

THE OTTAWA VALLEY.

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

The mills of the Ottawa district are getting under way on the season's cut, and their work is cut out for them, to quote a popular expression. Mills that are not working are waiting on logs.

Reports from the drives show that the movement of the 1902-1903 cut of logs is a slow one. The water is low on many streams, and the ice still remains on others. The spring so far has been a cold one, and rains are needed, along with a continuous spell of bright weather, to put the streams in high water.

Mail reports received from the Kippewa district go to show that the log drives have started on the Ostobonning, North Kippewa and other streams that are free from ice. Moreover, log-cutting operations were in full swing as late as the 21st inst. It is seldom in the one season that the drives start so early and log cutting is continued so late as to practically overlap. The weather is accountable for the strange combination of circumstances. Sun and wind have cleared the ice from some of the streams and lakes, while snow still lingers in the woods. Thus sleighing is provided and the operators enabled to cut logs in the proximity of the open streams, haul them and send them on their way the next day.

The railway companies report a brisk movement of lumber to New York, via the Albany barge route, and to Montreal, the shipments in both cases being for export. Next week the Rideau Canal will be ready for the Ottawa and American barge lines, and lumber shipments by water will get under way.

The Ottawa Valley lumber market is a ventable puzzle these days and it is almost an impossibility to fix on settled prices. What goes in one yard doesn't carry in another.

Never in the history of the trade was there such a shortage of available pine, and never was the demand so keen. Hold-

ers can practically command their own prices, for scarcity of high grade stock makes the seller, and not the buyer, ruler of the situation.

Over 2,500 cedar poles were taken out by Charles Desmerais, of Hull, at his camp on the Coulonge last winter. The stock is good, ranging 25 feet and upwards.

Ottawa, April 25th, 1903.

Keswick Bros. have completed logging operations on the Restigouche river, in New Brunswick. Owing to inability to get the supplies to the camps last winter, the cut was smaller than expected.

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