

PERKINS & PATTEE, Ottawa.—We are doing about the same quantity of work as usual. We look for a prosperous year in 1888, and think prices of all pine lumber, except the very best, will be stiffer than in 1887.

A. & P. WHITE, Pembroke, Ont.—We are cutting about 40,000 pieces of logs and dimension timber, half of which will be sawed at Pembroke and the balance at Deux Rivières. Shipments to all points *via* C. P. R.

J. P. BALDWIN & SON, Baldwin's Mills, Que.—We are doing the usual amount of lumbering, and the prospects are fair for good prices. There would, however, be better protection for lumbermen in this vicinity if logs were not allowed to be taken across the border to be sawed free of duty, and returned, and also if the export duty was always paid. It ought to be \$2 per M. feet.

GEORGE GALE & SONS, Waterville, Que.—We have got out about 1,000,000 feet per year for the past three years, but are not operating at this point this season. We are just starting a steam mill at De Roches, but do not expect to get in more than 500,000 feet.

EASTMAN SPRINGS, Ont.—John N. Stewart is running his mill at full blast and turning out 10,000 feet per day. Between Messrs. Stewart, Hager, Flat & Bradley and others, there will be about 30,000 logs taken out in this section this winter, besides a quantity that will be got out by Messrs. Sterns & Rainbow, and driven to their mills at Danville. Mr. George Perley has a large force of men taking out logs to be cut into bill lumber next season at Stewart's mill.

MEAFORD, Ont.—The prospects for the season's trade are good. It is anticipated that business will be about equal to that of last year. T. E. Butters expects to cut about 250,000 feet of maple, bass and elm, and 350,000 feet of hemlock.

WICKHAM, Que.—Some of the mills here are stocking lighter than usual owing to the scarcity of logs. Mr. T. Barrie expects to cut 15,000 logs this season. He manufactures dimension timber to supply the home trade, also stock boards planed or rough.

JAMES COCKBURN, Edgar Ont.—The season is fairly good in this locality, and I will cut about 1,200,000 feet of pine and bass, principally the former.

HAMILTON, Ont.—At this season of the year the lumber trade in this city as in all other places, is, comparatively, at a standstill. Building, from which source the principal revenue is derived, being now almost, if not quite, *nil*. During the season of 1887 there was considerable building done in Hamilton, with good expectations for the coming season's trade. We receive the lumber which is used here principally by the N. & N. W. and the G. T. railways, they being the only lines running into this city. Very little lumber now comes by boat. There is a large quantity of logs being cut in the Parry Sound and Muskoka districts which will find its way to this market in its finished state.

WEST LORNE, Ont.—In all respects this season, thus far, has been one of unprecedented activity in the timber business in and throughout these parts. The township of Aldborough has for 30 years been the home of the lumberman and has each winter since their first entrance into its stately woods, yielded a bountiful tribute to their courage and energy, but though a large portion of the valuable timber lands have been here, still we venture to say that in its palmiest days in the log season it has never seen a busier one than at present. The village of West Lorne is crowded with teams bringing in the logs that are destined to supply the trade for the summer of J. C. Schlehauf, J. H. Greer and McKillop & Sons mills. Though barely two weeks of sleighing have passed since they began freely to move, the yards are nearly full, and there is some talk already of a fall in prices consequent on the large amount of timber offered over and above amount necessary to supply the mills which have already begun cutting. The prospects for the year just opening are good and prices will remain about the same as last year, with a slightly increased demand, but the quantity will in some of the softer kinds be a little inferior to last season's cut.

A. CALDWELL & SON, Almonte.—As we only drive logs to this mill every alternate season, we will have no drive during the coming season, but will cut about 1,500,000 feet of lumber. There has been some good sales made recently in the Ottawa Valley, and the prospects are encouraging. We expect to commence sawing about the beginning of April.

THE GEORGIAN BAY CONSOLIDATED LUMBER CO.—Our cut of sawlogs this winter will be about 60,000,000 feet in addition to about 350,000,000 feet of round pine. Our probable cut in our five mills will be about from 55,000,000 to 60,000,000 feet, as the nature of the season permits. It is very hard to say at what time the mills will begin sawing, as their beginning depends to some extent on the time of the ice going away. The 1st of May is about as soon as may be expected.

J. HADDEN & SONS, Lacombe.—Trade has been fairly good in our estimation. Lumber has been all sold, and also one-half of next season's cut at \$1 advance of last year's prices. Our motto is, never refuse a fair offer. We will cut during the coming season 2,000,000 feet, one-third long lengths to forty feet, which is promptly taken up. We are anxious to know how the railway companies propose treating us this year; may it be more liberal than in the past.

QUEBEC.—No transactions in timber or deals have transpired since the commencement of the new year, business being at a standstill. Reports from England foreshadow a good business in the shipping and export line next season. The Quebec merchants are now on their way over and in a short time several contracts are likely to be placed for spring shipments, stocks now being very low on the other side of the water.

SAWYERVILLE, QUE.—The prospect of a railroad is giving an impetus to the lumber trade here. A considerable amount has been brought into requisition for local building purposes. The mill yards are crowded and the streams filled with lumber. Many teams are employed in hauling lumber, ties and posts and taking supplies to the camps in the neighborhood.

PENETANGUISHEN, Ont.—Messrs. Marchildon & Laonde are engaged on Mr. Brady's contract in getting out logs in the Vent settlement for Mr. McGillibon. They will take out half a million feet. Mr. Davidson has eight jobbers at work taking out timber for him this winter besides the camp under his own supervision. Messrs. Belyea & Robertson are engaged getting out wood for the railway as well as buying large quantities, paying as high as \$800 weekly.

PARRY SOUND, Ont.—Lumbering operations are very brisk throughout the District at present. Drawing is being rapidly pushed forward and the season's cut promises to be very large. The Parry Sound Lumber Company are getting out a large quantity of shingle bolts for their new mill, which will be ready to commence cutting when the spring opens.

CARLETON PLACE, Ont.—Much speculation has been indulged in as to where the Canada Lumber Co., otherwise Messrs. McLaren, Edwards & Co., would establish their mills. It was feared that Carleton Place, in which the leading man of the concern, Mr. Peter McLaren, had his mill, would be abandoned in favor of Ottawa or some other point, but the question was settled by the company buying out the Carleton Place site. They are now enlarging and refitting the mill, which, when completed, will be one of the finest in the country with all the latest improvements.

VANCOUVER, B. C.—The lumber trade at this point is very active and prospects bright. The Hastings saw mill, one of the largest in the country, underwent considerable repairs last summer. During last season the company loaded 13 ships. They employ about 100 men, besides 70 who work in the camps, and devote themselves entirely to supplying the foreign trade especially that of South America. Three large barges, each of which will carry 1,000,000 feet of lumber, are loading and will shortly sail, one to Chili and two to Australia. A vessel capable of carrying 1,500,000 will shortly arrive for a cargo, when the mill will run night and day, turning out 50,000 a day on this contract besides other work. The Royal City Mills have largely increased their business during the past year. They have 95 men in their employ, and saw about 35,000 ft. of lumber per day. They have built a large sash and door factory which gives employment to twenty men. The pay roll of this establishment amounts to \$4,500 per month. The mills of McKay & Co. and the Brunette Saw Mill Co. are also doing a rushing trade. These mills and that of the Moodyville Co., who have the largest lumber business in the province, give employment to a large number of men not directly connected with them, as the greater part of the logs come from different parts of the coast and rivers, and much of the lumber is transported in lighters, so that tug boats must be employed.

H. CARROLL, Carleton Place, Ont.—The lumber trade the past season has been the best in my experience, but is, as usual, at this time of the year, a little slack. I intend getting out my usual stock of logs this winter, provided the snow holds out.

BURKE'S FALLS, Ont.—Train & Son are taking out 3,000,000 feet of pine this season and have contracted with Messrs. Flat & Bradley, of Hamilton, to saw and ship their cut of about 2,500,000 feet. Train & Son expect to put electric light in their mill and run night and day which will enable them to cut about 60,000 feet per day, including shingles. Mr. W. W. Belding is taking something like 5,000,000 feet out of the Thompson mill, which he will cut at his new saw mill now in course of erection at Katrine.

HOBSON & WILSON, Huntsville, Ont.—We do a small business, our stock of logs this season is 10,000 feet, and we have our last years cut of 500 feet on hand. Our mill is on Fairy Lake three miles from Huntsville, to which point we ship by barge.

THE TORONTO OUTLOOK.

The failure of the large lumber firm of S. C. Kanady & Co. has been the principal subject of interest in lumber circles lately. It is understood that a compromise is likely to be arrived at by which on paying 40 cents on the dollar the firm will be able to resume business. The affair has directed attention to the great evil of over-trading, and extensive credits, and some of the dealers are very outspoken in their denunciation of the system.

"Why should there be any failures in the lumber business," said one operator, "It is not subject to the disabilities of many other trades. We have no losses from dead stock or shop-worn goods. The article in which we deal is not liable to become unsalable by reason of a change in fashions, or be superseded by newer styles. We are not forced to sell at any price the goods will fetch for the fear of their becoming a drug in the market. There need be no lumber failures if men were not anxious to do too much business and launch out beyond their resources. Too much credit causes all the trouble. There is plenty of money to be made for all of us by doing a steady quiet trade in accordance with the legitimate demands of the market. Why we could all live on one-quarter of the present trade if it were done on sound business principles."

"Trade is quiet," said Mr. Kerr of the firm of Christie Kerr & Co., "very quiet, I have no important transactions to report. I may say that there is considerable enquiry from the United States for good lumber for cutting up. Yes, I think trade prospects promise fairly when the season opens up, but it is not anticipated that there will be the same amount of speculative building that there was last year. The wholesale men are not disposed to grant credit as easily as they have been doing."

Mr. Tennant of the firm of Tennant & Co., expressed similar views. "The prospects," he said, "are good if money gets somewhat easier. At present there are more enquiries for good lumber for factory purposes than in any other department. There is some demand from the Western section of the province. As to speculative building I may say that the demand for lumber for building purposes has dropped off more than 50 per cent., on account of the loan companies closing down on speculators."

"The outlook is good," said Mr. John Waldie of the Victoria Harbor Lumber Co. "The enhanced value of stumpage seems to have stiffened the prices of manufacturers and a better feeling prevails. There is some American demand for good lumber."

Mr. F. Hammet, of the Ontario Lumber Co., said that the great difficulty in the way of a good season's business was the recent failures, but he nevertheless regarded the prospects hope fully. Operations in the woods had so far been favorable. Not so much board pine was being taken out for Quebec as usual. In other respects the output was about the same as last year. The United States' demand for the upper grades of lumber was about an average one.

ENGLISH TIMBER CIRCULARS.

The circular of Farnworth & Jardine notes only a moderate demand for Canadian forest products, though the deliveries have been in excess of the usual business at this season. Both waney and square yellow pine timber have maintained their value. Market is almost bare, but there is little enquiry and only for large sized wood. Oak in the log has been more in demand but there are few transactions to report, and no change in value. The arrivals of both pine and spruce deals have been in excess of the average. There is no change in value, and the present stock is much too heavy.

Dennis Mott & Dickson in their circular state that the market is cleared of first class waney pine. The wintering stocks in Quebec of both square and waney board pine, fall far short of the previous years' light stocks, and lighter prices are confidently anticipated for next season's imports. In the meantime there will be great difficulty in buying this timber on the English market. Prices for oak have advanced and are firm. For pitch pine timber better prices are predicted, as a steady demand has diminished the slender stocks on hand.

Simson & Mason's circulars note that stocks in deals and battens are heavy, but looks for an improvement in the trade consequent upon a general business revival. Dock stocks of timber are lower than for some years past. The supply of pitch pine planks and boards, though moderate, have been ample to meet the lessened requirements.

Churchill & Sims point out that the principal difficulty in the Canadian export trade is due to the want of attention on the part of shippers to the state of the English market. "Shippers in Canada," they say, "pay no great attention to what takes place here, and their market seldom acts in sympathy with ours. As they transfer their stocks to this side prices will rise with them, while here the market staggers under the weight of a supply which will not pass into consumption unless sold below its cost. It is of great importance that only small shipments should be made from this port during the forthcoming season; even the reduction of 500,000 pieces in the years, importation has failed to prevent a further growth of the stocks."