

**THE OTTAWA VALLEY.**

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

Lumbermen in Ottawa and the Ottawa Valley are all discussing the early and unexpected break-up of winter in the Gatineau, Coulange, Kippewa and other districts adjacent to the Ottawa river and its tributaries. Inquiry shows that while nearly all the season's cut of logs has been deposited at the streams, a considerable portion of the output of square and waney timber will have to be left over on the limits until next season. One operator, who took chances on a long land haul to avoid a longer drive, is left with over one thousand sticks in the bush. In order to diminish the chance of being "stuck," other operators only delayed their timber at the stump long enough to trim two sides. They hauled it almost as rapidly as it was thus treated, leaving the finishing touches for the stream side or railway siding. They "are out of the woods," to quote the popular expression.

Up in the Kippewa district, where winter was hard and fast a fortnight since, the weather prophets all called a late spring. A sudden change with hot sun and steady rains, however, broke up snow roads and ice, which were not of the best at any stage of the season.

Several firms have been caught in the inward movement of their supplies to their "keepovers," which, in itself, is a serious matter, as it was the intention to commence cutting operations early in August.

Another limit sale was reported this week. From the Chisholm Estate, of Hamilton, Mr. R. A. Klock, of Ottawa, purchased a tract of pine land, 200 square miles in extent, situated on the east branch of the Lievre river, in the upper country. The purchase price was in the neighborhood of \$60,000. The limit is said to contain both log and timber making trees of good girth. Mr. Klock, who was a member of the old lumber firm of Klock Bros., Aylmer, Que., will start work on the newly purchased limit this coming summer. He is not likely to erect a mill.

The negotiations between the Rideau Lumber Company, of Ottawa, and the firm of A. & P. White, of Pembroke, for the purchase of the latter's mill and limits, have fallen through. The cause is understood to have been the failure to agree on terms.

The employment agencies are in a bad way for eligible men for the log drives which will soon be under way. While the city is swarming with shantymen, only a comparative few are willing to go back for the driving season. Wages run as high as \$25 and \$30 and board. Gangs of Indians are being secured from the Caughnawaga reserve.

During the past winter the Boo'h mill turned out large quantities of hardwood lumber for future shipment. The large supply of pine logs brought by rail from the Madawaska limits are on the ice at the

mill, and will serve for the early summer cutting.

No changes have occurred in the local lumber market as regards prices since last letter. Movement of stock is fairly active. Dealers are busy fitting up their yards. Millmen are overhauling their equipment preparatory to a busy season.

A local lumber manufacturer predicted recently that prices would suffer an unexpected break within a year. He based his pessimistic prophecy on the belief that in the matter of production the business was being overdone. Inquiry, however, shows that he is alone in his opinion. It was pointed out by one dealer that the unexpected break-up of spring caught some logs and their non-arrival at the mills next summer will curtail the output anyway. However, a market is to be expected for all that can be cut.

OTTAWA, March 23rd, 1903.

Commerce, for Manchester, 337,707 feet deals, value \$3,333.

From St. John, N. B.: Steamer Numidian, for Liverpool, 111,403 feet deals, 38,779 feet scantling, 2,777 feet ends, 1,400 ft. boards, by W. M. Mackay. Steamer Indrani, for Glasgow, 201,262 feet deals, 25,114 feet scantling, 22,660 feet ends, by Donald Fraser and Sons; 49,500 feet pine deals, 73,260 feet spruce deals, by Schofield & Company. Steamer Lake Ontario, for Liverpool, 36,000 feet shooks, by A. Cushing & Company; 42,003 feet deals, 23,263 feet scantling, 985 feet ends, 15,079 feet boards, by W. M. Mackay; Schooner William Jones, for Vineyard Haven, 1,540-300 laths by Stetson Cutler & Company. Schooner Thistle, for Boston, 123,185 feet pine boards, by A. Cushing & Company. Schooner Clayola, for City Island, 103,332 feet deals, 39,683 feet scantling, 40,000 feet plank, by N. H. Murchie. Schooner Stella Maud, for City Island, 142,245 feet deals, by Stetson, Cutler & Company. Steamer Tunisian, for Liverpool, 869,120 ft. deals, 117,752 feet scantling, 63,829 feet ends, 32,478 feet boards by W. M. Mackay; 633 bundles maple flooring by William Thomson & Company. Steamer Dahome, for Antigua, 10,000 feet pine boards, 100 bundles shingles, by J. Roderick & Son. Schooner Ida May, for Boston, 151,284 feet plank by A. Cushing & Company. Schooner Jennie C., for Stonington, 85,000 feet spruce boards, 50,000 laths, 425,000 cedar shingles, by Stetson, Cutler & Company.

**CANADIAN LUMBER SHIPMENTS.**

From Chemainus, B. C.: Steamer Tasmania, for Liverpool, 900,000 feet lumber.

From Yarmouth, N. S.: Barque Lurgina, for Buenos Ayres, 656,000 feet lumber, 200,000 feet scantling.

From Halifax, N. S.: Schooner Arctic, for Demerara, British Guiana, 115,000 feet lumber, value \$1,380. Steamer Unique, for Birkenhead, Eng., 1,486,116 feet deals, etc., value \$16,210. Steamer Manchester

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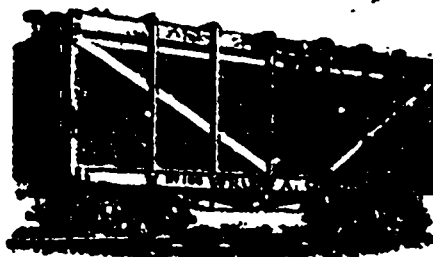
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