

REGULATIONS OF THE WATERS OF THE OTTAWA.

The following communication appears in the *Ottawa Herald*:-

Improvements must keep pace with the advance of civilization and the requirements of the times. The extensive commerce and trade of the 19th century, impelled by the most ambitious and insatiable enterprise, is not content with supplying actual wants, but ingeniously creates new branches of trade which in turn call for accommodation, and thus the ball keeps rolling, changing everything in gold, or the Almighty Dollar. There was a time, before the discovery of the use of steam, when the world's business was transacted with satisfactory despatch, though there were no steamboats or locomotives going in a few days against wind and weather across the continent. But the days when "pampered jades" and mules could do the carrying trade of the world are long since past, and the people of this exceedingly "go ahead" age would die of actual asphyxiation were they deprived of their railroads and canals.

Not a great many years ago the Grand River in its natural state, without the smallest improvement, accommodated all the trade of the Ottawa Valley, but then the trade of this section of the country was comparatively nothing. Bytown then covered a few acres of ground, and no person ever dreamed that the capital of a great Dominion would be built on the banks of the Grand River, or that to-day we would behold the Government Buildings towering over the brow of Parliament Hill. But civilization spread out its wings, and the lumberman's axe went further up the river each succeeding year, and great slaughter was accomplished among the "kings of the forest." The Chaudiere with the Big Kettle, in early years the terror of the lumber merchant, afforded admirable milling advantages, and accordingly as soon as its merits were recognized capitalists obtained water privileges, and erected mills which went up in quick succession. These mills increased the demand for timber and gave an additional impetus to the great staple trade of the Ottawa. But the trade could not assume such vast proportions and be carried on lucratively without improvements along the river affording greater facilities to the lumberman. Therefore, slides, booms and other necessary improvements were undertaken and completed, and up to within a few years back timber was floated from the Upper Ottawa to Quebec without much difficulty. But now that timber is being taken from near the head waters of the Ottawa, and from afar in on the tributaries, it is found very difficult to get timber to Quebec in the same year it is cut; and much extra expense has annually to be incurred by individual firms in making temporary improvements to facilitate the getting out of timber; and when it is a task of much difficulty at this comparatively early day to take timber to Quebec the same year it is cut, what will be the condition of things some years hence, when the forests along the banks of the Ottawa are completely exhausted, and timber is being taken out forty, fifty or more miles back on the tributaries? Without some improvements of the Ottawa River, it would be utterly impossible to get timber to market in less than two years, and hence it becomes vitally necessary to the existence of the lumber trade that a plan to regulate the waters of the Ottawa should be decided upon and put into execution at as early a day as possible. We shall throw out a few ideas bearing upon the matter, and if the scheme, which we shall briefly state, be considered worthy of consideration, then the approbation of the lumbering fraternity, whose interests and welfare we are ever solicitous to promote, will be our greatest reward.

It is an acknowledged fact, we presume, that year after year the immense volume of water of the Ottawa appears to flow down into the St. Lawrence in gradually decreasing space of time, the result being that great inconvenience is caused to all kinds of trade, and incalculable pecuniary loss incurred. In the spring of the year the great volume of the water sweeps down, doing much immediate damage, while it leaves the tributaries and streams far up almost dry. Then, since the spring freshet destroys much property, and produces great inconvenience in the getting out of timber, while it is

of no imaginable benefit, should not the first consideration in attempting to regulate the waters of the Ottawa be to adopt some means of keeping back as much of the spring freshet as possible? This could be accomplished by damming, and dams would be of very little use without an immense reservoir to hold the water. Rapids or falls would render this system almost impracticable so far as utility is concerned, and therefore an immense level is essentially necessary, and if we are correctly informed, Lake Temiscamingue is the grandest reservoir on the continent of America. Gentlemen who have paddled their canoes over its immense level expanse and beheld the high timber-topped hills on every side will corroborate the above assertion. The lake is about 80 miles in length, stretching from the strait or gut at the head of the Long Sault, and becoming wider and wider, until what may be called the lake proper is reached, which is over eight miles in width and 30 in length. From the Long Sault to the head of the Lake is one level expanse of water unbroken and undisturbed by rapid or fall.

We would propose building a dam about 30 feet high at the Long Sault. The banks on either side are lofty and afford admirable facilities for the construction of a dam which would not be over 2,000 feet in length, and would keep back an enormous volume of water, which at present goes to waste every spring, leaving timber high and dry in the streams, and mills deficient of water power before the season is three-quarters over. Of course the dam would be fitted with sluice gates, by which the flow of water could be regulated. During the early part of the spring the water is always high enough for navigation, water power or any other purpose, but in the summer and fall the universal cry from Grenville to the head of the river is for more water. Thus it is that we advocate the keeping of water back for a "dry day." Lumbermen have had a system in vogue for a number of years of damming the streams running through their limits, until the water became low and driving difficult, when breaking down the dams, a splendid torrent comes dashing along, floating their timber out into the river. The damming of Lake Temiscamingue is identically the same as this, on a larger scale, and with infinitely greater results. No danger or damage can emanate from it, and not an inch of country will suffer inundation, high rocky banks rising on every side.

We consider this a subject of vast importance to Ottawa and the Ottawa Valley, and one which cannot be ignored. Some such improvement as that which we have briefly referred to must be made ere long, and the sooner the better. We will say no more at present, but will probably refer to the subject again if our suggestions prove worthy of being entertained.

PENOTANGUISHENE.

A correspondent of the *Mail* says:-Last week I had occasion to visit Penotanguishene, and there saw C. Beck & Co.'s new mill in operation, and this, for its size and capacity, is, in my mind, the best mill in that section of the country, and I am inclined to think in the Dominion, though that may be saying too much.

This mill consists of one gang and one circular, and the latter is deserving of special mention for the quickness of its movement, and its capability of cutting more lumber in a given time than any circular I have yet seen or heard of.

It does the slabbing for the gang, and cuts as much as ordinary circulars besides; and it is quite capable of slabbing for two gangs, together with what it at present cuts. Its regular work is from twelve to thirteen boards per minute, and if crowded could drop fifteen to sixteen per minute, which gives one some idea of its rapid movements, both saws turning out from sixty to seventy thousand feet of timber in a working day of eleven hours.

As is well known, Mr. Beck's old mill was destroyed by fire, he having suffered a heavy loss, but with his undaunted energy and go-aheadiveness he has succeeded in raising up a mill on the ashes of his old one that is both a credit to himself and the village. And this, with three other mills, ranks Penotanguishene as one of the lumbering centres of the Province, and is deserving of mention as such.

SHANTY SERVICES.

A Bracebridge correspondent of the *Christian Guardian* appeals to the Toronto Conference to establish missions in the Muskoka lumbering district. He says:-

"Previous to the last May meeting of the Bracebridge district, one of its members accompanied a lumber merchant, who is thoroughly familiar with the Muskoka region, in an imaginary tour over that section of the country comprehended in the the Bracebridge district, and discovered that, allowing twenty men for each camp, there would be close on three thousand men within that section, engaged in lumbering, who, for more than half their time very rarely, if ever, hear the word of God preached, and this by no fault of theirs. In the camps little or no reading is to be found. Here is a good field for the Tract Society's operations. The little time that is left between supper and bed, which is the only time for recreation, is passed in singing songs of a doubtful, or decidedly profane character, playing cards, smoking—in any way but that which tends to profiting. When those men visit for a day or two the adjacent villages they act like sailors come ashore, and even worse, spending their money in strong drink, engaging in fight, and making an offensive babel about the ears of peaceful inhabitants. Of course there are many happy exceptions to this among the lumbermen, but the majority fall into this evil way. Mr. Woolley's merciful rule was to go first to those who need us most. If we are willing to act on this we will, without further unnecessary delay, put forth some direct effort to reach and bless the poor "shanty-men." As a class they are free and generous, open-hearted and open-handed. The "boss" of a shanty has in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred a hearty welcome for any man who calls to conduct a religious service for the benefit of the camp; and invariably the rough, good-natured men themselves show marks of respect for the messenger of the truth."

A Trip Up the Lievre.

A correspondent of the *Ottawa Citizen*, describing a trip up the Lievre, says:-The object of our trip up the Lievre was to define the boundaries of about 234 square miles of timber land, and to ascertain the quantity of timber these square miles would give and the quality of the wood. I must at once assure you that this is a country unparalleled for lakes, mountains, rivers, hills and creeks, and all to be driven and surmounted, and the timber close to the lakes, rivers and creeks, and the pine and spruce trees, sound and free from punk, gum seams, knots, etc. Of course you will find a small percentage faulty. The whole front of the River du Lievre, starting from the Piskatoshing, a tributary of the Gatineau, down to the Rouge for a distance of 50 miles in the rear, is licensed to the heirs of the late J. F. Gaudet, and I can safely say that from the explorer's own personal inspection and report is worthy of attention, and only from sterling lumbermen, who only make a practice of working limits, and not from hearsay, giving a country unknown to themselves (a barren brute), but from practical experience of its real worth.

The whole of this country for 50 miles back of the Forks is well timbered, and about 600,000 pine and spruce logs can be made without much expense.

The Mississippi "Boom."

KEOKUK, Ia., Oct. 18.—The Mississippi continues to rise. At 10 a. m. the water was two inches above the great rise last spring, which caused immense damage in this vicinity. At Alexandria, five miles below, the water is backing up over the prairie. The prospects are that the town will be inundated. Railroad shops and lumber yards in the southern part of the city are completely surrounded and operations suspended. It is feared that the river will rise at least another foot and very disastrous floods result.

Are You Going to Travel?

Don't forget a supply of that Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry. It is a superior remedy for sea sickness, and a positive cure for all bowel complaints induced by bad water, change of diet, or of climate. Whether at home or abroad, it should be kept at hand in case of emergency.

Prof. Macoun in the North-West.

WINNIPEG, Oct. 8.—Professor Macoun and party returned last night from their exploratory tour of Lakes Manitoba and Winnipegosis, and their tributary streams, together with the section of the North-West around the Porcupine Hills and Duck Mountains. In the latter direction there were found fine streams. The Swan and Rod Deer Rivers were carefully explored. The result was satisfactory, and salt was found at many points on the land around Lake Winnipegosis. A member of the party reports fine spruce and poplar timber on the mountains, as well as on the banks of the Swan and Rod Deer Rivers. Poplar as well as spruce trees have been seen that measured about fifteen inches in circumference, and the former has been found to have an altitude in some places of seventy-five feet. Game is abundant, particularly duck, and they look upon it as a paradise for sportsmen. They spent some time at the Polly Indian Reserve farm, where fine crops were raised this year. The land in this vicinity is pronounced the finest in the North-West. The crops of all kinds, cereals and root, are not excelled in any part of the country. The land is described as undulating prairie, with exceedingly fertile soil, easy drainage into the Assiniboine and its tributary, the Still River.

Wood for Fuel.

The United States Bureau has been gathering some facts upon the consumption of wood for fuel. After taking the figures in the last report for the coal output, the superintendent says:-"Even with the large increase in the coal production during the last half century wood still keeps in the van as fuel, the consumption in this country being in favor of wood against coal in the proportion of four to one. In Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont wood is almost the only fuel. In many counties of Massachusetts coal is ahead of wood, while in the state generally, as Connecticut, the percentage is about equal. Thickly populated cities, like New York and Hudson and Essex counties New Jersey, containing the cities of Jersey City and Newark, are put down entirely as coal. In Pennsylvania, the great coal state, there are many entirely coal counties, while in others, as Crawford, in the western part of the state, not over three per cent of coal is used. The same difference holds good in different parts of New York."

Spontaneous Forests.

A writer in a West Virginia paper combats the opinion, held by many arboriculturists, that an open county is never converted into a forest, through the operation of natural causes, and as establishing the fact that such change does sometimes occur, brings forward the case of the Shenandoah Valley. When first settled, about 160 years ago, it was an open prairie-like region covered with long grass, on which fed herds of deer, buffalo, elk, etc., and having no timber, except on rocky portions of it; but in consequence of its settlement, the annual fires were prevented, and trees sprang up almost as thickly and regularly as if seed had been planted. These forests, having been preserved by the farmers, cover now a large part of the surface with hard wood trees of superior excellence. These facts would also seem to substantiate the theory that the treeless character of the prairies of the West is due to the annual burning of the grass by the Indians.

THE Ogemaw *Herald* says the firm of Cutting & Daman, who have a mill in Foster township, six miles from Beaver Lake, are cutting from 25,000 to 30,000 shingles, and from 8,000 to 10,000 feet of siding per day. They contemplate putting in an upright saw to cut lumber, and will put in 1,500,000 feet of hemlock logs, for this purpose, the coming winter. They will employ 50 men, and put in, besides the hemlock, 1,500,000 feet of pine to be worked up in shingles and siding. Their mill will be in operation the year around.

Nature Makes no Mistakes.

Nature's own remedy for bowel complaints, cholera morbus, cholera, cramps, vomiting, sea sickness, cholera infantum, diarrhoea, dysentery, and all diseases of a like nature belonging to the summer season, is Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry, which can be obtained of all dealers in Medicine.