

NEW BRUNSWICK.

British Capital for Lumber Mill—West India Steamship Service—Prices of Logs at Auction Sale.

(Staff Correspondence.)

St. John, New Brunswick, Aug. 8, 1911.

Timely rains during the past week have started millions of feet of logs that were on the St. John River, between Fredericton and Woodstock, and which will be needed to keep the mills busy for the balance of the season. They will be got into the booms without difficulty. While this is a quiet season, trade generally is reported to be in a healthy condition.

Sir Thomas Tait, who is summering at St. Andrews, visited the Queen's County coal fields last week, and expressed the view that with sufficient capital there could be a great development. Sir Thomas made a remark which is worth noting. He expressed surprise that so much valuable soil as he saw in his journey from Fredericton through Queen's County and on to St. John should be neglected, while this province imports grain, beef, butter and cheese from the upper provinces.

There will be a fruit fair in St. John in the autumn, surpassing that of last year. In order to encourage the development of the fruit lands of the province, the St. John Board of Trade has offered a cup, and several merchants have offered cash prizes for the best display of fruits of different kinds at this fair.

West India Steamship Service.

There appears to be a deadlock in the matter of the West India Steamship service. Messrs. Pickford and Black refuse to increase the number of calls of their steamers at St. John without an increase in subsidy, which the St. John Board of Trade regards as entirely too high. The president of the board states that unless an agreement is reached, the board may either appeal to the Federal government for a revision of the contract, or take steps to secure an independent steamship service for this port.

Premier Hazen, while in Great Britain, took steps to develop the oil shales in Albert County; and practically succeeded in negotiations with a strong company to take over the charter from an existing company. If the arrangement can be concluded there will be established in Albert County one of the greatest industries in Canada. These oil shales have been shown by government test to be superior in quality to the Scottish shales.

A group of newspaper men from Bristol, Scotland and Ireland will tour New Brunswick in August. The St. John Board of Trade and the newspapers of the city will unite to welcome the visitors, and see to it that they are fully informed concerning the resources of the province.

The Canadian Pacific Railway may erect a large building for their general offices in St. John. The building occupied by Messrs. Scovil Bros. & Company, at the corner of King and Germain Streets, has been purchased by a lawyer, the name of whose client is not stated. The rumor says it is the Canadian Pacific Railway but this is not confirmed.

British Capital for Lumber Mill.

Messrs. Farnworth & Jardine of Liverpool have bought the lumber property and mills of the Messrs. Alex. Gibson Company, in New Brunswick, for \$1,000,000. A company to be known as the Nashwaak Lumber Company, with \$5,000,000 capital, is being organized, and it is assumed, since a member of the Liverpool firm is one of the directors, that they will overtake the operation of the mills.

There was a report last week that Messrs. T. S. Simms & Company would remove their brush and broom factory from St. John to Fredericton. A member of the firm was in that city asking what concessions could be secured. Since then arrangements are shown to be possible by which the company will get in St. John all the space they require for the further enlarging of their plant, which has already been several times enlarged during the past two years. It is stated that Messrs. Ganong Brothers, Limited, who are now manufacturing confectionery in St. John as well as St. Stephen, are looking over the present Simms factory with a view to its purchase for the enlargement of their operations.

A new industry has been established at Plaster Rock through the efforts of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The Stinson Reeb Builders' Supply Company of Montreal, has taken over a property there, and are producing crushed gypsum, for which they have already received an order from the Canada Cement Company for 15,000 tons.

The Canadian Pacific Railway has had a small steamer built to run between St. Andrews and Maine ports for the benefit of the sardine business. Captain Walsh, the shore captain for the Canadian Pacific Railway in winter at this port, states that he anticipates a large export trade through this port next winter.

An indication of the price of logs was given at the annual auction sale of unmarked logs in the St. John River drives last week. The spruce brought \$14.50 per M.; the pine \$10.25, and the cedar \$9.40; hemlock sold at \$7.50.

Before winter sets in the channel entering St. John Harbor will have an average depth of 34 feet at the lowest tide, and it is expected the dredge W. S. Fielding will be at work on the channel entering Courtenay Bay, where the drydock and ship repair plant will be located and the wharves for the Grand Trunk Pacific.

The ownership of the St. John Cotton Mills is passing to the Dominion Colored Cotton Mills Company. Negotiations for the purchase of stock have been proceeding for a considerable time, but the price offered was not considered satisfactory. The offer has been enlarged to a point, which has led to a transfer of much of the stock, and there is practically a new ownership. So far as is now known here there will be no change in the conduct of the mills. It is an interesting fact, that one of the two mills here was the first cotton factory operated in Canada. —W. E. A.

HAMILTON FIRE INQUIRY.

Low Pressure at the Asylum Waterworks—Loss of Time in Giving Alarm.

The inquiry into the death of eight victims at the fire in Hamilton Asylum was commenced last week and resumed on Thursday. It was disclosed that there was low pressure at the asylum waterworks and loss of time in notifying the city fire department of the conflagration. Dr. English, superintendent of the asylum, stated that the waterworks system and the fire fighting apparatus at the institution afforded adequate protection to all parts of every building.

Chief Engineer Ironsides also testified that everything was in first-class shape on the night of the fire. James Rodgers, night fireman, said that as soon as he heard the alarm, he put extra pressure on his pumps.

City Department Asked Questions.

Pursar Bidwell Way testified to having telephoned to the Bell Telephone Company's offices in the city to notify the city fire department. The city department afterwards called up the asylum and asked if it would be necessary to come up. Mr. Way told them it would. This was about four minutes after he had telephoned. He said the asylum had no direct line to the Hamilton fire department. He then telephoned to the engineer on the Queen street pumping plant, which forces the water up on the mountain. He admitted that the engineer there might have already received word of the fire from another source, as one of the jurors alleged.

Pressure Was Low.

Fred J. Bassett, night watchman on halls C and B, testified that at one o'clock he passed within a yard of the spot where the blaze started and there was no sign of fire.

No electric lights were burning in either hall on the night of the fire, both being dark.

William Griffin, ward supervisor, contradicted Bassett by saying that the hose was not connected when he got up after being awakened by Bassett. He helped Bassett get the hose out, and turned the water on himself. He unlocked all doors of patients' rooms on hall D, and opened two fire extinguishers. There was no water in the hose, he said. He could easily unlock doors in the dark, in which condition the corridor was when he unlocked them. He was positive the lights were turned off. The clothes in the storeroom where the fire started were fresh from the laundry. This was in answer to a question put with the apparent intention of suggesting that the clothing might have contained matches. The witness said the attendants smoked in their own rooms.

INCENDIARY FIRES

A charge of arson has been preferred against Joseph Peavoy, of Elora. Peavoy, who has been in the cells for a few days, was originally arrested on a charge of attempting to steal, was allowed out on his own recognizance for \$3,000 and two sureties to \$1,500 each.

The Crown will attempt to prove that Peavoy set fire to a livery barn, which was burned to the ground on July 12th. The accused owned the barn, which he had insured for \$400, renting it to his employer, Mr. A. Bornhann.

A recent fire at Gloverdale, New Westminster, burned over a large acreage of timber. Only strenuous efforts prevented the fire from spreading to the Dominion standing timber, where the loss might easily have reached over \$1,000,000. Two unknown men are suspected of incendiarism.