

A BRITISH COLUMBIA SPECIMEN.

THE illustration on page five of this month's LUMBERMAN is a representation of an enormous tree to be seen in Stanley Park, Vancouver, B. C. Unless one has seen these giants of the forest it is hard to realize their enormous size. They constitute, as every lumberman knows, one of the main sources of the natural wealth of the Province. The great size attained by these trees has been attributed by so high an authority as Dr. Dawson to the mildness and humidity of the climate. The Douglas pine frequently exceeds 300 feet in height and is remarkably strong and straight.

FASHIONS AND FADS IN THE LUMBER-TRADE.

THERE is one thing that defies human foresight or predict all human laws and efforts to control. It is fashion. No human foresight can predict when, where, or in what shape it will start up, or in what direction it will trend. It is essentially a child of Civilization and its wildest modern vagaries mark but successive steps from barbaric splendor to the height of culture. It is the one omnipotent power that rules modern civilization and culture with a tyrannic despotism more inflexible than the barbaric ages ever knew.

It would seem that, in this utilitarian and practical age, if there is any industrial interest that would be entirely free from all influence of the tyrant Fashion it would be the lumber trade. But it is not. Fortunes have been made and lost in the lumber trade upon a whim of Fashion. Some years ago Fashion issued a decree that all the world should skate, regardless of climate, weather, and thermal conditions. Lumbermen made fortunes building rinks to supersede frozen water, and the world was ransacked to find suitable timber to makerollers for skates. Millions of money were invested in the manufacture of roller skates, rinks, and the patents that covered their mode of construction. The forests of Asia Minor were "denuded" to some extent of boxwood timber to make the rollers, and that wood, at one time, was worth almost its weight in silver, and figured largely in the national tariff revenues. Suddenly Dame Fashion issued a decree of disapproval of the sport, and as suddenly half made fortunes crumbled into bankruptcy.

About, or soon after, that time Fashion decreed that the sporting and pleasure seeking world should devote its attention to another athletic sport—base ball. As usual, the lumberman were called upon to furnish their part of the outfit, and it proved a small bonanza to some of them. One obscure hamlet in Tennessee furnished as many as one hundred cars of ash base ball bats in a single year. Recently the demand for this kind of wood work has fallen off to almost nothing, and there are some anxious inquirers among the lumber fraternity who want to know what Fashion is going to do about the game. This is a question no one can answer positively. Under the league system of professionals the business was overdone. It requires no special mental training, no moral character, or other trait except physical vigor and practice, but experts soon commanded salaries exceeding those paid our high judicial and executive officers, or the most eminent divines and scholars. If Fashion were governed by sense or any known law of reason we should think the professional game is "out of fashion." As a college game, among non-salaried amateurs, it is well enough, and will probably always be in fashion, but the tribute it will pay to the lumbermen will be comparatively small. Those who are now discussing whether the present condition of the game is only a temporary depression or a permanent decadence, refer to the English national game of cricket as a hopeful example. They say that game has been played in England for centuries and is still popular, and many think base ball will revive. May be so. No one can tell, but this is not a good time to invest money in machinery, plant, or timber for the manufacture of base ball supplies.

THE forest fires where damage has been done to live timber are likely to result in considerable summer logging being done. The timber will be cut to save it from destruction by the worms and the elements.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

A Brisk Import and Export Trade—B. C. Fir vs Oregon Pine—Personal and News mention.

[Regular Correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

ALL the mills in British Columbia are taxed to their fullest capacity to fill orders for local trade and export. The great scarcity of bottoms still continues and the amount exported is curtailed for this reason. It is a surprise and cause of wonder to many that the export mills in British Columbia have more orders than they can fill, for the above reasons, while the mills on Puget Sound are either closed down entirely, or only running half time, from want of orders. The explanation seems to be that the timber from B. C. finds more ready sales.

The Boards of Trade of New Westminster, Vancouver and Victoria are trying to have B. C. lumber and timber quoted and separated from "Oregon Pine" in the circulars and trade reports of Australia. Now it all goes in as "Oregon Pine" which is unfair to B. C. Fir.

The Canadian Pacific Lumber Co. have concluded the purchase of five acres of land near the head of Lulu Island from Mr. D. McGillivray on which they will build their mill. The purchase price was \$5,000. Work on the mill has been commenced. The machinery has been ordered and is expected here shortly. A rumor is abroad that a well known manufacturing firm will amalgamate with the Canadian Pacific Co., but at this writing it lacks confirmation.

Messrs. Murray Bros. have opened a retail lumber yard at Mission City and are now ready to fill all orders for building and finishing lumber.

Morton Bros., mill on the Nicomeckl River is kept busy at local work.

The R. C. P. mills Co. daily ship from 3 to 5 cars of lumber east per C. P. R. and the Brunette Saw Mill Co. is increasing their trade east of the Mountains, every mail bringing in orders. The new mill is working to the satisfaction of the management. Mr. John Wilson, late of Ottawa, is now manager and H. L. Debeck, secretary. This change was made at the last general meeting of the Co. held in New Westminster last March.

T. S. Higginson Esq, crown timber agent, is still very unwell and feels the effects of his accident received in the C. P. R. accident at Schreiber, some time since.

The output of the Westminster mills for the year ending May 1st is placed at one hundred and fifty million feet of lumber, the value of which would be about \$1,875,000. This is exclusive of laths and shingles. It is estimated that forty five million shingles were also turned out, which would mean at least \$135,000. There were fifteen million laths, which would aggregate \$37,500. Of the above production it is estimated that at least one-half was exported to foreign countries, such as China, Japan, India, Australia and the United Kingdom, while the other half was utilized at home.

The genial and capable manager of the MacLaren Ross Lumber Co. Mr. R. H. O'Hara, has resigned. He left for the east on 24th inst. H. G. R.

New Westminster, B. C. June 25th 1891.

LUMBERING—THROUGH WOMAN'S GLASSES.

THE following sprightly sketch of the Longford Saw Mills is written by "Madge Merton," editor of the woman's department of the *Daily Globe*. It is readable, because of its brightness, as well as presenting an interesting picture of life in the lumbering regions, as seen by a woman. She says:—

"Five miles from Orillia across the Lake Couchiching is the little lumbering settlement of Longford, owned by Thompson Bros. The three-fourths of a mile from the dock to the large mill is a pretty drive past full-foliaged woods, stony, rolling ground and the ruins of an old tramway, which has fallen into disuse since the entrance of the railway.

"Alongside the mill is Lake St. John, a pretty, glassy-surfaced sheet of water four miles long. Near the shore the logs were lying ready for their quick passage through the noisy mill, with its executive committee of saws and men. How the saw dust, splinters, blocks and chips come tumbling down the shafts, for the waste

feeds the furnace. The two great engines hissed, the floor shook as they trod their measured way and I could easily believe they were doing the work of a hundred and twenty horses. Up above we saw the wet logs come up and watched the saws bite into the pine, casting to one side the tough brown bark. The bands and pulleys seem to whistle as they spun around and the men strained every muscle, for the whirling machinery waited for no slow hands or wearied bodies. The circular saws hissed spitefully as they cut the timber even and the noise of the planks falling upon the pile was lost in the commotion.

"Standing near the lath machine we watched the slender sticks come out ready to be sorted into bundles. The hiss of the saw was of shorter duration, but further over the busy, larger one filled the second's interval with its monotonous buzzing.

"We climbed up to the door of the big sheet-iron burner, in which the useless saw dust fell to be consumed, and stared with horror-startled eyes down into the flames. They leaped towards us with a roar. The hot smoke rose in clouds and the sparks danced in them like shooting stars.

"At the smaller mill I was much interested in the emery wheel which sharpens in an hour a big, wicked looking saw which by hand required a-half day's labor. How it ground against the metal, flinging sparks out into the air, reminding one of pin-wheel fireworks on Dominion Days!

"A store, telegraph office, post office, church, school and free library are the town part of the settlement, and the little cottages for the married workmen are prettily situated away from the mills, with two large boarding-houses for the unmarried ones.

"In passing a stone quarry I learned that stone was being shipped from it for the new Toronto City Hall building. To the north the bush fires were raging and the smoke drew the horizon close about eyes which were aching to look beyond it.

"High piles of lumber rose above our heads till it seemed as if pigmy horses and dwarfed people were moving along the winding road. "Ten millions shipped since January and 120 M cut in the big mill in a day." was the owner's answer to my queries.

"The air was spicy with the odor of the fresh-cut pine, and the sun was red in the smoky atmosphere as we boarded the little steamer on our return journey. All the way along a band of sunset-light stretched between us and the west, startled into sparks as the disturbed water flowed away from the path cut by the prow. Grey-hued in the smoke lay Orillia with its tiers of tree-crowned terraces stretching above the water front of the calm little island-dotted Lake Couchiching

TRADE NOTES.

The firm of Burns & Thomas, saw manufacturers, of this city, has become the E. R. Burns Saw Co., Mr. Thomas retiring. The saws of this company, of whatever kind, have ever taken a first position. Circular and long saws of all kinds can always be had from them.

It will be of interest to our readers to know that the Waterous Engine Works Co., of Brantford, have a band saw mill expert from the States in their employ, who, they will be glad to send out of any mills requiring the service of a man to put their saws in order and give them instructions in running band saws.

The Cant Bros. Co., of Galt, have just brought out a new and improved hub boring machine with a self-centering chuck, capable of receiving blocks from 3 inches to 22 inches diameter, and of boring or rearing either straight or taper holes from $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch to 5 inches diameter. The hole is bored in the block complete at one operation to the proper size and taper, so as to fit the hub lathe mandrel on which the block is turned and finished. The carriage is mounted on and gibbed to a stout wooden frame, and will neither leave its bearings nor spring even when performing the heaviest class of work, and it slides to and from the boring tool easily and accurately by means of a large hand wheel. When the carriage is moved to the back end of the machine, the block can be readily placed in and taken out of the jaws, which are operated by hand wheel and gearing.