

## TIMBER WEALTH OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

BRITISH Columbia has long been famed for its magnificent scenery of mountain and river. Who has not heard of Mount Hooker, a part of the world-famed Rocky Mountains, which in this province reach their highest point, 16,760 feet, with Mount Brown at 16,000 feet and Mount Murchison 15,700 feet, while there are others of nearly the same height. The Fraser river with its many remarkable windings, and the Columbia river, over 1,200 miles in length, flowing finally into the Pacific Ocean, are points of interest not quickly forgotten by the student of history and certainly not by those whose privilege it has been to visit this picturesque corner of the Dominion and view for themselves these strange sights.

But British Columbia, we opine, has acquired greater fame by reason of its wonderful timbers than through any other condition, physical or climatical. Canada's popular elocutionist, Jessie Alexander, has sung its praises, telling how she one day, along with some friends, stood in admiration viewing one of the big trees of Vancouver in which were located six gentlemen waiting to be photographed. Four were mounted, and the others were in a carriage. "The huge tree," Miss Alexander says, "contained horses, vehicles and men, and yet there was room for our party."

A country on which nature has bestowed such wealth of attractions can live no hermetical existence, and as the Niagara Falls of our own province is sought for by travellers near and far, so we can understand that few take a journey on our national highway, the Canadian Pacific, without striving to go its full length and include a visit to the Coast.

As Canadians, however, we consider this Coast province with admiration not only from an esthetic side, but as business people, from a strong utilitarian point of view. The wealth of its mineral and forest resources must bring wealth to our country as a whole. Are we not one united Dominion? The prosperity of each individual part is the prosperity of the whole. Especially the lumbermen of Ontario are interested in British Columbia's progress, for where better, as our Ontario forests become denuded, can they look for safer investments, with larger possibilities in the investment, than in this corner of the Dominion? The truth is that a large amount of Ontario capital is already placed in the lumber business in that country. We are knit together now by a mutual interest. Few finer and more extensive saw mills are found anywhere than those of the McLaren-Ross Lumber Co., at New Westminster and Barnet, which have been erected chiefly with Ontario capital. Our news columns of the past few months have recorded the incorporation of the Toronto and British Columbia Lumber Co., with a capital of \$1,000,000, and which is composed almost entirely of capitalists of Toronto and neighbourhood, several prominent lumbermen from Barrie being interested. The managing men in many mills of the province in not a few instances hail from Ontario, and in the manufacture of Ontario's timber obtained the skill and experience that had made their services sought for elsewhere. And experience is a necessity with any workman who undertakes to handle the fine timbers that are grown on the Pacific Coast. It is here that Douglas Fir is found, celebrated for its strength and straightness. It frequently grows over 300 feet high, and has squared forty-five inches for a length of ninety feet. Practically these timbers find no competitor either in our own country or across the border, evidenced in the fact that a growing trade is found for them in California and other points of the United States where Oregon pine had hitherto held the market. Red cedar is fast acquiring a strong position as a commercial wood both at home and abroad. It grows to a large size and is frequently found 200 feet in height and twenty feet in diameter. For inside finish it takes a beautiful polish, and many of the most palatial residences in this section of the Dominion and elsewhere, as well as in the eastern States, are finished in British Columbia red cedar. Not the least essential qualification is its durability, causing it to be largely used in the manufacture of doors and sashes. Only two months ago we gave an account in these columns of the phenomenal growth of the trade in red cedar shingles. This wood would appear to be "par excellence" the material for shingles.

In less than a year the trade in red shingles on the Coast has increased more than 200 per cent., and large quantities of these are coming into Ontario and Quebec. The durability of the red cedar for shingles is its greatest recommendation, cases being cited of shingles that have shown little appearance of wear though in use for a score of years and more.

An obstacle to an extension of trade in the east has been the high rates of freight charged by the Canadian Pacific, but it is anticipated that the new railway, in connection with the Northern Pacific, about to be built, will have the effect of materially reducing freights east. A correspondent of the Monetary Times, writing on this point, has recently said: "Given satisfactory freights, the lumber trade of this province must grow to gigantic proportion, as British Columbia woods are superior to any in the world."

British Columbia relies for her lumber trade in a large measure on the export to foreign countries. The financial depression, which has overshadowed South America for the past two years, is fortunately disappearing, and this is an important field for British Columbia lumber. Naturally the people of the coast are anxious for the completion of the Nicaragua Canal. To-day the journey from Victoria to Great Britain is about 16,000 miles. The consequences of a change to probably 8,000 miles would be so far-reaching in results that it is difficult to imagine the impetus this measure would necessarily give to commerce on the coast, and especially to the lumber trade. A lumber journal of Melbourne, Australia, from which we quoted last month, has intimated the boon it will be to the people of these colonies when they can receive their lumber from British Columbia via the projected canal in place of, as now, by the circuitous route around Cape Horn. British Columbia has an increased interest in Australian lumber trade at the present because of recent retaliatory legislation against the United States which practically shuts out Oregon pine, and, conversely, enlarges the field for Douglas Fir.

The provincial Legislature of British Columbia has, by a recent order-in-council, decreed that all sales of timber by the Government shall in future be conducted by public competition on lines similar to those adopted by the Ontario Government. This step may be taken as an evidence of the value placed by the province on its timber resources and the necessity to conserve this wealth to the province.

## MICHIGAN STUMPAGE.

THE following figures taken from the annual review of the Saginaw Board of Trade will be interesting as showing the steady increase in the value of pine stumpage in Michigan since the year 1880 inclusive. The figures are taken from the reviews of 1886 and 1891, which are all we have before us. The former gives the prices of stumpage for a number of years previous as follows: 1880, \$2.75 to \$3; 1881, \$3 to \$4; 1882, \$3.50 to \$4.50; 1883, \$4 to \$5; 1884, \$4 to \$5; 1885, \$4.50 to \$5.50, and adds: "The foregoing does not cover the extreme ranges of values in all cases but is a fair average of ruling prices." Speaking for the then current year, 1886, it says: "It is estimated that a fair range of values for the year was \$4.50 to \$6.50 per 1,000 feet. The review for 1891 says: "Stumpage is held at \$4.50 to \$8 per 1,000. There has been a large amount of trading in small patches of hemlock and stump lands."

## TRADE NOTES.

Exceedingly satisfactory work is being accomplished by the Waterous No. 2 land saw recently placed in Conroy's mill, Deschenes, Que. They started their mill about three months ago and have averaged over 40,000 feet per day. They have only had six saws, and have never broken a saw or lost ten minutes with the land mill. Two saws only parted in the blaze, no breaks. In both the large mill, we understand, they averaged twenty braces per saw this season. In Hudson's they started with sixteen saws about the same time Conroy started, and they have had to order six more saws, the first lot having all gone to pieces, and the mill shut down waiting for saws. Points like these are worthy of the consideration of Canadian lumbermen before they buy American land mills.

The Dodge Wood Split Pulley Co., of Toronto, have recently supplied and erected in running order three of their patent rope drives for the E. H. Ebbly Co., of Hull. These drives cut a very interesting figure in the question of transmis-

sion of large powers, each drive having a capacity of 500 h.p. and performing the work with such apparent ease, being almost silent, very steady, positive, and without noticeable strain on the ropes, making the job on the whole the pride of the genial superintendent of the big paper mills. The pulleys used are all cast iron, grooved, and the skilful arrangement of the carriages for tighteners, and erection of the drives entire, reflect much credit on the Dodge Company and their staff as experts in this line. It might be in order to mention that the rope drives, with 24 wraps of 1½-inch rope each, replaced 50-inch extra heavy belts in each case, and performed just double the work on the grinders that was accomplished by the belts, thus illustrating that large belts, like many other things, are only "all right in their proper place."

Readers will notice that this issue we commence the professional card of Mr. W. J. Graham, patent attorney, 71 Yonge street, who appreciates the importance of LUMBERMAN readers as composing one of the prime industrial factors of Canada. Mr. Graham has been established in business since July, 1889, in Toronto, having commenced at the above address and date as Graham & Riches, but after a short time the latter retired and Mr. Graham has since carried on business without even the assistance of the nominal "& Co." so prevalent among his profession. His knowledge of patents has been principally obtained when in the employ of a few reliable and first-class American firms in New York and Milwaukee, which very probably accounts for the fact that he is the only practitioner in Toronto conducting business direct with the U.S. Patent Office. He also states that notwithstanding what others may claim as engineers, experts, etc., he is the only practitioner in Toronto who has the advantages of an engineering education and has been practically engaged in field and office work.

The Cant Bros. Co., of Galt, have just brought out a land saw re-saw, which is, as far as we know, a new departure in Canadian wood-working manufacture. It is specially adapted to heavy work, such as carriage, coach, wagon and agricultural implement makers, and also for planing mills, etc. It will carry a saw 24 inches wide, and will saw to the centre of 8 inches. The frame is cast in one massive upright piece, with a rectangular cored section having a large base, thus securing a substantial floor support. The wheels have cast iron arms with wooden rim, and the face of the wheels is covered with rubber firmly cemented to rim. The wheels are 42 inches in diameter and have a 3-inch face. The upper wheel has a vertical adjustment to take different lengths of saws, and can also be angled to lead saw in any path while the machine is in motion. It is raised or lowered by means of a hand wheel and screw. The lower wheel is kept free from accumulations of sawdust by a brush. The table is of iron. The feed is effected by four 4-inch heavily-gear rollers, all power-driven. One side of the double feed rolls is stationary, while the other side is yielding to allow for inequalities in the lumber. The operator can cut a slab ¾ to ¾ inch thick off a board up to 4 inches thick. The feed works are driven by belts at rear of machine. The works are also provided with a clutch, controlled by a lever, by which the feed works can be stopped and started at any time without stopping the machine. For sawing bevel-siding the table is simply tilted by a hand wheel. The feed works will expand to take in a plank 8 inches thick and any width up to 24 inches.

## COMING SALES.

The sale of timber limits, saw mill and lumbering plant of Mossom Boyd & Co., to take place at The Mart, Toronto, on Wednesday, 23rd inst., will be one of the most important sales of individual limits held in the province for some years.

Our advertising columns contain an important announcement giving particulars in detail of an extensive sale of Crown timber limits in the province of Quebec on December 15. There are in all about 160 limits to be disposed of, ranging in size from four to fifty square miles, but averaging about twenty-five square miles. They lie in the agencies of Upper Ottawa, St. Maurice, Lake St. John, Saguenay, Montmagny, Grandville, Rimouski, Gaspé and Bonaventure.

## LUMBER CASUALTIES.

A lad named Edward White, aged fifteen, lost his life in the shingle mill of O. F. Stacey, Bathurst, N.B., through having his coat caught in the belting.

Melias Blais, an Ottawa youth in the employ of the Hawkebury Lumber Co., at their limits on the Des Moines River, was chopping a tree when it fell on him, causing instant death.

William McKee, while adjusting a belt at the saw mill at Langford, Ont., had his shirt sleeve caught by the shaft and his arm twisted off by the elbow.

A young man named Herriman, along with two companions, was drowned near Manitoulin Island, Ont., a fortnight ago. Deceased was a son of Dr. Herriman, of Lindsay, and a brother of H. R. Herriman, lumberman, of Little Current.