

OTTAWA, January 30th 1889.

*To the Committee of Lumber Manufacturers, Ottawa :*

GENTLEMEN,—Having been requested by you to make an examination of that part of the River Ottawa, between the City of Ottawa and Grenville, I have now the honor to report the result.

The object of the examination was to ascertain to what extent the refuse from the various sawmills interferes with public and private rights and more especially to determine definitely how far the navigation of the river is obstructed from the same cause.

The examination has been made in general by myself and in detail by my son S. H. Fleming under my instructions.

The refuse from the mills consists of sawdust, edgings, buttings and slabs. A large proportion of the slabs and heavy refuse is not cast into the river, it is separated at each of the mills and generally sold for fuel and other uses.

At most, if not at all the mills, the slabs and heavy refuse not sold, are broken into small fragments by a machine sometimes designated a "hogging machine".

There can be no doubt that all or nearly all the light refuse, such as sawdust and broken-up slabs together with some of the edgings and buttings finds its way into the river ; the exact proportions of edgings and buttings are not easily ascertained.

The annual product of manufactured lumber of all sorts at the various mills around the City of Ottawa will probably average fully 300,000,000 feet B. M. If we estimate 10 per cent. of the annual output as waste we have 30,000,000 feet B.M. or 92,592 cubic yards of refuse, a large proportion of which passes into the river. Whatever the proportion, it is reasonable to suppose that such a quantity of foreign matter if deposited locally would necessarily produce some marked effect. Much, if not the whole of this waste material is buoyant and it is carried away by the stream to a greater or lesser distance, possibly some portion finds its way to the lower reaches of the river, towards the ocean.

In its passage down the river the sawdust floats for a time. While it remains on the surface it is moved by the wind and not infrequently is blown into bays and sheltered spots where, if not removed by a change of wind, it in course of time becomes saturated and disappears.

In such places where the water is still, the water-logged particles of sawdust find their way to the bottom. Owners of property especially in the neighborhood of Ottawa, in some cases claim to suffer damage from the deposit of mill waste in front of their lands, and likewise from its presence on the surface of the water. In an artistic point of view,