

AMONG THE GEORGIAN BAY MILLS.

A party consisting of H. H. Cook, and Robt. Jaffray of Toronto, Mr. McFarlane of the *Edinburg Scotman*, and representatives of the *Mail and Globe*, have been doing our timber country, and from the correspondence in the latter journal we cull the following as likely to prove interesting to our readers:—

THE MIDLAND SAW-MILL.

Our visit to the elevator, the wharfs and the saw-mill were made on Monday evening, when all was lighted up by sixteen electric lights. The saw-mill, which is one of the most extensive in the Province, is owned by the Canadian Lumber Company. This Company was formed about two years since, under the presidency of Mr. H. H. Cook, who handed over to it the extensive lumbering business he had then been carrying on for several years. The capital, a part of which is held in the Old Country, is \$1,000,000, one-half being preference stock, on which an annual dividend of ten per cent. must be paid before the other half million of stock can claim any share of the profits.

THE INTERIOR OF THE MILL.

As this mill is a fair specimen of the largest lumber mills in the country, a brief notice of it may serve to give an idea of how these great mills are carried on. There are two storeys, the second one on a level with the extensive platforms which, supported by trestle-work, extend in every direction over the yard. In the lower flat are the engines and various separate machines, or machinery connected with the sawing frames up-stairs. The engines are two in number—one of 120 horse-power and the other of 60.

SAWING UP THE LOGS.

Up-stairs, however, the whole process of sawing is carried on. From the boom along the water front the logs are shoved one by one into an alley of water penetrating the mill. Then by a steam crank and chains they are hoisted up to the second storey and flung rolling upon a sort of platform. At the further end of this is a long car upon which the log rolls, and is placed in a firm position by a wooden arm which comes up through the floor, gives the log a poke and a squeeze in what looks like a clumsily intelligent manner. The log car then moves against a pair of saws, which strip off from two opposite sides of the log the bark and rough wood. When the log has passed the saw it rolls upon a frame work bearing a series of small iron wheels or rollers, which facilitate the movement of the log towards the great sawing machine. A hook now seizes the timber, gives it a shove into its proper position, rolls it upon a long car which is moved slowly up endwise against a wide sawing machine containing a large number of parallel saws adjusted to any required thickness of board. Your correspondent saw a log about four feet thick go through the saw singly, but generally the small size of the logs admits of two or four going through the machine at once. On the other side of the machine the rough boards, such as come off the unsquared parts of the log, are taken to one side and sawn into lengths. On the other side the good boards are thrown upon a small movable platform suspended from a curved iron-way above. They are then swung upon a broad car which moves them up to another sawing machine, over which they pass and are cut into the required lengths, and their rough ends trimmed off. The now finished boards are either shoved down a flume into the lower storey, or out upon cars on the elevated railways, and carried away to the piles which fill up most of the yard.

WHAT IS DONE WITH THE RUBBISH.

Long, shallow boxes reach round the building, and a system of endless chains, attached to which are transverse pieces of wood, scrape all the sawdust, bark and refuse wood out of the building, and either into the boiler room or away over an elevated way into a gigantic furnace nearly a hundred feet high and twenty-eight feet in diameter. The furnace is a round stone tower, narrowing in its upper part into a broad smokestack. A great damper on the ground outside admits the air to beneath the half open flooring of the furnace. At an elevation of forty or fifty feet is an opening through which the endless chain carries the refuse of the mill, and throws it upon an inclined sheet of iron, down which the stuff slides till it falls into the middle of the flames below. The constant falling of

heavy boards upon this sheet of iron causes an incessant rumbling noise like the sheet iron thunder of a theatre.

THE HEAT OF THE FURNACE.

Through the openings in the side of this great furnace there stream at night great beams of red light, which produce a weird effect as they fall upon the human figures moving around in the darkness. Inside a circular pit of from twenty-eight feet in diameter and ten or twelve deep is a glowing mass of coal, above which the flames roar and curl, and reach upward fiery tongues as if to lick down the pine fragments falling from the iron slide above.

The enormous destruction of refuse by this furnace at first sight may appear reckless, but in the lumber districts this refuse is worse than a drug, and is burned simply to get rid of it. Throwing it into the water would prove an intolerable nuisance and eyesore along these beautiful shores, and besides would poison the fish.

BRIGHT AS DAY.

We visited the mills at night, and found them lighted by eight Brush electric lights. The whole place seemed as bright as noonday. Even in the shadow the brightness was diffused as is a solar light in the shadows of daytime. Outside, away above the elevated platform, the lights now poured their radiance down upon the mills and trestle-works and acres of lumber piles and out on the tens of thousands of logs floating in the booms in the harbour. It was proposed to concentrate the outside lights in one or two high towers, so as to more effectively light up the village and harbour.

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE MILL.

The mill has a capacity of twenty-five million feet per season, and it is expected that eighteen million feet will be produced this year. There are also thirty thousand laths turned out per diem from small pieces of scantling which cannot be sold for lumber. Three hundred men are employed at the mill during the time of navigation. In winter most of these men betake themselves to the woods of the Muskoka and other rivers flowing into Georgian Bay. In these primeval forests the Canadian Lumber Company employs one thousand men all winter. The company has also built a mill at the mouth of the Wye, two miles south-east of Midland. This mill is smaller than the Midland one, having a capacity of only six million feet per annum. Midland has two mills besides that of the Lumber Company. They are owned by Messrs. Cheer Brothers and John Dollar. The two mills together are capable of producing eight million feet per annum.

WHERE THE LOGS COME FROM.

The logs for the mills come from far away in the interior. They are hauled in winter to the streams, and piled along the ice. Every log has upon it the mark of the lumbering firm to which it belongs. These marks are patented, and heavy liabilities are placed upon any one who interferes with them. In the spring the most of the logs are carried down the rivers to the bay, while a special company brings down all the others later, carefully distinguishing as to ownership. The grand collecting booms of the Canadian Company are at Muskwash, eighteen miles from Midland. Here booms of various sizes are made up and towed by a tug belonging to the company to the mills at Midland and at the Wye. Then the booms are floated in behind the long boom that stretches behind the shore with a width of from fifty to three hundred feet.

It may be necessary for the information of the uninitiated to explain that, although square timber is put up in rafts, round logs are not, but are floated in booms. These booms consist of logs connected by chains running through holes in their ends. A boom may thus be constructed for floating logs along the lake, or for confining them in a short strip against the shore.

AN HISTORICAL LOCALITY.

Near this locality are the ruins of an old French fort said to have been built over 250 years ago, but which was abandoned after the garrison had been massacred by the Indians. The masonry is overgrown with trees, and right upon the walls are standing stumps two or three feet in thickness. Three miles further inland an Indian pit containing the skeletons of

three thousand of the old aborigines was discovered a couple of years ago. At the Wye in times long past the Hudson Bay Company maintained a post, of which scarcely a vestige is now remaining. At Victoria Harbor, a few miles further south-east, we found the extensive mills of Mr. Richard Powers. These mills produce 15,000,000 feet of lumber annually. At Sturgeon Bay, a little eastward, are two mills of a capacity of about four millions each.

A MODEL SAWMILL.

At Waubusheno we stopped for over half an hour to see the immense mill of the Georgian Bay Lumber Company. The village is a model of taste and neatness. The streets are tidy, and the houses, which are of board, are painted white, and surrounded by white picket fences. Gardens and croquet lawns abound and every evidence of comfort. The village is owned by the Company, which charges no rent to the occupants of the houses, all of whom are employees at the mill. These rent-free tenants are, however, expected to keep their places in good order, under penalty of ejection in case of negligence. No liquor is allowed to be sold or brought into the village, a regulation which the Company has enforced with excellent results. The appearance of the mill premises is in keeping with that of the village. The mill buildings have painted sides and roofs, and even the trestlework which supports the miles of elevated railway is painted white. The elevated tracks extend along the piles of timber to a distance in all of several miles. The manager, Mr. Penkham, a former resident of Toronto, and who proves himself a most efficient director of the mills, informs us that the railway siding measured between seven and eight miles. The mill's interior sufficiently resembles the Midland mill to make a description superfluous. The motive power is derived from an engine of 350 horse-power. The logs are hauled up from the water into the mill on inclined planes, and keep two endless processions all day long. An endless chain with teeth is used on one of the machines, while the other works with toothed wheels. Adjoining the mills are the warehouse, where supplies are stored, and a smaller building in which the tug boat lies when not in use. The mill has a capacity of about fifteen millions, and employs about one hundred men. The Company has another mill at the Severn, a few miles distant.

WANTED, A SOFT PLACE.

Inquiries come to us almost every week, "wanted a position," "would like to superintend a mill or get into a position where there is a good salary to be had, not very much work to do; am a graduate of— College, can refer to the Hon. so-and-so, the Rev. so-and-so, etc." There are about two hundred thousand men in the United States, if not a good many more, who are all looking for soft places, and have been looking for soft places ever since they were big enough to keep out of the reach of their mother's slipper, and the very fact of this continued hunt for soft places has cost the American people millions upon millions of dollars. Soft places are not to be had for the asking, and the general construction of this slang phrase is a place with a fat salary and not much work or responsibility. Just the sort of men are always looking for these places that are neither fitted by nature, by culture, qualification or disposition to properly fill them.

The majority of men are satisfied with a salary of from one to three thousand dollars. Sometimes men, with special qualifications, reach five, six or ten thousand in private life or in private business. There are a great many men to-day drawing salaries of from five to twenty-five or thirty thousand dollars who are no more fitted for the position they occupy than an uneducated boot-black is for professor of languages. They are put into these positions by the influence of their friends, so that their clique can control the railroad, manufacturing corporation, or whatever the position may be; and the fact of it is, in a position like this, there is no sort of competition, no chance of merited promotion, and, as a rule, the men who hold these positions would be very expensive at \$10 per year, so far as their personal qualifications and worth go. . . .

What we want to-day are men who are fitted by their experience and contact with business to

do business, and to manage business. A man who never saw a cotton mill, no matter how smart he is, is unfit to have the management of one. The man who has not had actual experience with a railroad, can not run it, successfully at least, and it does not make any difference whose son-in-law he is, or how much he has learned at some college. We prefer to risk our life on a road managed by a man who has been brought up in the business, and knows what he is doing; and the tendency among railroad managers, to-day, is to seek out this class of men and give them the control of roads, because the man who can run the train himself can teach others how to do it, and he knows also whether they are doing as they are instructed or not.

The man who can erect the machinery in a cotton mill, who can figure his own drafts, twists, changes, etc., is the very man to know whether the people who are working under his direction are doing their work as they should do it or not.

We take the ground that it is no disgrace to a man to have a collegiate education. The majority of men form habits during their attendance upon the average college which are not any particular benefit to them all through life, and the simple fact that a man has been through college, and has graduated, is no sort of a warrant to a cotton spinner, a machine maker, a railroad or steamship manager, that that man is any more fit to take practical charge of either one of these matters than as though he had never seen college, except in so much as he may be able to write or figure better. The certainties are that he will not know as much or as well about doing the routine work required as some man who has been for several years employed in a line of business which gives him familiarity with what he is in daily contact with. And other things being taken as equal, we would prefer, if we were to choose editorial assistants, to take from the ranks men who were familiar with the manipulations of machinery, men who knew the difference between a wheel-barrow and a front roll, a monkey-wrench and a water-wheel, than to take the best educated collegian who knew only his Greek and Latin—and perhaps very indifferently at that—for the man who had been several years working with his hands and his brains, has formed habits that will stick to him through life; he is better able to cope with difficulties, he is less liable to err in judgment, and his judgment is apt to be keener and clearer than the man who has, up to the time of his leaving college, depended entirely upon somebody else for every thing.

Capitalists and business men are getting to take this view of matters, and within the last two years men who have been expecting soft places or desirable positions, have had to stand back and see men who have been in the work promoted. As a matter of fact, the last seven or eight years have taught capitalists and stockholders that we have been on the wrong track. They have switched off; they are running more upon common-sense principles than ever before, and the man who requires a soft place hereafter will have to work for it, and not only make himself fit to be promoted, but fit to hold the place after he has been put into it.

Men who have never been obliged to depend upon themselves, are not men to be trusted with the working out of important problems. Men who have been compelled to earn their own living and to get their education by such means as good books and papers, out of working hours, not only learn faster, but what they learn they are sure of. Seemingly soft places are not always so soft as they appear to be; and if a man is capable of holding a position, the surest way for him to get it is to attend strictly whatever he has in hand, and he may be assured that his time will come from some source or other, and it will most likely come when he least expects it.—*Boston Journal of Commerce.*

At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Longford Lumber Co. the other day, Mr. Wm. Thompson was appointed President, in the place of his father lately deceased, and Mr. Maxwell Hall, formerly of Peterboro, Secretary.

MR. GEORGE STATHEN, of Peterborough, asks any mill-owner using leather belting to try Jewell's (Hartford, Conn.) oak tanned; from 4 to 12 inch in stock. No matter how small the order. Satisfaction guaranteed.