

THE NEWS.

ONTARIO.

—Messrs. Vigars Bros. have opened a lumber office at Fort William.

—Owen Brothers have started a shingle mill on the Lee farm, not far from Warminster.

—The Waubesa shingle factory is running full time and doing all the work it is capable of doing.

—Mr. N. A. Beach, of Georgeville, proposes building a saw mill at Magog in the spring.

—A future city of importance is predicted on the Rainy River at Fort Francis, where there is a fine water power.

—It is reported that there is not likely to be much lumbering done in the Penetanguishene district during the present winter.

—Bronson & Weston are operating on their limits on the Rockliffe river, and Perley & Pattee are operating on the Black River.

—Taylor & Lount, saw millers, of Whitevale, Ont., have failed. The mill, it is said, has been a losing concern since its inception.

—The Victoria Harbor Lumber Co. are placing a planing machine in one of their mills which, together with the shingle machine, is to run during the winter.

—A. Lumsden's saw mill, at Gordon Creek, has shut down for the season. He has a small gang getting out logs for next summer's cut, but does not intend taking out any for sale.

—Mr. Daniel Baker has completed arrangements for building another saw mill at Uthoff. This will make four mills at Uthoff, and all intend stocking to their full capacity this winter.

—A boom of logs brought to Midland by Mr. Nickerson from Victoria Harbor broke loose near Peters & Cain's mill and half went adrift. Men had to go out with a tug to save the balance.

—The snow is reported by lumbermen fully two feet deep in the line adjacent to South Bolton. If the weather is propitious there will be more logs drawn to the river in the vicinity of South Bolton than for several years past.

—Owing to the scarcity of work around the Chaudiere, Messrs. Bronson & Weston have opened up a couple of shanties on the Schyan river, principally for the benefit of their mill hands whom they have employed during the summer.

—W. C. Edwards & Co. are carrying on lumbering operations on the Gatineau quite extensively this winter. They have six camps of men at work and are about to start another shanty. The pine on that river is, however, becoming rapidly exhausted.

—A new branch of the Knights of Labor has been formed in Ottawa. It already numbers 56 men, and they expect to largely increase that number, and are contriving to extend the movement so as to include the men in the shanties on the Upper Ottawa.

—Messrs. McClymont & Co. have sent men into the woods this winter, and will close down for next summer. Mr. McClymont says there has been so much stocking done this year it is only destroying the woods without there being sufficient remuneration and the stock remains unsold.

—The weather has been splendid for timber operations around Sturgeon Bay, and log cutting has been going on in good style. Shields' men having finished cutting near the mill, have moved up into their winter quarters to finish cutting next summer's stock of logs.

—The cedar mill at Deseronto, after a splendid run, closed down on Dec. 3rd, for several weeks in order to make the annual repairs which will be more extensive than usual this year. After these repairs are effected this establishment will probably run all winter.

—Messrs. Boyle & McCracken, of Ottawa, have sent a sufficient number of men to the woods to take out three rafts of square pine timber and one of cedar on the Deseronto and Gatineau. They say that heavy frost has been favorable to lumber operations, as the swamps are now completely frozen over.

—The youngest son of the late David Moore, of Ottawa, having recently attained his majority, the lumbering business carried on by the deceased, and later by his eldest son as trustee, will now be wound up. The estate consists of valuable timber limits and real estate, and is estimated to be worth half a million dollars.

—Mr. Allan Carswell, of Renfrew, a well-known lumberman of the Upper Ottawa, says that the present season is one

of the dullest he can recollect in the trade. On the Madawaska he has as many men at work as he had last winter, but other firms have decreased their operations by one-half and some are not doing anything. On the Petewawa, where Carswell, Thistle & McKay had three shanties last winter, they have only one this year, with about one-third of the number of men employed.

—Mr. Alexander Lalonde, owner of a saw mill in the 10th concession of Roxborough, county Grey, committed suicide December 6th by hanging himself in the upper story of his house. Deceased was an honest, upright man, who had been greatly depressed by financial reverses, and it is thought his troubles had affected his reason.

—Lumbermen's wages started out very low at the beginning of the season, but have slightly advanced during the past month. In the Ottawa district choppers get from \$18 to \$22, teamsters from \$15 to \$17 and road makers from \$13 to \$15. Little square timber will be gotten out, owing to a dull market and large stocks on hand.

—The big mill at Deseronto commenced cutting on April 7th, and has made a magnificent record during the season. The mill closed down on December 1st, and had the weather allowed it to cut for a few days longer this great establishment would have completed a long season of eight months.

—Reports from the Black River district state that this fall has been a most favorable one for hush work. Mr. Booth has two shanties in operation at his Couvreau depot, and the other lumber firms have about the same number as during the past two winters.

—Douglas C. Cameron, Walter Ross, Hugh Wm. Kennedy, Matthew Brown and Richard Hall, lumbermen of the town of Rat Portage, are applying for incorporation as the Rat Portage Improvement Company, for power to acquire, construct, maintain and operate slides, dams, booms and other improvements to render possible and to facilitate the passage of timber and logs down the Whitefish and other rivers.

—J. G. Bryson, of Fort Coulonge, has recently purchased the Grand Lac limits, on the Ottawa, owned by P. Fitzpatrick, of Allumette Island. These limits were sold to Mr. Fitzpatrick at the provincial sale at Quebec, January 9th last, the price then paid being \$58,600. It is not stated what the Messrs. Bryson now pay but it is a substantial increase on the above figures.

—Mr. J. R. Booth has torn down his old mill on the Chaudiere, and now has about 76 men at work taking out the machinery. The erection of the new mill will be commenced as soon as the ground is cleared, and it will be fitted with the latest improved machinery throughout. The new machinery is being manufactured by Messrs. E. L. Perkins & Son, of Ottawa, and will keep a number of men busy day and night during a large part of the winter. The whole cost of the alterations is estimated to be in the neighborhood of \$250,000.

—Mr. Hebron Harris states that this season he has rushed ties into the United States, and now is busy shipping by rail all that he can get cars for so as to have as many in as possible when the duty comes in force on March 1st. He is also rushing supplies of ties for the C. P. Ry. He states this winter he has one hundred jobbers, employing in all some two thousand men in the bush in the Ottawa district getting out ties and hop poles largely for the States.

—Gradually the lumber traffic through this port, says an Owen Sound paper, has been working up, notwithstanding that during the early part of the season the traffic was practically barred, owing to lack of room, and in fact the shipments did not really begin to arrive until August. But during the entire season there were 36 vessel loads received, bringing in their cargoes about 5,200,000 feet for through shipment—3,000,000 feet of which is now in the C. P. R. yard. We learn from Mr. William Foster, who has handled all of this lumber, that if there had been room at least 7,000,000 feet more could have been handled. Now, however, that the C. P. R. have expressed their determination to have the lumber traffic, we can have little fear but that provision will be made for all that can come this way, even if they have to construct another slip to the north of their present lumber yards. In addition to the lumber received for through shipment, fully 2,000,000 feet have been received for Messrs. Maitland, Rixon & Co., John Harrison and H. Lymburner; 2,000,000 lath also came to this port, half of which was for through shipment. Then there arrived 16 vessel loads of paving timber, making in all 70,000 pieces, the greater part of which was sawn here and shipped through to Toronto. The value of such traffic to Owen Sound must necessarily be very great, because of the number of men employed, and the consequent amount of money put in circulation. In addition to this, the supplies to these vessels and their crews is an important item, while four of the vessels in the trade have made

this port their winter quarters, and their fitting out in the spring will be worth something to the town. Yet, when the C. P. R. consider that their traffic through this port in lumber is so little known that the management ask the co-operation of the Town Council and the Board of Trade in inducing dealers to ship via this port, it is but reasonable to conclude that we are on the eve of something gigantic, and as our harbor leads everything on the lake, so will our traffic in every department.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

—James D. Leary, the raft man, has been at Ottawa seeking Government aid for a proposed wharf and elevator on his property on the west side of St. John harbor.

—Mr. D. F. George recently brought down 2,000,000 lath from Gibson, opposite Fredericton, to St. John in scows, a vessel not being obtainable.

—Deals for the English market that are sawed at Fredericton and on the Nashwaak, which joins the main river at Gibson, are taken to St. John in woodboat schooners.

—The Victoria mills, at Fredericton, have closed for the winter. During the season about 7,000,000 feet of lumber were cut for the English and United States markets, principally the latter.

—The north shore lumber exports for this season amount to 132,000,000 feet, a falling off of 30,000,000 feet as compared with last year. St. John's shipments are 180,000,000 feet, a decline of 47,000,000.

—During the season just ended 10,014,103 superficial feet of deals, etc., were sent forward to transatlantic ports from Bathurst, N.B. This total does not include 198,000 feet of birch deals shipped by the St. Lawrence Lumber Company.

—F. Moore & Son, of Woodstock, have about completed a new mill to take the place of the one destroyed by fire last summer. The mill is two storeys, and for the present three-shingle mills will be in operation, to be increased to five in a short time.

—Of recent years several operators from York county have gone up into Quebec province and cut logs. One of these, John Kilburn, of Fredericton, left with a second gang this week. They go to St. Vallier by rail and then drive about 40 miles. He has, all told, 100 men and 20 horses.

—The woodboat men are now considerably excited over a rumor that Alex. Gibson, the great Nashwaak operator, proposes to build large lighters to carry his deals to St. John hereafter, the lighters to be towed both to and from the place of loading. Gibson's cut goes almost wholly to the British market.

—The lumber cut in Westmoreland county is considerably less this year than that of last year, and operators have been receiving 20 per cent. less for their lumber. The outlook does not indicate improvement for 1891.

—It is stated that lumbermen's supplies around the Bay of Fundy are 20 to 30 per cent. higher this year than last. Oats, for instance, that could be bought last year for 37 cents, cost 47 to 48 cents this year, owing to the failure in that crop throughout New Brunswick.

—C. M. & J. J. Bostwick have purchased the real estate which belonged to the late William Davidson, of St. John, paying therefor the sum of one hundred thousand dollars cash. The property consists of timber lands and two mills on Big Salmon River, St. John county, and other lands and mills at Martin's Head, with three buildings and lots in the city, and some small properties in other parts of the province.

—At the inquiry touching the explosion of the boilers of the South Bay mill, Mr. J. J. Jett, a former owner, testified that the boilers had not been tested for seven years or more, and that the engineers did not have certificates. Public attention has now been directed to these facts, and an agitation is quietly going on for a Dominion act compelling periodical inspection and competent engineers in all saw mills.

—The Maine Labor Commissioner's next report will contain an article showing, among other things, that the total amount of logs rafted into the St. John river from Maine streams and cut by mills in New Brunswick the past year has been 106,080,994 feet. The mills are those situated at St. John, and which are controlled by Americans. The article gives some particulars regarding the amount stated. From Aroostook there came 31,430,331 feet, consisting of 1,753,990 feet of cedar, 1,596,973 pine and 28,079,368 spruce; from Meduxnekeag river, through Woodstock, 13,487,649 feet, consisting of 1,157,673 cedar, 33,830 pine, 12,067,285 spruce and 222,861 hemlock, while Three Brooks, Bridgewater and other places contributed 2,169,014 feet of spruce, and from the headwaters of the St. John river itself, about 59,000,000 feet pine, spruce and cedar. Other tributary streams contributed the balance.