

THE OTTAWA VALLEY.

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

Continued firmness in the lumber market may be safely predicted for the summer months, although it is claimed in some quarters that the replenishing of standing stocks with the coming season's mill cut will have a tendency to lower prices. Mr. Hiram Robinson, of the Hawkesbury Lumber Company, states that prices are bound to remain firm, with good prospects of an advance. The advance already registered has not, according to Mr. Robinson, been in keeping with the advance in the cost of producing the stock. Lumber operators were compelled to pay high figures for labor, provisions and fodder. The prevalence of smallpox had a depressing effect, and incidentally increased the cost of actual production. The increased demand from the American side furnishes another argument in favor of the predicted increase. The advance already established has been greater on the high grade lumber, which furnishes but a small proportion of the whole cut. For this reason the mill owners have not been reimbursed in the degree that was generally supposed, and hence a marked advance in lower grades may be looked for. The Hawkesbury Company is furnishing large quantities of lath to dealers in the States at prices ranging from \$2.00 to \$2.40 per 1000 pieces f.o.b. at Hawkesbury. The early break-up of winter interfered with the operations on several limits and the supply of logs will be smaller than last year, another argument in favor of higher prices.

While lumbermen in general agree that prices will be maintained and perhaps advanced, a letter received from an American dealer points to a break in white pine prices. There is little of this stock moving, according to this party. Spruce has picked up in the States, and it is just possible that Canadian white pine may relax a degree. A feature of the Ottawa Valley operations is the large cut of square timber. Part has been sold at a slight advance on last year's prices. Last week the Munro Lumber Company, of Pembroke, had 7,600 pieces of timber drawn to the Ottawa river from their Mattawa limits. The raft will be ready to leave Seven League Lake this week. The company expects to have two more rafts

ready by the middle of the month, making 400,000 cubic feet of board timber taken off the Mattawa limit this season. Another raft of 150,000 cub. ft. will be floated on the Opeongo river about the end of the month. Other rafts will follow later on. About 2,500 men will be employed on the drive.

The spring and summer rates on the railways went into effect on April 1st. The rates from Ottawa to New York and vicinity by barge lines from Albany are as follows:—On soft wood in lots of 50,000 feet and upwards \$3.00 per M, but on lots under that figure \$3.50 per M. The rate on hardwoods in quantities over 50,000 ft. is \$4.50 per M, and on quantities below that figure \$4.75 per M. The rate on laths of 250,000 pieces and over is 60 cents per thousand pieces and on lots below those figures 70 cents; on shingles in lots of 100,000 shingles the rate is 45 cents per thousand shingles. Lumber in lots under 50,000 feet, lath in lots under 250,000 pieces, and shingles in lots less than 500,000, are subject to extra tonnage. The summer rates to Montreal went into effect on the same date. On lumber for export the rate is \$1.10 per M, and on lumber for local delivery 4 cents per hundred pounds.

The Hawkesbury Lumber Company's mills at Hawkesbury are now running full capacity, employing 700 men. The water power is naturally greater in the earlier months of the year, and full advantage of the fact is taken. The company will run two mills night and day and two in the day time alone. The McLaren mills at Buckingham are also in operation nearly a month earlier than last year.

Daily large gangs of men are being forwarded from Ottawa for the drives, and daily large numbers are returning from the shanties; the latter are all treated to a specially prepared bath on arrival at the depot, to prevent any possibility of a spread of smallpox in the Capital through their presence. Men for the drives are receiving \$40 a month as against \$45 a year ago. J. & P. Burke, hiring agents, this week sent 75 forward for the South River Lumber Company, 100 for the Morgan Company at Chelmsford, 75 for the Michigan Land and Lumber Company, Nairn Center, and 50 for the McLeod McCormick Company at Spanish River.

In the presence of a distinguished gathering and also 300 employees of the Company, Mr. W. C. Edwards, M. P., on Monday evening opened the Working Man's Club fitted up by him for the men employed at his Ottawa mills. The men

greeted with applause the announcement that there is a prospect of their sharing in the profits of the firm. Mr. Edwards also announced his intention of establishing a similar club at his Rockland mills. The Ottawa Club is housed in cozy apartments near the mill. During their spare time the men will be able to enjoy themselves with games, books and papers interesting and instructive.

A settlement out of court has been effected in the celebrated case of Dezouche vs. Fraser, by which defendant agrees to pay \$100,000. The legal battle was fought on one issue, the legality of the sale of certain valuable limits operated by the firm of Fraser & McCosham. In 1885, after the death of the latter, the limits were sold in order to close up the partnership affairs. At public auction they realized \$165,000. A few years after Mr. J. R. Booth purchased the limits, on which considerable quantities of valuable timber have since been secured. McCosham was plaintiff's first husband. She alleged that in the sale in 1885 the interests of the

McCosham children, the minor heirs, had suffered. She asked through the court that Mr. Fraser be ordered to account for the value of the timber taken off since the sale in 1885, as well as the price then procured. Judge Lavergne ruled that under the Quebec law governing the rights of minors, the sale of the Buck River limit in that province was illegal. He, however, ruled that the sale of the Ontario limits on the Opeongo and St. Mary rivers was legal. From this judgment both plaintiff and defendant appealed, but the appeals have not yet been argued. It is understood the \$100,000 or thereabouts to be paid over by Mr. Fraser includes \$50,000 held by him in trust as the share of the McCoshams, in profits of business transactions carried on under the firm's name after the death of McCosham. Although the report on the value of the limits and timber removed has never been made, it is estimated that the share claimed by plaintiff for herself and children was about half a million dollars.

Ottawa, April 7th, 1902.

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