

LUMBERING OPERATIONS IN NOVA SCOTIA.

(By a Travelling Correspondent)

LUMBERMEN generally say that the past winter has been exceptionally good for logging, and so far stream driving is all that could be desired. While there has been no heavy rains, the snow has melted just fast enough to keep water up to a good driving head, and the prospects are that all the logs cut will be got into the ponds.

Prices, however, are no better than a month ago, while freight rates have stiffened somewhat, which, together with the great probability of war at present writing, is anything but encouraging for the lumbermen. Stocks of lath have been pretty well cleared out, advantage being taken of the fair prices going in New York and Boston early in the spring. Those who were situated so they could ship when the demand began realized fairly satisfactory prices, the late shipments not faring so well as regards price.

Just what effect the Spanish American war may have on lumber prices remains to be seen. Some new markets are being tested by maritime lumber merchants, and it is to be hoped that the results may prove satisfactory; care will need to be exercised in sawing to exact specifications and making the product conform to the requirements of the different markets. Their motto should be—until they get a foothold at least—"Quality, not quantity."

The Newville Lumber Co., Newville, Cumberland Co., N.S., took out four million feet last winter, which, with one and a half million carried over, gives them ample stock for their requirements. They have made considerable improvements in their saw mill. Mr. W. W. Block, of Amherst, is the manager, and Mr. Henderson millwright and filer. Mr. Harvey McAleese has charge of the company's office and wharf at Parrsboro.

T. G. McMullen & Co., Truro, N. S., will saw about eight million feet in their band saw mill at Hartville on the Dominion Atlantic Railway, and will have about twelve million feet sawn in their several portable mills at different places in Colchester, Pictou and Hants counties.

Alfred Dickie, Stewiacke, has at his steam gang and rotary mill at Dickie's Mill Siding about two million feet, which was landed there by people who had small lots of timber, and which is being sawn before his drive comes down river. This drive contains over eleven million feet, and is safe in the main river and reported to be coming along splendidly. Another week will put it in the boom at the mill. The capacity of the mill, sawing deals, averaged last year about seventy thousand feet per day, but quality is the consideration with Mr. Dickie this year rather than quantity. Mr. John A. Gillis is manager of Mr. Dickie's mill and lumber interests in Eastern Nova Scotia, and is a very capable man. Mr. Dan. Gillis is clerk, W. Killam millwright, and Mr. Thompson filer, and when the remark is made that they are all New Brunswickers it is clear evidence that Mr. Dickie understands the selection of men to carry on his business successfully. Mr. Dickie will also have eight million feet sawn by portable mills, making a total of twenty-one million feet.

Lantz & Co., Milford, will saw about one million feet; they saw dimension lumber for Halifax and local markets principally, and have a portable mill at Elmsdale, which they run in winter, sawing about one million feet of spruce and hardwood deals.

Young Bros. & Co., Limited, St. Margaret's Bay, will have eight million feet in pond ready to saw. They did not intend getting out so much, but the winter was so favorable that they had either to work half time or discharge their men, and as neither of the alternatives is good business, they kept on. Mr. B. F. Young, president of the company, resides at St. Margaret's Bay. Their mill there is steam power, and consists of gang, rotary, lath, shingle and planing machines. Last year they operated only the gang. Mr. D. P. Young resides at Ingram River, six miles further west, where a large part of their operations are carried on, and where they intend building a large mill in a year or so, to which can be rafted logs from all the streams running through their large lumber property. They also got out a larger quantity of piling and pulp wood during the winter.

The Gold River Lumber Co., Gold River, will saw about three million feet, principally English deals. They also saw lath and shingles and plane lumber for markets requiring it.

E. D. Davidson & Sons, Limited, are getting their

usual cut, ranging from twelve to fifteen million feet. Mr. Frank Davidson, the president of the company, has just returned from a visit to the English and Continental markets. Besides two large gang mills at Bridgewater, the company have a fine gang and rotary mill at Alpena Station, on the Central Railroad, the product of which is shipped to Bridgewater or Lunenburg, as required, for shipment abroad.

J. & J. Coop, Milton, will saw about seven hundred and fifty thousand feet. They put in a plant for sawing and barking pulp wood during the winter, and are now busy sawing for the Acadia Pulp Co. at Milton. The blocks are taken to the steam tram road at Liverpool and then to pulp mill about four miles up river.

Harlow & Kempton, Milton, will saw about four million feet during the year. They have improved their mill considerably the past year, putting in new water wheels and adding some machinery and labor saving appliances. The firm also operate a sash and door factory.

Eldred Minard & Son, Milton, will saw about one million feet for Colp Bros.

John Millard, Liverpool, has a gang and rotary mill and planer at Milton. He has about five million feet to saw. Mr. Millard also has a sash and door factory at Liverpool, where he carries on a large business in that line, besides shipbuilding, having a fine vessel on the stocks at present.

Henry L. Tupper, Milton, has a fine water power gang mill, planer and box making machinery. He expects to saw about four million feet during the season, principally boards.

Allan T. Freeman, Milton, merchant and mill owner, will saw about three quarters of a million feet of pine for West India market. Ira P. Freeman will saw about a million feet.

The Acadia Pulp Company, Milton, are using a large quantity of lumber in their business. They have about double their capacity and expect soon to be able to turn out seventy tons of pulp each twenty-four hours. The pulp is taken from the mill to the company's warehouse at Liverpool by the Liverpool and Milton Steam Tram Railway four miles—then sent by schooner to any place required. One large steamer loaded part cargo at Port Medway already this season, the pulp being supplied by the Acadia and the Nova Scotia Pulp Companies, Mill Village.

T. G. Nicol, Port Joli, will saw about one million feet at Mitchell Brook. He has a steam portable mill sawing and has also a water power lath and stave mill.

Frank G. Nicol, Granite Village, will saw about three quarters of a million feet in his water power rotary mill.

Hastings W. Freeman, Jordan River, is operating on a large scale, getting about five million feet of lumber, spruce and pine. The spruce is to be sawn into deals and the pine into boards for West India market. The drive at present time of writing is safe, as without freshets enough water is held in reserve in locks to run them to mill. Mr. Freeman completely remodelled his mill after close of last season, putting in a fine rotary outfit made by the Burrell-Johnson Iron Co., Yarmouth. Important improvements were also made in the gang, two new water wheels, manufactured and set in place by Duncan Buchannan, of Apohaqui, N. B., being added. During last season Mr. Freeman bought the large lumber and mill property adjoining his own from the Doull & Miller Estate, Halifax, and now has a very valuable lumber property.

Bower Bros., Shelburne, will saw a half million feet. They also manufacture dories for the fishermen and have established a very fine business in that line during the past two years. James R. Bower, same place, has a steam power rotary mill, and also makes shingles, barrel staves and heading, boat and dory timbers, band sawing, planing and a full line of house furnishings.

I. M. & J. A. McKay, Clyde River, have a water power saw mill and will saw this season about one and one quarter million feet. There is some talk of shipbuilding being revived at Port Clyde, four miles distant.

Dickie & McGrath, Tusket, have eight million feet of pine and spruce, and the prospect is good for their whole drive reaching the booms at mill in good time. Mr. McGrath, the manager of the concern, keeps his eyes open for any improvements in saw mill practice. During the winter he installed the patent log haul up and live bed, which works like a charm; it was made by the Waring-White Co., of St. John, N.B. A steam jump up saw cuts

the logs to length. So much machinery has been added that the engine has all it can do, so Mr. McGrath is attaching a 24 x 24" cylinder and making a tandem compound. The mill consists of steam feed rotary, pattern edger, live rolls and transfers, lath, box and planing machinery, sawdust carriers taking all dust to the furnace, and chain carrier taking all bark, edgings and refuse generally to a safe distance from mill to be burned. Mr. Dickie, of the firm, resides at Stewiacke, where he has large lumber interests.

Blackadars & Co., Methagan and Hectanooga, have a water power gang at the former place, in which they will saw three million feet, and a steam rotary mill at the latter place, where they will cut two million feet. They saw mostly for West India and South America.

W. J. P.

CURIOUS GROWTH IN A TREE

THE accompanying illustration represents a stick of birch in the possession of Mr. J. E. T. Armstrong, of Parry Sound, Ont., which was cut out of a living tree. The stick is 30 inches long, 11 inches wide and 4 inches



thick. The two pieces shown in the illustration fit together perfectly, the teeth engaging with each other like a dove-tail joint. It is regarded as a most remarkable freak of nature. The photo was taken by Mr. Armstrong.

THE TIMBER TRADE OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE figures given below of the imports and exports of forest products will show the importance of the timber trade of the United States. For the year ending June 30th, 1860, the exports of forest products were valued at \$10,209,959. Twenty years later they had reached \$17,321,268, while last year they were valued at \$40,489,321, this being an increase of nearly \$7,000,000 over any previous year. Of this sum timber represented a valuation of \$9,217,432; boards, deals, etc., \$76,689,000 feet, \$13,076,247; other lumber, \$8,738,705; doors, blinds, etc., \$755,338; household furniture, \$3,785,143; other manufactures, \$4,051,935. The largest shipments of lumber were made from Puget Sound, the figures being 191,518,000 feet, valued at \$1,665,363. From New York, however, although the shipments were only 84,746,000 feet, they represented a valuation of \$2,127,004. It is shown that the total exports of boards, deals, etc., from the United States to the Dominion of Canada last year were 58,075,000 feet, representing a value of \$809,250.

For the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1897, the imports of wood and manufactures of wood were 883,270,000 feet from Canada, valued at \$9,067,312, while less than 1,000,000 feet included the total importation of boards, plank, etc., from other countries. The Dingley Bill did not become law until after the close of the fiscal year, and therefore the effect of that tariff on importations from Canada is not indicated by the above figures.

W. R. Ridington, lumber dealer, Fox Warren, Man., has purchased the retail lumber business at that place managed by L. P. Westergard.