

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

LAND OWNERS', MANUFACTURERS',
AND MINERS' GAZETTE.

ISSUED SEMI-MONTHLY AT TORONTO, ONT.

A. BEGG, Proprietor and Editor.

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TORONTO, ONT., DECEMBER 31, 1880.

NEW YEAR—1881.—To the readers of the LUMBERMAN, one and all, we wish a Happy New Year, with many returns of the season.

THE CENSUS.—The Census for the Dominion is to be taken on the 4th of April.

PARLIAMENT.—The Dominion Parliament, which adjourned over the Christmas holidays, will meet on the 4th of January.

DEFERRED NOTES.—During the latter part of this month we have made several journeys amongst our patrons, and have taken copious notes, which will be extended for next issue.

THE SNOW.—At Bracebridge the depth of snow is about twenty inches. Towards Rosseau it increases to two feet. Nearer Parry Sound the depth decreases to about 18 inches. Around by McKellar, Spence, and Ryerson, the depth is two feet, but at Lake Nipissing there is only about one foot deep. Very little frost in the swamps.

MUSKOKA AND PARRY SOUND.—Logging operations and the getting out of square timber in the Muskoka and Parry Sound Districts are progressing vigorously. The men are in excellent spirits. Few accidents have occurred so far, this season. The epidemic, which broke out among the horses at the shanties, is decreasing, and teams are able to do their full work. Cutting is about over in some of the camps. The cut of the season will be given as fully as possible next issue.

IMPORTANT DECISION.—The case of McLaren vs. Caldwell came to a close at Perth on the 15th inst., after occupying 11 days. The question to be decided was whether the Mississippi river and two of its tributaries, viz., Buckshot Creek and Louise Creek, were floatable in a state of nature, and if not, whether the defendant had any right to float logs or timber down the stream without the consent of the plaintiff, who had gone to a very large expense in erecting dams and slides. Judgement for Mr. McLaren, on the ground that before the improvements were made the stream was not floatable.

OTTAWA SQUARE TIMBER.

The names of Messrs. G. & A. Grier, of Kippewa, should have been inserted in the list published on the 15th inst., of square pine to be got out this winter on the Upper Ottawa, for 120,000 feet; also Capt. Young, of Temiscamangué, for 150,000 feet. Mr. Letour is likely to get out 600,000 feet, which with other additions, on account of favourable weather, will bring up the whole quantity of square timber on the Ottawa and tributaries to at least 10,000,000 cubic feet this season.

OUR QUEBEC LETTER.

THE STOCKS WINTERING IN QUEBEC—MESSRS. FORAYTH'S ANNUAL TRADE CIRCULAR—SPRUCE LOGS—MINING NEWS.

QUEBEC, December 24th.

The various lumbermen doing business here have made up the annual returns of timber actually wintering in their coves. The details will be found in the annual trade circular of Messrs. J. Bell Forayth & Co., which has already been sent to the LUMBERMAN. The circular has just made its appearance, and as usual has been in large demand. Its statistics of the year's business, and comparative statements must have been prepared at a large expense of time and labor, and are very valuable. The estimates which it forms of next year's business, and of the probable cut of the present winter, agree precisely with the calculations contained in some of my previous letters.

Great activity is reigning this season in the shanties of Beauce, where very large quantities of spruce logs are being taken out for next year's cutting.

THE GOLD MINES OF BEAUCE.

Public attention having been directed very much of late to the gold regions of the Chaudière valley, a hasty resume of what has been done towards developing the resources of the district may not be uninteresting. For many years past it has been known that rich veins of gold existed on the rivers Gilbert, Des Plantes, Du Loup, La Pamoine and St. Croix. Important works were undertaken on most of these locations in 1864, 1865, 1866 and 1867. Amongst others, Messrs. Bertrand, Poulin, Douglass, McKee, Nash and Lockwood on the Gilbert, and Mr. Olby on the Du Loup, retired with large profits. Mr. McKee, it is reported having realized \$15,000 in six months. Since the difficulties between the miners and the De Lery Co. set in with reference to mining rights, but little has been done on the Chaudière. In 1876, however, a company of miners, the Messrs. St. Ouge, made amicable arrangements with the De Lery people and with Mr. Lockwood, and commenced to work the diggings on the River Gilbert. The books of the company show that up to this year they have taken out gold to the value of \$705,540, but that out of this large amount they have obtained a net revenue of \$18,682 only. The profits realized would, of course, have been very much larger, but for the unsatisfactory method in which its works have been conducted. The management of the industry has been excessively extravagant, and the manner of the washing for gold very defective. Since the St. Ouge Company reopened the works on the Gilbert, several other individuals and companies have followed in the steps, amongst whom is an English company of capitalists, known as the Canada Gold Mining Co., and having at its head a gentleman of experience in Mr. J. N. Gordon. It is impossible to ascertain exactly the results of this company's operations. The President is not very ready to give information on this head, but is very much interested in the effort now being made at Ottawa, to have the Mining Act adopted at the last session of the Quebec Legislature, declared *ultra vires*. Mr. Gordon's pretension is that the legislation in question throws open to the public the rights which legally belong to his company, and which were purchased by them from the De Lery Co., to whom they were granted by patent from the Crown. The company employs about 100 men, and there are not wanting those who allege that its average find of gold is 10 ounces daily. This may be an exaggerated estimate, but it emanates from a practical miner. The Dinworth Co. of New York employs 60 men and takes out an average of seven ounces per day. Mr. Broad employs 30 men and takes out about four ounces a day. Some distance to the right of where these companies operate, there is another stream called La Branche, a tributary of the Gilbert, upon which now works have been opened up, the principal parties interested in them being Messrs. Do

Lory, Chapman, Auger, Mathieu, Berube and Rodrigue. These works promise well. So do others, opened on the Du Loup river by Mr. Humphreys, representing Hon. Mr. Morison, of the staff of His Excellency the Governor General. On the river Harbottle, Messrs. Beamer and Richards have discovered a vein which justifies very high expectations. On the Des Plantes, Mr. McKee has commenced the washing of the bed of the river by hydraulic power, and the results obtained have been very satisfactory. On the same river, very good results are being obtained by another company, at the head of which are Messrs. Mathieu, Gauthier and Berube.

It appears that all is not gold that glitters. I have already reported seemingly very large finds of the precious metal on Mr. Answorth's lot, No. 13, Gilbert River, Beauce. It appears, however, that the cost of working this land is unusually heavy, and this may perhaps be due the institution of actions at law for labor on the works during the past summer.

STADACONA.

PRESERVATION OF OUR FORESTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LUMBERMAN.

SIR—I have just, for the first time, had a look through a number of the LUMBERMAN, and I must congratulate you on its appearance, and in the manner, in general, in which it is got up. The object it has in view is a very good one, and there is not the least doubt but those in whose interest it is published will value it for the information it contains. The want of such a journal has long been felt by the lumber trade and those connected with it, now since you have made such a very creditable commencement, I trust the enterprise will be liberally encouraged and your expectations fully realized. I notice an article on the necessity of preserving shade trees—another on tree planting and tree culture—reference to shanty-men's wages, the markets, and a general view of the trade. One of the most important of the above is the giving of correct market prices in the places mentioned, so that the trade in Canada can with confidence point to the LUMBERMAN as the proper authority.

How to preserve our forests, and how to renew them is certainly a most important subject for us in Canada. The renewing of the forests is a question that should occupy the attention of our local legislature at an early day. I see that the Kansas State Legislature has taken steps in that direction. An Act has been passed enacting that any person who is the head of a family or who shall have arrived at the age of 21 years, and is a citizen of the United States, or who shall have filled his declaration of intention to become such, who shall plant, protect and keep in a healthy, growing condition for eight years, forty acres of timber, the trees thereon not being more than twelve feet apart each way on any quarter section of public lands of the State, shall at the expiration of eight years, be entitled to said lands, free from all State charges. If a person makes a purchase of 40 acres and plants ten acres, he will be entitled to the number of acres so planted—free.

Now, Mr. Editor, you will see the advisability of some such step being taken to start a system of keeping up our forests, when we have so much waste land, that some day should prove a mine of wealth to the country. In looking over the report of the progress of the State of Minnesota, I notice that in 1878 the State Legislature allowed for trees planted on the highways, \$30,000; and I also find that in France alone in 1877, no less than 37 million feet of lumber was converted into toys. Under such immense consumption of timber in one country of the old world, how much greater the necessity for us to protect and renew our valuable but rapidly decreasing forests. I have extended this article rather larger than I intended, but if you consider it of sufficient importance, in my next I will give you my views on how to preserve our forests from fire, in the Free Grant Lands of Ontario and Quebec. Wishing you much success, I remain &c.,

A WATCHMAN ON THE TOWER.

Dec. 19th, 1880.

The Lion's Tongue.

(Land and Water.)

The very peculiar formation of the lion's tongue did not escape the notice of our anatomist, but he does not say much about it. I have now in my hand the dried tongue of a lion; it is covered with sharp-pointed horny papillae, set very thickly upon its surface. The papillae on the front portion of the tongue are much larger than those in the rear part of the tongue, but the smaller ones are set much closer together than those in front. Each papilla consists of a horny spine, the point of which is curved and set directly backward, reminding me much of the spines on the tail of the thornback ray. On applying this lion's tongue to the cheek, I find that the roughness is so great that with a little pressure a wound might easily be made in the skin. The use of this is to scrape off the meat from the bones of the animals, for the lion is not a great bone-eater—he leaves the bones for the hyenas to crack, these animals having teeth especially constructed for the cracking of bones. This peculiar roughness of the tongue is also present, but in a less degree, in the common cat, and it can be seen when the cat is lapping milk, but still better if the tongue of a defunct specimen be taken out, put for a while in spirits, and then pinned out tight on a board. This rough tongue is of great importance to the health of the lion.

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