

tion is had with what would else be the outer world. The advantages of telegraphic communication are seldom appreciated till once established. Every village enjoying this facility can have the price of grain in the English markets on any day, almost before many of the teams wending their way thither will have arrived. This is an immense benefit to the farming community of which they have generally but little conception. To lumbermen, grain-dealers, and storekeepers, it is now almost a necessity; and successful men in these callings can testify to its valuable aid in enabling them to give the season's transactions a better appearance than they would have done if dependent on infrequent or uncertain mails. It is not surprising, therefore, that the people of Huron should be gratified at the possession of so great a boon.

The Montreal Telegraph Company has, without doubt, been greatly instrumental in developing the resources of Canada. It has progressed steadily with the progress of the country, and is identified with every corner of it. Its history embraces a period of twenty-five years, and its character is free from any taint of jobbery or corruption. Its operations are now carried on over more than ten thousand miles of wire erected in this Dominion. The success of the Company has, no doubt, been a public advantage. Its failure would have been little less than a calamity. The energy and zeal of Mr. H. P. Dwight, the Western Superintendent, has had much to do with the success achieved, and to him the public is largely indebted for the net-work of wires which have been erected, and we have little doubt that he will still keep pace with the fullest requirements of the business of the country.

THE OTTAWA LUMBER TRADE.

Very few people have anything like a correct idea of the extent and importance of the lumber trade of the Ottawa river. They may have seen, when at the Capital, the thousands of logs and acres of sawed lumber always to be found at the Chaudière; but, after all, their estimate of the extent of this important branch of industry may fall very far short of what it actually is. At and below Ottawa city alone, there are engaged in the transport of lumber, twenty steamers and two hundred barges, giving employment to two thousand two hundred men. The fixed capital embarked in manufacturing and carrying sawed lumber amounts to \$3,675,000, and the annual expenditure of the different firms engaged in the business is set down at \$2,812,425. As evidence of the importance of this trade, not only to the Ottawa district but to the country as a whole, we append

the following estimate of the number of men, cost of teams, supplies, and all other expenses necessary in getting out each 1,000,000 of saw-logs. This calculation is from a reliable source, and can be depended upon as pretty near the mark:

Estimated cost of getting out one million saw-logs on the Ottawa.

1,500 teams, 100 days, at..\$ 1 50	\$225,000
2,500 men " " " " " " " "	495,000
5,500 barrels pork " " " " " "	110,000
6,000 " flour " " " " " "	33,000
3,500 bus. beans and peas..	5,250
250,000 bus. oats " " " " " "	100,000
2,000 tons hay " " " " " "	24,000
25,000 gallons syrup " " " " " "	12,500
50,000 lbs. tea " " " " " "	22,500
12,500 lbs. soap " " " " " "	750
40,000 lbs. tobacco " " " " " "	12,000
20,000 lbs. grindstones " " " " " "	400
500 boxes axes " " " " " "	5,000
400 cross-cut saws " " " " " "	1,800
Delivering supplies, 16,500,000 lbs " " " " " "	247,000
Duties, 1,000,000 logs " " " " " "	150,000
Boonage on do. " " " " " "	50,000
Loss on sleighs, blankets, chains, &c. " " " " " "	35,250
2,000 saw-mill men, 150 days " " " " " "	345,000
Total expenditure " " " " " "	\$1,874,950

This estimate shows very clearly how many other branches of our industry the lumber trade benefits. Our farmers, our manufacturers, our importers—each and all receive a share of its profits, for each and all contribute a share of the supplies required to carry it on. And the profits made by the chief lumbermen are undoubtedly large. We are acquainted with no business in Canada which, with a proper display of energy and spirit, will so rapidly yield a fortune—not one of your small, niggardly fortunes, but a fortune worthy of a prince. There are now not a few men engaged in the Ottawa lumber trade who came there a few years ago comparatively poor, but who, to-day, are independently rich. They set themselves to work with energy to develop the wealth of the forests of the Upper Ottawa; they availed themselves of the unequalled facilities of that noble river to construct mills, saw their logs, and convey the lumber to market; and their enterprise and energy have been crowned with success, and wealth has flowed in upon them. We know few finer sights than the costly and extensive saw-mills which some of these gentlemen have erected at the Chaudière Falls, Ottawa city, nearly all of which contain several gangs of saws, which cut up a whole log at each cutting. The following are the names of the principal lumber dealers on the Ottawa and its tributaries, with an estimate of the average number of logs they get out each year:—

Perley & Pattee, Ottawa.....	150,000
L. Young " " " " " "	100,000
T. R. Booth, " " " " " "	150,000
A. H. Baldwin, " " " " " "	125,000

Bronson & Weston, Ottawa.....	150,000
E. B. Eddy, Hull.....	150,000
Wright & Batson, Hull.....	100,000
H. Crandell & Co., " " " " " "	75,000
T. McLaren & Co., New EdinLurgh.....	50,000
Hamilton Bros., Hawkesbury.....	175,000
Cameron and others, Thurso, &c.....	60,000
McLaren and others, Buckingham.....	200,000
Merrill & Bangs, Buckingham Basin, &c.....	55,000
G. C. Hall, Quebec.....	150,000
H. Atkinson, Quebec.....	80,000
John Osborne, Portage du Fort.....	50,000
McLaughlin Bros., Arnprior.....	140,000
A. Gilmour, Gatineau.....	150,000
Total number of Logs, say, feet.....	2,000,000
Board measure, say.....	300,000,000

With so large a production of lumber as these statistics indicate, it is not surprising that the small canals on the Ottawa, and the insufficient depth of water at some particular places, are found to be great hindrances to the speedy transport of the lumber to market. Strong pressure has at different times been brought to bear upon the Government, to induce them to improve the lower part of the river, and a grant of money was voted by Parliament last session for the purpose. We believe this improvement is needed, and that when the navigation is put in proper order, the cost of transport will be reduced at least \$1 per 1,000 feet, which would effect a saving of \$300,000, per annum, on the quantity specified above. All parts of the country are interested in improving the Ottawa river, as far as the Capital at least, for the benefits flowing from the increased trade, which would accumulate upon its waters, would be felt both in the east and in the west.

CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE.

From the very full and minute statement of this company's position, published in other columns, it appears that 1,062 policies were issued last year, insuring the sum of \$1,584,456, and producing in premiums \$64,837. The total premium revenue has risen to the handsome sum of \$203,695 annually. The death claims last year amounted to \$85,544. After setting aside the sum of \$733,912 as a reinsurance fund—the amount declared to be sufficient by Hon. Elizer Wright—there remained \$192,891, for distribution among the policyholders and shareholders, the former getting three-fourths and the latter one-fourth of that sum. This will give both a very good return. It is most satisfactory therefore, to be assured, that while every provision necessary is made for the liabilities of the company under its policies, so large an amount of profit is available for distribution.

It is most desirable that the large accumulations of the prudent and the provident, set aside for the beneficent purposes of life insurance, should not only be safely kept and employed to the best advantage, but that