

The old Stewart mill at Black Brook, six miles from Chatham, is owned by the Bank of Montreal. They

are trying to sell, and it is not known whether or not it will run next year. Some of the other mills on the Miramichi are Hutcheson's at Douglastown, Birchall, Flepp, and Sergeant at Nelson and D. & J. Ritchie and Hickson at Newcastle. These are all large operators. Alex. Gibson has extended the Canada Eastern Railway to Black Brook, so that the mills there can now ship by rail across the province to the United States or by water to England.

The bulk of the lumber cut on the Miramichi is shipped to the British market; a portion, however, goes to France, Africa, and a few odd cargoes to the Canary Islands. About the only thing shipped to the United States is laths.

At Bathurst, on the Nepisiguit river, are to be found the headquarters of the St. Lawrence Lumber Co., of which Senator K. F. Burns is the managing director. This company is registered in London under the English Joint Stock Companies Act. Besides its offices at Bathurst and at Bersimis on the St. Lawrence, it has others at London and Liverpool, and agencies at Paris, Marseilles and Bordeaux, France, and at Carthage, Spain. Its most important property is on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, near Bersimis. Here it controls 775 square miles of timber lands, including what Senator Burns declares is the largest and best spruce property in the world. The Company's New Brunswick property embraces some 300 square miles of timber lands, with a mill at Bathurst and another on the line of the Caraque Railway. The aggregate cut is about 12,000,000 feet in a season. It is shipped principally to the British Islands. About three-fourths of the Bathurst export is spruce and one-fourth pine. The pine is said to be the finest produced in the province.

This company's Bathurst mill has a capacity of 65,000 feet daily; as it runs both day and night the total output for the 24 hours is about 120,000 feet. The company employ here and at the Burnsville mill some 200 men. J. P. Burns is manager of this mill. There are first-class wharves near the mill and large three-masted schooners can load at the mill without any difficulty. On account of a bar square-rigged ships cannot get in to the wharf, and the lumber has to be scowed out to them. The cut of lumber in this county will be very little if any heavier than last season. The shingle makers have large stocks on hand and the demand is slow. O. F. Stacey has a shingle mill at Bathurst that cuts 5,000,000 annually.

A. E. Alexander, K. Shmes, David Richards, A. G. Wallace, Wm. Currie and J. P. Mowat are the largest operators on the Restigouche. The Ontario Lumber & Milling Company has purchased large tracts of timber limits in the Restigouche region and talk of building large mills at Campbellton. It is not yet determined whether or not they will proceed with this work.

By this article it will easily be seen that lumbering along the North Shore assumes large proportions, and is the chief industry in that part of the province. Hundreds of men and teams are employed the year round; many others are employed six or seven months out of the year. The land is not generally adapted for agriculture and it has not been carried on on anything like an extensive scale; in fact, agriculture has been neglected. The inhabitants depend upon the lumber industry almost exclusively.

There was a sale of crown lands at Fredericton the other day, when twelve berths were sold. The upset price is \$8 per square mile. A six mile berth was knocked down to F. Stanchiffe, Montreal, at \$53.50 a mile. F. B. Coleman purchased a 4½ mile berth on the Miramichi at \$56.50 a mile. A 4½ mile berth on the Restigouche was sold to Jas. H. Moores for \$50.50 per mile. From the above it will be seen that timber lands along the North Shore are rapidly increasing in value.

A. H. MCCREADY.

ST. JOHN, N. B.

A prominent buyer and handler of staves said not long ago that there was plenty of money lost to stave manufacturers by carelessness in putting the staves in shape for the market. He said that staves which were put up neatly and compactly in bundles sold for more and sold quicker than those which came into market loosely tied and lacking in tidy appearance.—Coopers' Journal.

TALKS WITH WOOD-WORKERS.

HOW to treat the face of hardwood joinery, says a writer in Timber Trades Journal, frequently requires much consideration and deserves a passing notice. In the case of oak the action of the atmosphere would tone it down admirably; but this takes time and the first appearance of newness is often removed by the fumes of ammonia, which can be regulated to produce any desired shade, and the treatment is a good one when the work is not subject to much handling; where it is, however, beeswax and turpentine are generally applied afterwards, as otherwise the damp heat of the hands will leave dark marks; care must, however, be taken that as much of the wax is rubbed off as possible, or the work will very probably turn yellow in time. After this application the oak will cease to darken, as the wax fills up the pores and prevents any further action of the air. Beeswax and turpentine alone also produce good results on most hardwoods when well rubbed in and a pleasant surface is the result, much the same as the light polish seen on an egg-shell. This treatment is also particularly useful for floors. These, however, require periodical attention. Simple oiling is never satisfactory. French polishing is a very general treatment, but is too well known to need any description. It is of the most vital consequence to remember that damp plays havoc with seasoned woodwork, causing it to swell and warp. It is therefore fatal to put it against damp walls; when it is impossible for these to have time to dry, the wood should be well coated at the back with a damp-resisting preparation and not be fixed close against the wall.

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A good preparation for preserving tools from rusting is made by the slow melting together of six or eight parts of lard or one of resin, stirring until cool. This remains semi-fluid, ready for use, the resin preventing rancidity and preventing an air tight film. Rubbed on a bright surface ever so thinly, it protects and preserves the polish effectually, and it can be wiped off nearly clean if desired, as from a knife blade, or it may be thinned with coal oil or benzine.

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Only a born genius, says "Job" in London World, can put a fine edge on a woodcutting tool invariably. This truth is not known to many foremen and owners, most of whom take it for granted that, because an operator uses wood-cutting tools, he naturally and necessarily knows how to do all that is required to be done to keep them in the best possible condition for work. The owner or foreman who would like to know whether all such tools are properly and perfectly edged has an interesting bit of investigation before him. He may rest assured that a thorough examination of the edged tools in his plant will startle him.

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Embossing machines are jumping to the front in woodworking in a way that must surprise the moss-backs and old fogies, as well as those very remarkable faddists and high-industrial-art purists who contend that any change from the old, slow, irregular and expensive hand-carving is a degradation of art and should be frowned down. There will always be a demand for hand-carved woodwork of the finest sorts. Wealthy people can and will pay for such work, and there is no danger that fine carving will soon become a lost art. In that view of the situation it is not exactly plain that so fine and so cheap a substitute for carving as embossing really is should be called a "degradation of industrial art." On the other hand, embossing really is a movement upward for the majority of the people of this country. The people on the whole are beginning to admire and desire finer furniture and woodwork. Unable to buy the expensive hand carved work, they can satisfy their awakened and elevated tastes with the beautiful work done by the embossers. What possible "degradation of art" is there in this.

JAS.

Burnt boiler plates are due to "low water," to a deposit of sediment or scale, to continue impact of flame caused by leaks of air through the masonry, and when a seam is just back of a bridge wall; but sometimes it is caused from an incrustation, or soap formed from oily matter.—Power.