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MR. W. MALCOLM MACKAY.

Is the commercial history of Canada there are few persons who have taken a more prominent part than the subject of this sketch, Mr. W. Malcolm Mackay, of St. John, N. B., of whom we take pleasure in presenting a portrait taken a short time ago, and which is, we believe, the first ever given to the public. Though one of the foremost of our continental shippers, handling as he has done, with ever-increasing success, a business which has been running into the millions, so conservative and unpresuming are his proceedings, although far-reaching in their power, that the journalistic world usually hears but little of the extensive trade which he carries on.

Mr. Mackay but personates the unpretentious enterprise of the nation he represents, having been born in Lancashire, England, on October 27th, 1851. He is a son of the late Hugh Mackay, who did business before him of a like nature in Quebec and the Maritime provinces, and who at one time lived in St. John, having a house on Dorchester street. Hugh Mackay was born in 1800 in Pictou, N. S. His father, Colin Mackay, was one of the pioneer settlers of that section, having emigrated from Stirlingshire, Scotland, in 1783, and settled on East River, Pictou, N. S. He was married to a lady of English descent, a Miss Mary Davis, one of an old and representative family. He died in 1863, leaving several sons and daughters.

Malcolm Mackay, the subject of our sketch, was sent to Liverpool College, where he studied for six years, at the time when the Rev. Geo. Butler, M. A., was in authority there. His course being completed in 1868, he entered the offices of his uncles, A. F. & D. Mackay, in Liverpool, who have stood among the most prominent of lumber importers. Having served with them for five years, he came out to Bangor, Maine, as their representative.

In the year 1875 he removed to St. John, N. B., and entered into business with his brother, Jas. Mackay, and shortly afterwards launched out on his own account. His policy was to ship for the lumber operators, having their stock as security in his operations, and the absence of speculation accounts in a great measure for the firm and steady increase of his business. He is now represented in England by his brother, Campbell Mackay.

Mr. Mackay's offices are in the Reed building, where they have been located for twenty-two years, and from the windows one looks directly over the harbor where lie the many vessels which he charts, to the number of two hundred in a season.

In 1886 Mr. Mackay was married to Miss Susan McMillan, the eldest daughter of Mr. John McMillan, a prominent publisher of St. John. They have now a family of five sons, and live in

one of the handsomest residences in the city, situated on Orange street. They have also a beautiful summer home in Rothsay, just outside the city. The family are numbered in the congregation of the "Stone" Church of England.

No matter how business varies, Mr. Mackay has ever been known to be of a calm and even temperament. Recognizing the advantages of giving satisfaction to his customers, he has experienced little difficulty in holding his trade.

Of his lumber operations, it may be said that for years Mr. Mackay has been one of the most extensive shippers of lumber in Canada, handling



MR. W. MALCOLM MACKAY.

nearly one-third of the export from the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. By his achievements this year, however, he becomes the largest lumber shipper in the world, having handled over three hundred million feet. His shipments are confined largely to the British markets, the stock being distributed through his Liverpool agents, Messrs. A. F. & D. Mackay.

BELT DRESSINGS.

THE saving of power, belt leather, etc., that follows the use of a good belt dressing on drive or race belts of spinning mules and other machinery, is of considerable consequence to any manufacturer. In order to detect a good from a poor belt dressing, so far as frictional properties are concerned, an apparatus can be used with benefit. It consists of the upright stand, in which a pulley is arranged to turn in a bearing.

A piece of two or three-inch belting should be secured to the floor and the other end to lever. One end of the lever is studded and the other end held down by a bolt. The pulley may be turned from the main shaft of the mill by putting another pulley on the shaft with the second pulley, and

belting the former to a pulley on the mill shaft. The dressing compound to be tested can be applied between the pulley and the belting, and the affair started running. The proportion of increased friction obtained by using the belt dressing may be figured out according to the tables in any engineer's hand-book, using as a basis the proportion of additional friction which has been brought to bear upon the belt as a result of drawing down the lever by means of the bolt. —Boston Commercial Bulletin.

NEW BRUNSWICK TIMBER RESOURCES.

HON. Mr. Tweedie, provincial secretary for New Brunswick, is authority for the statement that, owing to the drop in the spruce market and lack of ships to carry the products of the forest out of the country, there will be held over in that province this winter 100,000,000 feet of lumber. Mr. Tweedie was at one time surveyor-general, and is, in consequence, perfectly familiar with everything connected with the lumber industry. He declares that the province has 7,000,000 acres of timber land, and although lumbering is most extensively carried on, there are yet no less than 2,000,000 acres which are not under lease. This land can be cut over every seven years, and it would therefore seem that fire is the only thing that can ever bring New Brunswick's wonderful timber supply to an end. Consequently it is only natural to suppose that the Government of the province will take every possible means to protect and husband this great source of wealth and general prosperity.

The provincial secretary states that in 1893 the New Brunswick government could have sold the entire timber limits of the province for a sum ranging from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000, and thus wiped out the provincial debt and provided a comfortable revenue for all time to come. However, the executive decided that the wholesale disposal of such a magnificent asset as the forests of New Brunswick would be an unwise policy and detrimental to the best interests of the province. He explains that had such a policy been carried out, the timber would have fallen into the hands of monopolists, who, only cutting to suit their own purposes, would have, no doubt, lessened the output and deprived thousands of people from earning a livelihood. As it is at present, under the twenty-five years' lease system, the lessee is obliged to cut so much every year, and thus the benefit which thousands enjoy is steady and continuous.

The Robertson Raft Company has been organized in San Francisco with the following as officers: J. F. Kennedy, president; J. A. Hooper, vice-president; J. W. Stewart, secretary, with Messrs. Jackson, Robertson & Holmes as the board of directors. After years of trial the plan of coast rafting as perfected by Mr. Robertson has gained a permanent footing, and the above company has been organized to carry on the work.