

Lumber Cuttings.

Regarding the alleged stealing of lumber in Minnesota, along the Rainy river, by Canadians, the *Mississippi Valley Lumberman* of Minneapolis says: "The report made to the Interior department in regard to the stealing of government timber along the Canadian boundary, in the Rainy lake and river region, by Canadian lumbermen, by Agent J. S. Wallace, is still attracting the attention and criticism of those who are acquainted in that region. A gentleman named William Flint, in the last number of the *Tower Journal*, devotes nearly two columns to a review of the report. He denies nearly every fact stated by Agent Wallace, and there is no doubt but that gentleman drew very largely upon his imagination in order to make a good readable report, and to put himself on a good footing with the department. There has been a little trespassing there on government and Indian lands near the boundary and tributary to the mills on Rainy lake, but the timber has in nearly every case been seized and sold by the government, and in no case, where the timber has been so seized, was the trespasser a Canadian lumberman, but in all cases proved to be either half-breeds or other Americans. No such amount of timber has been cut in that region as he reports, and almost the entire log cut has been by American lumbermen and from their own lands, and sold to the mills on Rainy lake.

The machinery of Hall's saw mill has been removed from township 4, range 11 west to Otterburn, on the Emerson branch of the Canadian Pacific railway.

The first gang of men for the Riding Mountains has been sent out by M. Thompson, of Rapid City. It comprised eighteen men and three teams of horses. Their destination is forty miles north-west of Strathclair. They will make the necessary preparations for a larger gang to go in at an early date, and all will be engaged in getting out railway ties.

THE Minnedosa *Tribune* says:—It is understood that a most destructive fire has passed over the Shell river spruce limits, burning immense quantities of valuable timber.

Revelstoke *Star*: It is reported that J. Valentine & Co. have sold the Selkirk shingle mill here to J. C. Steen and Frank Robinson, of Donald.

A correspondent writes: The saw mills at Rat Portage and Norman are closed down. Dick, Banning & Co. were running at Keewatin. The stock of lumber to be wintered over is not large, but it is well assorted and likely to supply the demand till next season. Heavy timber for railway work and bridging is now a speciality here. A large quantity has been supplied to the C. P. R. and the North-west Central the past season.

Fur Trade Notes.

The *Colonist*, of Victoria, B.C., says:—The fur rooms of the Hudson's Bay Company are now empty, the season's shipping being at an end. In quantity and quality the year has been fully up to the last, and it is estimated that a quarter of a million dollars will not be a high estimate of the value of the furs which have been placed by Victoria on the markets of the world. Seals have been very plentiful, and despite the vigilance of the U.S. revenue cutters the industry this year will have proved

more profitable than last. A *Colonist* reporter had an interesting chat with Mr. Horton, chief furrier of the Hudson's Bay Company, yesterday afternoon in regard to furs and fashions in them. Mr. Horton has been identified with this important industry for upwards of thirty-five years, and may therefore be supposed to know something of the trade and its movements. He thinks that this year marten will be all the fashion. Bear and beaver will hold their own, as the prices that they command clearly show. For the same money that is now paid for a marten, five or six could have been bought a few years ago. A bear skin that in '86 would have been considered dear at \$7, now sells readily at \$25, while beavers have increased in value in even greater proportion. As Victoria is the best fur market on the Pacific coast, it is easy to see here what manner of furs will clothe the women of fashion during the coming winter. Lynx are very scarce this year, but some beautiful skins have come in. Yesterday a lot of furs were received from Telegraph Creek, consisting of seven bear, five lynx, four otter, seven wolverine, thirty-five marten and fifteen beaver. One of the bear skins, a big grizzly, measures eight feet and three inches in length and six feet two inches in width. The bear that used to wear it must have been as large as an ox.

Vancouver *World* Marcus Baldee, fur dealer, has 7,000 lbs. of beautiful deerskins ready for shipment to New York, Boston and other points east, and also in his showrooms about 100 bear, 300 lbs. beaver and some otter, mink and martin skins. He states that the fur season is already beginning to open up again, and one month hence, he thinks, a large number of furs will be brought in by Indians, and expects raw hides from as far up in the mountains as Donald and Revelstoke. The Columbia river valley and the Okanagon, Cassiar, Lillooet and Caribou districts he finds very productive. Some of the large bearskins he has now in stock are worth from \$25 to \$35 or \$40.

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