

OTTAWA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THERE is no little excitement among lumbermen in this city over the action of one or two soreheads on the other side of the line as to what constitutes dressed lumber. Up to date the term included flooring, tongued and grooved, and these were admitted as such till a short time ago, when, as a local shipper puts it, a few "small big" men raised the point that dressed lumber means a board dressed on two sides only, and that flooring, tongued and grooved, comes under the classification of "manufactured goods." One of the largest lumber merchants in the United States is at present in the city, and in conversation with Mr. Peter Whalen on the subject said: "It is not honest on the part of the Americans to claim as they are doing. Flooring has always been looked upon as within the law of dressed lumber, and although it would be much better for me if it were classed as manufactured goods, still I cannot honestly say that it would be right to class it so." Meantime the Ottawa as well as other shippers are watching developments, as the classification of flooring as manufactured goods means the beginning of another tariff trouble in the lumber and timber business.

Mr. J. R. Booth, who has suffered losses by four large fires during the past year, is again a loser from the same cause, a fire having occurred on the 28th ult. at his log-hauling station near Calendar. Damage to the extent of \$20,000 was done, on which there is an insurance of about \$11,000. The station is a distributing centre for Mr. Booth's logs which come down Lake Nipissing. At Calendar they are conveyed overland by cars to the Mattawa waters. The property destroyed was a valuable one. It consisted of large storehouses, sleeping house, offices, stables and other buildings. All the firm's cattle and horses escaped.

The gang Pitman saw at Edwards' mill, New Edinburgh, broke a few days ago and caused one saw to stop. A heavy bar of iron, 7 by 2½ inches, was shortened by compression. The job of repairing the break is quite a heavy one.

A new industry is being started here, namely, the manufacture of fuel from sawdust. Mr. John McLatchie, surveyor, and Mr. Olney, inventor of the process, which the new industry is to test, are placing a plant in the old Rochester building at the Chaudiere. Should it turn out a success it will help to settle the question of disposal of sawdust.

Mr. J. R. Booth's lumber mill at the Chaudiere is being operated day and night, giving employment to 350 hands. When a representative of the LUMBERMAN visited it recently he was impressed with the fact that everywhere about the establishment systematic methods prevail. Operations proceed like clockwork, and the conversion of the raw material into lumber and other marketable products apparently takes place with the greatest conceivable saving of time and material. The statement may be the more readily understood when it is known that the band mills are operated at a speed of about two miles per minute. The mills and yards are at night brilliantly illuminated by upwards of fifty electric arc lamps, the current being supplied by the Company's own electric plant. At this mill, as elsewhere, there is a noticeable change in the character of the logs which are being converted into lumber. The quality of the timber is inferior to what it was say ten years ago, when mill owners went over the limits and cut only the choicest trees. Timber is not now so plentiful, and as a consequence less perfect material is being brought to the saw.

OTTAWA, Can., Sept. 22, 1895.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

A PARTY of nine prominent lumbermen, of Wisconsin, have been on a visit to this province with the view of investing in timber limits. They first visited Puget Sound and then crossed over to Victoria. They expressed themselves well pleased with the timber resources of this province, and it is probable they will secure some limits before they leave. They say there is plenty of timber for a long time to come, in the East, notwithstanding what people may say. They report business looking up in the East and say the lumber trade must recover in sympathy with other lines.

Mr. J. M. Gordon, of Ottawa, Inspector of Dominion Lands Agencies, is paying his semi-annual tour of inspection to the Coast. He says that the amount of land sold in British Columbia during the past year has been very satisfactory considering the times. The magnificent harvest in Manitoba and the North West Territories this year will, he thinks, be an incentive to immigration next year. He is inspecting the timber lands owned by the Government. He says that considerable satisfaction is caused by the fact that the government has recently met the requests of the timber men in allowing, instead of 5 per cent. duty on the selling price, 50 cents per 1,000 feet, and a rebate of 40 cents on timber exported from the Province.

Dr. Watt, ex-M.P.P. for Cariboo, writes to a local paper urging the passing of legislation to preserve the forests, which, he says, are just as important to the successful working of the mines as is water. Great destruction has been wrought by fires, the losses being incalculable. Had the doctor not been defeated at the last general election he proposed to introduce legislation which would have had a tendency to preserve the forests.

A wedding took place at 7 a. m. recently at the residence of ex-Chief of Police McLaren, Vancouver. The bridegroom was Mr. Hugh McDonald, of the Brunette Saw Mill, New Westminster, and the bride, Miss Sophie Bowes, niece of ex-Chief McLaren. Rev. E. D. McLaren officiated. Mr. and Mrs. McDonald left on the morning train for Whatcom.

British Columbia yellow cedar commands as high a price as \$80 a thousand feet in the British market. An English firm, tempted by this price, is said to have secured 15,000 acres of cedar limits.

The C.P.R. is about to replace the long bridge by which their line crosses the Columbia at Revelstoke, with a new structure. Car loads of timber are now arriving for it and work will be commenced as soon as the water is low enough.

The Victoria Lumber & Manufacturing Co. will probably commence cutting at the Chemainus mill next spring, as the lumber market shows signs of improvement.

The Sayward Saw Mill Co., Victoria, will shortly put in a band mill.

Mr. Lidgate, who recently left here for the East, will open a lumber yard at Qu'Appelle, Assa.

R. Stevenson has completed his saw-mill on the Similkameen, near Princeton.

"Doc" Tomlinson is erecting a saw mill on Sheep Creek, just north of the boundary.

The C.P.R. is carrying quantities of B. C. shingles from the Sound to Eastern points in the United States. The Northern Pacific cannot supply cars, their rolling stock being pretty well taken up carrying grain and ore.

The duty collected in August in Vancouver was \$2,000 more than in the corresponding month last year, and the inland revenue \$2,000 more. This looks well for a revival of business.

The news of the reduction of the duty on lumber entering the colony of Victoria, Australia, has been received with satisfaction here. It is expected to give a great impetus to our lumber trade, as Australia is one of the principal markets to which we must look for the sale of our timber.

Mr. Wm. Tierny, of Vancouver, gives notice of application to the provincial lands department for a special license to work some 900 acres of timber lands in the New Westminster district. J. W. Hartney, of Vancouver, gives similar notice as to five tracts of land. H. H. Spicer & Co., of the same place, seek a license to cut timber on Gambier Island, Howe Sound.

Considerable interest is manifested in a gigantic combination which is said to be in process of formation at San Francisco, to include all the pine lumbermen on the Pacific coast of the United States. They assert that they cannot compete with British Columbia, where operators have only to lease their limits and pay for the logs as they take them out, and that in consequence British Columbia lumber is taking the place of what is produced at home, causing the shutting down of many of their mills, reduction of wages, and the carrying on of business at a loss. It is asserted that the combination will not raise prices locally, but that if it did no harm would be done. The Central Lumber Co., recently organized at San Francisco, is said to be the nucleus of the big combine.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., Sept. 20, 1895.

NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

CONSIDERABLE feeling is manifested in connection with the neglect of some of the lumber surveyors in St. John to take out warrants from the City Council. Those who have passed an examination and secured a license are displeased that others should share in the work without a license. It is the intention of the Council to ask the Legislature for authority to compel all applicants to pass an examination. Three examiners will be appointed, who will be paid \$1 each per candidate, besides the usual fee of \$4.50 for a warrant. The permit will have to be renewed yearly or the authority will be cancelled.

Hon. J. B. Snowball is already sending men and teams to the woods. They will operate on the Tabusintac. Wm. Richards is sending men and teams to commence the winter's logging.

The Restigouche lumbermen have had a fairly good season. Much less shingle manufacturing was done this year than last.

Owing to the collapse of the U. S. shingle market the mill owners turned their attention to the production of deals for the British market.

The recent advance in freight has caused English buyers to show more anxiety in securing spruce deals to cover prospective requirements, and sales are being made more freely, with a prospect of an advance in price. New Brunswick birch has also sold well in the Liverpool market. All of which helps to make our lumbermen more cheerful.

Mr. James Carr, of Woodstock, who ships large quantities of hemlock bark, has recently purchased a block of 10,000 acres, chiefly wilderness, near the Newbury station on the C.P.R. The property was given by the Government a number of years ago to the Iron Works Company, to foster the mining industry. Mr. Carr's purchase also includes Mr. George Upham's rotary saw mill on the Gibson branch of the C.P.R. It is understood Mr. Upham intends building a mill on the Tobique.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Sept. 24, 1895.

MICHIGAN LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

ALPENA, Mich., has enjoyed a fair run of orders thus far this season, and for the eight months ending September 1st had shipped 74,400,000 feet of long lumber. Most of the mills have a fair supply of logs, which will be increased before the season closes by the receipt of at least four rafts from the Canada shore.

Following the example of the Saginaw men the Detroit lumbermen have organized an association. They intend to make a test to determine what the 80 per cent. law of the state board of policy commissioners amounts to.

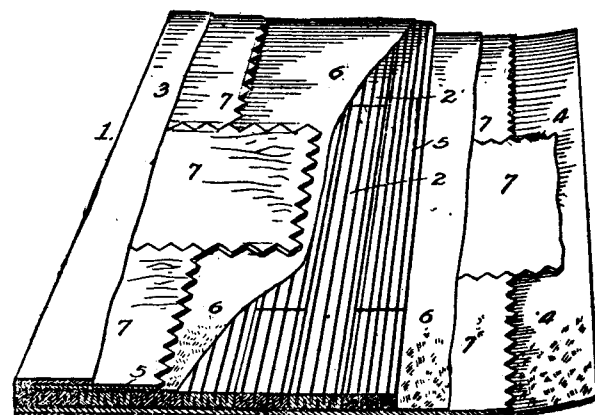
The Mershon case caused an animated discussion at the Buffalo convention. This is the matter in dispute between W. B. Mershon, of Saginaw, Mich., and the Pennsylvania dealers in which the former's goods have been back-listed on account of his dealings with builders in Philadelphia, contrary to the rules of the Pennsylvania dealers. The dispute is to be settled by arbitration.

It begins to look as if millmen along the Saginaw river would go into the winter with as large stocks, if not larger, on the mill docks than at the close of navigation last year. Prices for lumber are fully as low as during the worst period of the price panic in July and August. When an intending purchaser stops at Saginaw to enquire prices, he moves along to other points in the pine district, and that is the last we see of him. The natural inference is that somebody is selling lumber at less than cost, or perhaps giving it away, for local prices are held as near the cost of production as possible. There is a fair inquiry for better grades, but coarse lumber is going into pile at a rate which causes consternation among manufacturers. Mill after mill has been forced to shut down, having exhausted all their piling space.

SAGINAW, Mich., Sept. 24, 1895.

ARTIFICIAL LUMBER.

AMONG the patents recently granted at Ottawa is one for artificial lumber, to Geo. S. Mayhew, of Minneapolis, Minn. This new product is shown in the accompanying cut, and though the claim as filed in the patent office is long-winded, as such claims usually are,



the substance of it is contained in the final paragraph, which is as follows:—

The combination, in an artificial material or composition material, of the thin wooden sheets arranged edge to edge, with carrying webs for adhesive material applied to opposite sides of said wooden sheets, thin wooden veneers arranged across grain to and secured upon said veneers, said wooden sheets provided with the closely arranged indentations in opposite sides, said veneers having serrated interlocking edges, and the whole secured together by an adhesive material and subjected to a heavy pressure and dried, substantially as described.