

## Ottawa Lumber Interests.

### Their Connection With the Georgian Bay and Ottawa Canal.

Editor Journal:—In the *Montreal Star* of the 8th inst., I read with much interest a letter from C. C. Fair entitled "The Market for Lumber," and touching also on the future prospects of our country. Mr. Fair says:

"Unfortunately the very industry that so materially assists in the development of these places—the backwoods—is handicapped to such an extent that, to make money by it has become almost impossible, and in most cases men are ruined in the attempt. I mean the local saw-mill. He has no chance of being able to place his lumber to the best advantage, simply from the fact that he has no capital and cannot reach foreign markets. Canada needs population. Give us twenty millions of inhabitants, and we could dictate where now we are dictated to, and we want these millions soon. \* \* \* Why should not the government take this matter in hand and by a bit of clever legislation reach the masses of the people, upon whose votes they really depend."

Now, Sir, I firmly believe there is a remedy for this, and that these twenty millions are within our reach.

In the summer of 1859 the writer went down on a raft of square timber from the upper Ottawa to Quebec. On the river St. Lawrence, from Little river to Quebec, the vessels met with (with the exception of a few "pin plats") could be counted on the fingers of one hand. Now on the same trip these waters are found teeming with craft of all dimensions from the stately ocean greyhound to the humble barge loaded with valuable lumber. Why is this? For the simple reason that lumber and other