

MICHIGAN LETTER.

American Lumber Operations in Canada—Sketch of Two Big Firms—Transfer of Valuable Ontario Limits—Michigan Lumber Items.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

CANADIAN lumbermen are not without a lively and appreciative interest in American lumber affairs. Much of your lumber, under any circumstances, is sold on this side of the lines, and of late this trade has been steadily increasing. I need not tell you that Michigan lumbermen have a special concern in Canadian lumber, not a few of her citizens being among the largest operators of timber limits in the Province of Ontario. Among the larger of these firms are the Saginaw Lumber & Salt Company and the Emery Lumber Company, both of Saginaw, Mich. I have thought that it may not be without interest to your people to learn something of the personal composition and financial strength of these concerns.

The Saginaw Lumber & Salt Company dates its existence from 1881, when it was capitalized at \$120,000, with a surplus of \$200,000. The president of the company is one of your own citizens, James McLaren, the well known lumberman of Buckingham, Que. R. A. Loveland, of Saginaw, Mich., is vice-president; R. H. Roys, of Saginaw, secretary; D. L. White, jr., treasurer. The head offices are located here, with Mr. Loveland and Mr. Roys as managers. Mr. Loveland is a New Yorker, born at Westport in that State in 1819, and has followed lumbering all his life. He was for several terms a member of the New York legislature. The mill owned by the company was formerly that of Sibley & Beringer, Crow Island, just out of the city. They manufacture 20,000,000 feet annually. The company owns 70,000 acres of stumpage in the Georgian Bay district, and the coming winter will put 15,000,000 feet of logs into the Vermillion river, and about 5,000,000 feet will be cut on Fitzwilliam Island. These logs will be rafted to the company's mills here next season. Mr. Loveland took an active and influential part in securing in the McKinley bill the clause reducing the tariff on Canadian lumber imported into the United States, upon the repeal of the Canadian log export duty.

The Emery Lumber Company was organized in 1885, with a capital stock of \$120,000 increased in 1889 to \$180,000. The officers are the same as those of the Saginaw Lumber & Salt Company. This company owns a mill at Midland, Ont., having a capacity of 18,000,000 feet, but it has not been operated during the season of 1891. It stocks the mill of Temple Emery, at East Tawas, and also furnishes stock for N. Holland's mill in Saginaw, as well as some logs for the Saginaw Lumber & Salt Company. During the present year it has handled about 40,000,000 feet of logs and has camps established on the Wahnapiatae; under the direction of Thomas Pickard, an old Michigan logger, who expects to cut 40,000,000 feet of logs during the season of 1891-2 for the supply of the mills next season. This company also owns 70,000 acres of timber in the Georgian Bay district.

These same lumbermen are organized into another corporation known as the Michigan Log Towing Company, with a capital of \$75,000. It owns and controls five large tug boats, and brought across the lake from Canada the present season 40,000,000 feet of logs.

OTHER OWNERS OF CANADIAN LIMITS.

An important sale of Canadian timber was closed here on 3rd inst., when Ring & Merrill, of this city, who some time ago purchased from the Midland & North Shore Lumber Co., of your country, valuable timber limits in the Georgian Bay territories, sold these limits to Wm. Peter, Columbiaville, Lapeer Co., the millionaire lumberman. The property it is believed contains nearly 300,000,000 feet of pine timber and the consideration is reported at about \$350,000. Mr. Peter buys the lumber to stock his Bay City mill, which means, of course, that the logs will be towed to this side of the line.

Sibley & Beringer, of this State have started two camps in the Georgian Bay district. They will put in about 6,000,000 feet, and have hung up for another season, 2,000,000 feet. Mr. Beringer is disposed to grumble at the price of stumpage in the Georgian Bay, and thinks it will be a barrier to future buying.

MICHIGAN LUMBER NOTES.

Freights have advanced 25 cents per thousand, the rate now being as follows: From Bay City to Buffalo and Tonawanda, \$1.75; to Ohio ports, \$1.50; from Saginaw to Buffalo and Tonawanda, \$1.87½, and to Ohio ports, \$1.62½. This rate may be further increased shortly.

Rodney has had a fire, which wiped out \$25,000 worth of hemlock lumber.

The Tittabawassee Boom Company is forging toward the 275,000,000 feet limit, which it was predicted would be their output this year.

S. G. M. Cates, who runs one of the best mills on the Saginaw river, will save a big towing bill by having over 1,000,000 feet of logs transformed into lumber up at Cheboygan.

As high as \$28 per month is being paid experienced men for logging operations.

H. W. Sage has purchased the Emery mill property at East Tawas, consideration \$12,500.

C. K. Eddy & Sons, East Saginaw, have purchased a berth on the White Fish river, on the north shore of the Georgian Bay.

An estimate of the logs rafted and delivered the present season is as follows:

	Feet.
Tittabawassee and tributaries.....	295,000,000
Cass river	6,000,000
Mad river	3,000,000
Kawkawlin	5,000,000
Rifle river	25,000,000
Au Gres river.....	15,000,000
From Georgian Bay	80,000,000
Upper Michigan points	35,000,000
Total.....	464,000,000
	PICA.

SAGINAW, MICH., Oct. 24, 1891

OTTAWA LETTER.

Conclusion of the Strike—What has been Accomplished—The Trade Side—Other Matters.

[Regular Correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THE great strike is ended. The mills are not running with as large a staff of men as formerly, for the reason that the men are not here. Not a few found employment elsewhere during the progress of the strike and left the country. To this extent the ranks are broken.

Do you ask what has been accomplished by the strike? It is about as THE LUMBERMAN has put it, "Strike but Hear." The mill men of their own volition have made the rate of wages the same as they had been in 1890, that is 50 cents a week increase over what they were getting this year. No reduction has been made in the number of working hours per day, except in the case of Buel, Orr & Hurdman, where the ten-hour system has been adopted, but unaccompanied with any promise of an increase of wages.

The outcome can hardly be deemed a satisfactory one for the strikers. They have lost a month's work and consequently a month's pay, and at a season of the year when it was important that they should have made every day count. The pinch in this direction was being experienced by many families. Bakers and grocers were prepared to lend some assistance to the workmen in the shape of credit, but it was not to be expected that this could be continued for any great period, and the time had come when credit had to be refused, as many as forty families being cut off by bakers alone.

A calm survey of the situation, now that the trouble is over, confirms me in my opinion that the difficulty between employers and employees might have been brought to a conclusion within a short time of the first outbreak had it not been for the interference of professional agitators of the stamp of the leader Fateaux and others. Any little discontent that may be in the air to-day is caused by a fanning of the flame by these fire-eating professionals, who are the curse of the working class anywhere; and it will be a grand thing for the workmen when they recognize this fact.

TRADE ASPECT OF THE STRIKE.

Three weeks' lost time during the period of the strike and a reduced staff for the remainder of the season tells of a short cut. This has been placed by one leading mill owner at 25,000,000 feet. "Mill men," he

said, "would not, however, suffer any very great loss in the end, as the short cut would certainly have a tendency to stiffen prices later on. It would without doubt reduce the stock to be carried over the coming winter. The logs are coming down rapidly, and extra precaution will be taken to strengthen the booms if they have to be held over."

Shipping has been brisk throughout the month, sufficient men being secured in most cases for the work, even when the strike was in progress.

As compared with September last year the returns of the United States consulate show that last month's exports were greatly decreased. The figures are: Exports, September, 1890, \$907,321; exports, September, 1891, \$662,197; decrease, \$245,124. This is largely due to the decreased export of lumber, etc., due to the strike.

The Hon. E. H. Bronson, M.P.P., and Messrs. F. P. Bronson, W. G. Bronson, Levi Crannell and Daniel A. Martin, of Ottawa, will apply to the Quebec legislature to be incorporated under the name of the Schyan River Improvement Co. The object of the proposed company is the construction of slides, dams, piers and booms for the floating of timber.

Men in large numbers are leaving here for the shanties.

OTTAWA, CAN., Oct. 26, 1891.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

The Westminster Exhibition—Showing of Lumber Products—Export Shipments—A Rival to E. B. Eddy—News Gleanings.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THE Annual Exhibition and Citizens' celebration held in this city 23rd to 27th Sept., was the greatest event of its kind ever held in this province. The gate receipts at the grounds were \$5,850. The exhibits surpassed the shows of former years in every respect, even in your line, lumber and wood-work exhibits. The Brunette Sawmill Co. got first prize for cedar shingles. A pair of oak doors most beautifully carved attracted great attention. Mr. Wyther, owner of the steam yacht *St. George*, of Royal Yacht Squadron, England, purchased a piece of fir plank 52 inches wide, 10 feet long by 2 inches thick, free from blemish or defect. He takes it to England and intends having a table top made of it and polished. The B. C. M. T. & T. Co. also had a very fine exhibit. So closely were these two matched that the judges have not yet been able to decide as to which to award a special prize "to the best exhibit of provincial manufacture." They showed very fine windows and blinds and took first prize for doors and windows. They showed a fir plank 50 inches wide, 26 feet long by 2½ inches thick, very smoothly sawed. The Mechanics Mill Co. amongst other fine exhibits had a very nice bar-room counter and newel post. They got second prize for doors and windows. Messrs. Welsh & Son, of this city, showed 25 pieces of native woods polished and varnished to the highest state of perfection.

TO COMPETE WITH THE HULL PAUL KING.

Vancouver has credit for erecting the first wooden pail factory coming directly into competition with the celebrated makers of pails, the E. B. Eddy Company of Hull, Que. I think I am correct in saying that until this time this well known concern has practically had a monopoly of this line of manufacture. The Vancouver Manufacturing and Trading Company will make a bold attempt to divide the trade with the Eddy people. We think that no better wood can be found for this use than the splendid cedars of British Columbia. The pail factory is well equipped with modern machinery and is under capable management.

BITS OF LUMBER.

Mr. Slanght has joined Mr. MacLaren in the Bunard Inlet mill and may not build at Stevenston.

Rothsay Bay has arrived from Glasgow with water works pipes and supplies.

British Columbia has determined to be represented at the World's Fair in Chicago. She proposes to exhibit a building composed of every variety of wood that grows in her forests, and to adorn it with ferns and mosses grown within her own boundaries.

H. G. R.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C., Oct. 24, 1891