

logs from jobbers in northern Minnesota, which are towed through the Lake of the Woods to their mills.

We give illustrations of one of the company's mills and their piling ground, also a portrait of Mr. D. C. Cameron, the president and general manager.

At the adjoining town of Keewatin there are two large saw mills, one of which has not been operated for three seasons on account of dullness in trade. The other is operated by water power, has a capacity of 15,000,000 feet per annum, and belongs to the Keewatin Lumber Co., of which



D. C. CAMERON,

President and General Manager Ontario and Western Lumber Co.

Mr. John Mather, one of the pioneers of the lumber trade on Lake of the Woods, is vice-president, and his son, Mr. R. A. Mather, manager. It gives employment to 150 men.

OTTAWA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

A VERY valuable contribution to the Central Experimental Farm Arboretum has been received from Prof. C. S. Sargent, director of the Arnold Arboretum, near Boston, in the form of 179 varieties of trees and shrubs, and cuttings of 24 species of willows. When planted in the spring this will make over one thousand varieties of trees and shrubs at the farm under test. The results of the experiments made will be very valuable in relation to forestry matters.

The early sale of next season's cut of deals by some of our large producers gives a good send off to the lumber trade and promises certain employment for a large number of men. The purchase so far in advance indicates a satisfactory state of affairs in the English lumber market.

The mills have all shut down for the season and most of the men have gone to the woods. Operations promise to be active, although large stocks are held over, but it is expected a good deal of what is now in the piling grounds will move out during the winter. The mill men are simply carrying the stock instead of the wholesalers in the United States. The season opened favorably for operations in the woods, but the recent mild spell has rather retarded work.

OTTAWA, Can., Dec. 24, 1895.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THE great lumber combination is an assured fact and all our lumber concerns have gone into it. We anticipate that lumbering on the Pacific coast will now become a profitable business, and that consumers will not suffer from any great advance in prices. The worst feature for us is that it is controlled from San Francisco, but the interests of British Columbia lumbermen are, we think, pretty well guarded. Messrs. Bibb and Holt, of San Francisco, are president and secretary respectively. The combination represents \$50,000,000 and includes 50 or 60 mills. The

exact capacity of every mill has been ascertained, and according to their capacity they receive so much stock. Each mill supplies lumber to the order of the central office, at a scale of prices for all mills agreed upon as cost. Three times each month a dividend will be declared according to the stock held by each mill company, even if they do not ship a stick of timber to the order of the central office. The supply and demand will be nicely adjusted at San Francisco. Should a retailer refuse to come in he has no place to buy his lumber; should a wholesaler refuse to come in he has no Pacific market to sell his lumber in.

Shipping men say that the demand for tonnage for immediate loading to transport lumber to Central and South America, oriental and coastwise points, is better than any time since the palmy days of 1889. The saying has always prevailed that when the lumber business was good on Puget Sound general trade was sure to be away up. With a fair living price for the product and with the existing demand we shall soon see prosperous times.

Advices from Sydney, Australia, state that there is more inquiry for all lines in connection with the building trade and a brisker business is reported in timber generally. The new treaty with New Zealand which comes into force on 1st January will help the timber trade considerably.

In connection with the recent charter of the bark Crown Prince, which loaded at the Hastings mill, Vancouver, it is interesting to note that while for some time past Douglas fir has been steadily supplanting Baltic pine in the markets of South Africa, and many valuable cargoes have been shipped to the Cape from the large cargo mills on both Burrard Inlet, B. C., and Puget Sound, shipping a cargo of Douglas fir right into the heart of the Baltic pine regions is a new departure, stranger even than shipping coals to Newcastle.

An order for over a million feet is reported to have been received recently by a Vancouver mill for Los Angeles. It is a wonder the order did not go to a United States mill.

P. Genelle & Co. will build a saw mill at the head of Arrow lake next spring with a capacity of 70,000 feet per day.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C., Dec. 20, 1895.

NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THE news as to the state of the English market is very encouraging to Maritime province lumbermen, small stocks and advancing prices speak well, and operations will be on a larger scale than usual this winter, both for the supply of the English and United States markets. Stocks of spruce in London on Oct. 31st were only 407,481 pieces, compared with 678,405 in 1894 and 1,221,630 in 1890, and there was great reduction in Baltic goods. American prices are a dollar a thousand by the car better than in the summer.

It is satisfactory to know that some 30,000,000 ft. of last winter's cut, which were hung up by low water, have been got down and are in the booms ready for next season. The booms at St. John now contain a good supply of logs.

Three St. John mills, those of Messrs. Cushing, Purvis and Hamilton, were destroyed by fire last year. Two others, those of Sitson, Cutler & Co. and Messrs. King, were closed nearly all the season for want of logs, and others for shorter periods. The importance of the mills to St. John is shown by the fact that the big mills pay out about \$1,500 a week for wages.

The making of St. John the winter port of the Beaver line of steamships will be of great benefit to the lumber trade, which will be able to ship deals and boards to England all the season. Already a great deal of space is arranged for.

A number of mill properties have changed hands recently and this class of investment is looked upon with favor. It is satisfactory to see outside capital coming into the country, and to know that our own capitalists feel encouraged to put their money into business enterprises.

A lot of logs made their appearance in the St. John river at Woodstock the end of the month, which turned out to be from the Aroostook woods. They belonged to Mr. Geo. Dunn, of Houlton, and there were between 1,500,000 and 2,000,000 in the boom at the falls, half of which broke away. His loss was heavy.

The largest single owner of spruce lands, and hemlock

as well, in New Brunswick, on the St. John waters, is the old New Brunswick railway, which has been leased to the Canadian Pacific. Years ago there were large amounts of hemlock cut on these lands for the bark, and at one time there were lying along that road, in the woods, 40,000,000 feet of hemlock logs from which the bark had been peeled, and for which logs there was no market, although they were offered as low as 25 cents per thousand feet in the woods. This slaughter has not occurred since, as the hemlock lumber has met with a better market. This same slaughter occurred even on a larger scale in the Province of Quebec, eastern townships and points now on the Quebec Central Railroad. Now that railroads have been built in various directions and have reduced their rates of freight, these hemlock boards find a market, especially as there is no duty on them.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Dec. 21, 1895.

MICHIGAN LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THE Saginaw lumbermen say that the season just closing has been one of the most unsatisfactory in the history of lumbering operations here in recent years, at least since the war. Not only has the movement been depressed, but prices have been so low that owners of stocks declare lumber barely brings enough to meet the cost of production. Shipments by lake have been the smallest for 30 years, and the rail movement has also fallen short of expectations. There are large stocks on hand, with light demand and great uncertainty as to the future. The outlook for next season can hardly be judged, and therefore buying in the wholesale market has stopped. Our mill men feel rather blue over the situation.

The annual meeting of the Northern Michigan Hardwood Manufacturers was held at Traverse City, Mich., on December 4th, and largely attended. There was a yearly cut of 75,000,000 feet represented. The chief subject discussed was that of the restriction of the annual output of hardwood. The exact action of the association is not made public, but it is known that the report of the committee appointed at the special meeting in November to canvass the manufacturers was very favorable to the plan to reduce the annual output fifty or sixty per cent., and the sentiment of the meeting was that the association take definite steps to carry it out. The subject of inspection also came up for consideration. The desirability of a more uniform grade was discussed, and it is probable such will be adopted in the near future. The following officers were elected: President, George W. Hopkins, Bear Lake; first vice-president, D. H. Day, Glen Haven; second vice-president, W. P. Porter, East Jordan; third vice-president, Martin Crane, Frankfort; secretary and treasurer, Loin Roberts, Traverse City.

It is estimated by the Menominee Enterprise that the twin cities manufactured during the past season with their twenty mills 418,707,987 feet of lumber valued at \$5,025,496 in addition to the shingle and lath cut. The Boom company assorted 374,643,625 feet of logs during the season, and but a few comparatively were hung up. Forty-two concerns are now operating in the woods.

The constitutionality of the knot saw law is on trial in a Grand Rapids co. A. The suit is that of Charles R. Wiley against the American Lumber Company to recover \$6,700 penalty for not having a knot saw guarded by a metallic guard for sixty-seven days. The defense demurs on the ground that the penalty is excessive, that the statute was not intended to be punitive, but remedial, and that the clause providing that a knot saw shall be guarded by a metallic guard is class legislation.

The legal complications in connection with the Mosher & Sons failure in Bay City are increasing day by day. The lawyers will get the cream and the creditors only the skim milk.

The lumbermen of the Saginaw Valley will not take out more than one-half or two-thirds the quantity of logs they did last year.

There seems to be a scarcity of labor for the woods, and wages are better in consequence. Men are being sent from the Saginaw Valley to upper Michigan and Canada.

The Saginaw Valley men and the railroads leading to the south-west are at loggerheads over rates. Freight to the south-west part of the state have been advanced 1 and 2 cents per 100 lbs. The railways say the action was prompted by Detroit and western Michigan lumbermen. An investigation is proposed.

SAGINAW, Mich., Dec. 24, 1895.