

PROSPECTS FOR LOGGING OPERATIONS

Information from all parts of the Dominion.—Scarcity of Labor in Many Districts, and Wages Generally High. Output of Logs Likely to be Less than Last Winter.

LOGGING operations for this winter being well under way, opinions were solicited from several lumbermen as to the conditions which have existed in the woods and the prospects for the season's work. By the kindness of those from whom enquiry was made, we are permitted to publish below letters from nearly every section of the Dominion :

ALEXANDRIA, ONT., Nov. 19th.—We would say the amount of timber expected to come out in the eastern section will be about the same amount as usual. The advance in prices of all kinds of goods, and of wages, will raise the cost of logs about 25 per cent. over that of former years, which, we hope, will be offset by an equal advance in the price of lumber.

MACPHERSON & SCHELL.

PETERBOROUGH, ONT., Nov. 14th.—We expect the saw logging industries in this locality to yield about the same output as in the past year. In our camps we expect to cut about 12,000,000 feet. The fine weather this fall has been well taken advantage of in clearing up creeks and dumping grounds and in creek repairs. Labor is offering freely, but at an increase in rates over last season. Supplies generally are plentiful and at about last year's prices, excepting bacon, which is considerably higher.

THE DICKSON Co.

ROCKLAND, ONT., Nov. 12th.—At present we cannot give you information that can be relied upon as to the intake of saw logs for the coming winter, so much depends on the nature of the winter we may have. Men's wages are excessively high, and the cost of logs will even be greater than the very high cost of last season. Fewer men are in the woods, and with the most favorable winter the crop will be somewhat short of last season. The full measure of the shortness will depend on the character of the winter.

W. C. EDWARDS & Co.

OTTAWA, ONT., Nov. 12th.—Logging operations are about in the same condition as one year ago. Labor is much more unsettled and wages much higher, being fully 20 to 25 per cent. above last year. The same may be said of provisions and supplies in the main, but not every article. Pork is worth fully 30 per cent. more, also sugar, beef, butter, in fact almost everything but flour, which remains about the same. Hay and oats have not advanced nearly so much as pork. I think the production for the winter will be fully as great as last winter and likely more.

ST. ANTHONY LUMBER Co.

OTTAWA, Nov. 10th.—Regarding logging operations, we do not think that they will be quite as extensive as last year, owing to the fact that men are so hard to obtain. We know of several operations which are being carried on with not much more than half the complement of men required, and this seems to be the general complaint in every section. Then again, the cost of labor and supplies is going to be the means of putting a number of the smaller operations out of business, as they are going to find it much harder to obtain both men and provisions, the former of which only can be had on a strictly cash basis, as the men are very independent now and will go where they can get the best wages and best attention. Assuming that we have good weather, we think that the output will be fairly large, but we do not know that it will exceed last year's cut, especially in this section, as another difficulty has arisen which will prevent two or three parties taking out as large a supply of logs as they did last year, and that is the fact that two or three of the mills have been burned. There is going to be considerable difficulty experienced in the cutting of the logs.

"OTTAWA VALLEY MANUFACTURER."

THREE RIVERS, QUE., Nov. 13th.—From what I can make out now I think the cut this winter in our district

(weather favorable) will be, viz, logs, pine and spruce, fit for sawing into deals, planks and boards, about same; pulp wood logs, spruce, fully one-third more. The cost will be 12 to 15 per cent. greater than last winter.

ALEX. BAPTIST.

CHARLEMAGNE, QUE., Nov. 17.—We expect to get out our usual supply of logs this winter, 250 to 300 thousand pieces. No firms in this district have increased their operations. The weather has been very favorable for cutting and skidding, but men are scarce and all supplies dearer. The cost of getting out logs this coming season will be 25 or 30 per cent. more than last year.

CHARLEMAGNE & LAC OUAIRAU LUMBER Co.

QUEBEC, Nov. 13th.—It is too early yet to say how far weather conditions will affect our output. The labor question is a very important factor, for wages have gone up very considerably and laborers are scarce. Another difficulty which has to be confronted is the scarcity of suitable horses. The cost of supplies will not materially affect the output where markets are good and labor available at reasonable prices. Our view of the situation is that labor being scarce and a large portion of this labor devoted to the production of wood to be converted into pulp, the cut of logs to be sawn into lumber will be considerably reduced, probably to the extent of 10 to 15 per cent. These remarks apply altogether to the crop of spruce logs in the Province of Quebec.

KING BROTHERS.

AMHERST, N. S., Nov. 20th.—Regarding the output of logs from this province for the coming winter, our opinion is that the quantity taken out for the regular stationary mills will be about the same as last year. The portable mills, however, will not likely get out over sixty or seventy per cent. of last year's cut.

RHODES, CURRY & Co.

YARMOUTH, N. S., Nov. 15th.—The cut of logs for sawing is affected by the kind of weather we have in January, February and March. If we have a fair amount of cold and snow, cold to freeze the swamps over and snow to facilitate hauling logs to the river margin, we will have average cut here.

PARKER, EAKINS & Co.

BEAR RIVER, N.S., Nov. 13th.—The outlook for the coming season is about as usual, and the result of the winter's work will depend entirely upon the supply of snow. Last winter was scarcely an average cut owing to the unfavourable winter, but with reasonable good weather there will be a moderate increase over last year's output. The quantity carried over from this year will be the smallest in the last 20 years, and the demand is good.

WOLFVILLE, N. S., Nov. 19th.—Regarding lumbering prospects for the coming season, would say, first, that supplies are about the same price as last year; beans, pork and fish are somewhat higher. Labor has advanced slightly. Our logging season usually being very short, we seldom have any snow hauling until the latter part of January, and even if the coming winter should be a favorable one, it is doubtful, on account of many small properties being worked out, if any more logs will be taken out this year than last.

S. P. BENJAMIN.

LOWER STEWACKE, N. S., Nov. 15th.—Up to the present time here the weather has been exceptionally mild and also rainy—so much so that lumbering operations in the forest are very much retarded. Supplies are high and labor is higher. I regard the latter item as the worst feature in our business, since labor is both scarce and dear. The production of logs in this section is certain to be smaller than usual this winter, from several causes: First, the scarcity and dearthness of labor; secondly, lumber is getting cut away and is not so plentiful as formerly; then again the foreign outlook is not so promising in respect to prices as at this date

last year. On account of snowless winter in Nova Scotia, last winter, our prices did not realize high profits, and now, for lower rates, labor being encouragement is not present, knowing, of course, what kind of a winter there will be. If as unfavorable as last, it will be better to be operating, especially if any chance for sale. In Nova Scotia, the larger business going, but are not more than an average cut, it again, a smaller class of mills, buying up small tracts of timber and logging the same into deals. These people this not nearly so much in evidence, without much loss to themselves, and are doing of instances. Hence, all indications point to production of lumber here, even under the able circumstances. The foreign available stock on hand, are not moving in contracting, thinking prices too high. Our backward about going into the woods, for prices, and it will soon be too late to catch up cut, even should the European buyers take hold.

ALEX. B.

ST. GEORGE, N.B., Nov. 12th.—We think the lumber on our river (Magaguadavie) will be smaller year.

JOHN DEWALL.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Nov. 12th.—At present the prospects for successful logging operations are poor, the weather unfavorable, wages excessively high and men very scarce, while supplies of all kinds are high. With favorable weather, logging operations will be less than last year.

ANDRE CUSENETTE.

SHEILA, N. B., Nov. 16.—As far as we can judge there will be about the same quantity of logs in this district as last season. Labor is scarce, cost more than last year, and the weather has been favorable—too much rain all fall; these causes logging more expensive than last season, and a tendency to reduce the output.

TRACADIE LUMBER Co.

CHATHAM, N. B., Nov. 19th.—The weather so far this season have been favorable for logging operations, but it is too early to make any prediction for the winter. The stock wintering here has not yet come up, but so far as we can judge, it will be about the same as last year. The preparations for logging will be twenty per cent. less than last season, but if a favorable weather this may be slightly decreased only slightly, as men are very scarce, and wages twenty per cent. over last year's rates. The price of provisions is generally higher, and the outlook for the season's European markets is not bright.

J. B. SMITH.

SHEDIAC, N. B., Nov. 21st.—I can hardly give an opinion as to the quantity of lumber this district will produce for next season's shipment, but it seems pretty generally conceded that the high price of last year will not be maintained during the coming season, hence my opinion is that operations will not go to the same extent as last winter—we at least shall not cut as heavily. Labor is at least 15 per cent. higher than last year, supplies somewhat higher, and the outlook for this part of the province not encouraging at present for yarding logs.

E. J. SMITH.

BRANDON, MAN., Nov. 17th.—We are working the camps and intend sending out two hundred thousand feet this year, 4,000,000 feet from each camp. Last year we cut 7,000,000 feet last year, so you see we intend to increase our output by 1,000,000 feet. The outlook for the winter is looking very favorable, there being a prospect of writing a nice fall of snow, which will enable us to commence logging at once. We think the output will be about the same as last year. On the other hand, the point will be somewhat scarce. The lumber trade in this district has been very slow for the last two years, owing to the shortage of crops and bad weather.