

streams and piled on the ice which at that time covers the surface. When the rivers break up in the spring the freshet carries the logs with it out to the mouths of the rivers, where they empty into the great rivers like the St Lawrence or Ottawa or the great lakes like Huron or Ontario. Here the logs are boomed (1) and the logs of the different owners separated by means of the timber brands on the ends of the logs. The logs thus separated are sawn into boards and planks in the mills located along the river bank.

The practice is now prevalent of bringing the mills as close as possible to the forest and shipping out only the finished product, but in the early days the mills were located at lumber centres on the great rivers and the logs were formed into rafts and these rafts were floated down the rivers, run over rapids and towed across lakes to the mill. For many years the export trade consisted largely of square timber, that is timber squared by the axe in the woods. This trade, which employed many hundred sailing ships, had its centre at the port of Quebec, where sometimes as many as three hundred ships were to be seen loading at one time. It reached its highest point about 1870 and since that, owing to the wastefulness of the trade and the dangerous condition in which it left the woods, owing to the chips and debris, it has been attacked from both the commercial and legislative sides and had dwindled away to almost nothing.

Nowadays the steamer, schooner or barge carries the sawn lumber from the lake port or river town to the seaport where it is loaded on ocean-going ships. The method thus differs from those employed in the United States, where the transportation is largely done by logging railways. This water transportation feature with the risks and dangers attending the "driving" of the logs down the small streams and, attending the "booming" and "rafting" and "shooting" of rapids and running of "log-chutes", has bred up a hardy, adventurous class of men equally skilful in the use of the axe, the pikepole (2) and the paddle, and has developed a literature in prose and verse which has forever given a touch of romance to Canadian lumbering.

(1) "Boomed"; that is floated into great enclosures formed of floating logs chained together end to end and anchored to piers set in the river. As the logs float through a narrow entrance the river men or "log drivers" skilfully direct them into the enclosures of the different owners as indicated by the brands or marks on the logs.

(2) The pike pole is a pole fifteen or twenty feet long fitted with a sharp spike and hook at one end, which pole the river "driver" uses to balance himself as he walks along the floating, rolling logs, and to draw the logs into the desired channels or away from rocks.