

## NOTES FROM THE MILLS.

## ONTARIO.

—A sash and door factory is likely to be built at Portage du Fort this spring.

—Loggers are hopeful that wages for the spring drive will be high this spring.

—Work is to be commenced on Tait & Wylie's saw mill at Midland at once.

—Mr. Mat. Sierra, of Norwood, while skidding logs a few days ago, had his leg broken.

—Messrs. Swackhammer and Butler, of Acton, have purchased the Ballinafad saw mill.

—Mr. Bechler is erecting a new mill on the 6th concession of Greenock township, Bruce county.

—William Mitchell, of Deseronto, is making some extensive improvements in what is known as the Big Mill.

—Mr. C. J. Rykert, of timber limit fame, is spoken of as the probable Speaker in the new Parliament at Ottawa.

—The Minneapolis & Ontario Lumber Company has purchased 1,500,000 feet of timber in British Columbia.

—Mr. J. B. Bates, of Picton, lately purchased Andrew Irwin's saw mill at Blenheim, and has taken up his residence there.

—A. Hirtle, the proprietor of a planing mill in Berlin, has effected a compromise at 50 per cent. secured, on liabilities of \$3,000.

—A large crotched tree was recently felled in one of Boyd & Co's shanties in Monmouth which measured 5 ft. 4 in. at the butt.

—Loggers from all parts of the country are rapidly returning from the shanties and the work in the woods is practically at an end.

—Mr. J. Watson of Casarea, has put up a large addition to his shingle mill, and is putting in a lath machine and other machinery.

—Messrs. Bronson & Weston are making numerous improvements in their mills at the Chaudiere in preparation for the coming season.

—At Little Current, Manitoulin Island, Ont., railway ties and logs are coming out of the woods rapidly, and business of all kinds is good as a consequence.

—Mr. Bowerman of Brooklyn has purchased the saw mill on Sawyer's Lake. He will be prepared to cut on the 1st April, and talks of putting up a woollen mill.

—Jas. Keenan, of Huntley township, while drawing logs recently, the binding pole slipped and knocked him off the load. He fell under the sleigh and was crushed to death.

—Messrs. Grier & Co., have placed a complete plant of machinery in their new mill at Ottawa, and will soon commence cutting. The new mill is built after the style of E. B. Eddy's.

—The *Midland Free Press* says there will be a big boom in lumbering in that region this summer. The Ontario Lumber Company have closed with Messrs. Ross and Devonport's tender for the building of their new mill.

—Mr. J. R. Booth has a gang of 50 men engaged in making repairs to his saw mills at the Chaudiere, in anticipation of the coming season. Mr. Booth expects to be able to commence sawing as soon as the river is clear of ice.

—John Shaw, of Forest, and Simon Fraser, of Amherstburg, have closed with the Georgian Bay Consolidated Lumber Co. for the entire cut of their Lyng Inlet lumber mills, amounting to 12,000,000 feet of lumber and 4,000,000 pieces of lath.

—More than 400 American and 130 Canadian barges are employed in the Ottawa river and Lake Champlain lumber trade. This immense fleet would be thrown into ordinary if the President should enforce the retaliatory law lately passed by congress.

—The amount of snow in the Parry Sound district the past winter has been deeper than for years past, and as a result logging operations has been difficult. Notwithstanding this, however, it is said that the cut of logs will be one of the largest for years.

—The last season's cut of lumber in the White Lake district is being shipped now. Twenty-eight teams are engaged in drawing to Pakenham, eight of which are drawing for J. R. & J. Gillies. About 2,000 feet constitute a load, and one trip a day is made.

A correspondent at Kingston writes that there is not much lumber on the Kingston & Pembroke railway unpurchased. Operators worked at railway ties as a rule. Limit holders get out their usual supply this winter. Most of the ties are purchased by the Rathbun Co. Hemlock is becoming very scarce in this vicinity.

Messrs. Grier & Co., of Ottawa, intend making a roadway under Broad street for transferring the lumber cut in the mill to the sorting ground. This change will be a great improvement, as by the transfer of lumber in the ordinary way the streets would run a risk of being blocked up.

—An immense moose having been seen by several men belonging to the lumber shanties on the Schyan River, near Pembroke, Messrs. G. B. Moore, J. A. Angus and J. F. Ingles started in pursuit. Getting on the trail they soon sighted the object of the chase, a truly noble animal, and killed him after some trouble. The dressed carcass weighed 900 pounds and the skin 113. The animal is said to have been the largest ever seen in the district.

—From Ottawa reports it is surmised there will be a full cut at least, and if the winter had been a good one for lumbering, many more logs than the mills could have cut up, which is limited, would have been made. This is accounted for by many square timber men having taken contracts for sawn logs instead of cutting square timber. If anything will be short next season it will be square timber, which is being cut in very small quantities compared with former years.

—Mr. George A. Loud, of the Oscoda Salt and Lumber Company, Mich., has returned from the Georgian Bay district, where he is banking several million feet of long timber and short logs for the American market. When the south extension of the Algoma branch of the Canadian Pacific is completed next summer it will be quite easy for Michigan lumbermen to reach the pine forests of the Serpent, Spanish and French rivers, going *via* Mackinaw and the Sault in place of *via* Toronto.

—Mr. J. C. Robert, lumber merchant of Montreal, was in Ottawa a few days ago, endeavoring to obtain a supply of lumber, but is reported to have announced his ill-success as follows:—"Nearly every plank in the Ottawa market has been purchased. I visited five firms here to-day, and at each place was told that the entire cut has been disposed of. In one or two instances I was offered a few thousand feet by way of accommodation. The manufacturers certainly can't complain as the last ten or twelve months has witnessed an advance in prices of about 15 per cent. Dealers won't figure upon next season's cut."

—Repairs have been going on nearly all winter at the various booms, slides and piers along the Ottawa River. At Des Joachims, about fifty miles above Pembroke, the slide and booms are being repaired, at Mountain Station, near Portage du Fort, a gang of men are re-constructing the side piers on the dock, which were damaged at the breaking up of the ice last spring. The ordinary winter repairs are going on at the Chaudiere and Hull stations, while on the tributaries such as the Dumoine, Pettevawa, Black River, Coulange, Madawaska, and Gatineau repairs are going on in preparation for the opening of navigation, and also the anticipated ice shoves in the spring. The largest operation is on the Coulange, the damage being effected last year by the heavy masses of ice coming in contact with the booms and completely demoralizing them. The Ottawa River works have taken precaution this year and will be in readiness for the break-up. It is said that if the ice breaks up in the solid masses, as last year, there will be no saving the wharfs, booms, boats and other works, notwithstanding their extra fastenings.

## QUEBEC.

—The roads are blockaded by snow in every direction.

—Owing to the heavy snow lumbering operations in the district of Quebec are being abandoned in every direction.

—A fairly supply of pine logs has been cut in Quebec, and if they can all be driven to the mills there will be no stoppage.

—Business is very dull in the lumber business. No sales are being made in the American market, and Quebec merchants are holding off.

Messrs. Dobell, Beckett & Co. are credited with the purchase of Stokes and Kelley's elm, about 60,000 feet at 28c. This lot is stated to be two years old, and 45 to 50 feet average.

The British Admiralty has awarded contracts for pine and spruce deals to Messrs. Smith, Wade & Co., and for Canada pipe staves to Messrs. R. R. Dobell & Co., both Quebec firms.

A correspondent from Montreal says that the arrivals from the lumbering district around Three Rivers report an immense quantity of snow in the woods. There is fifteen feet in some places. There is certain to be a great dearth of logs in the spring, and the lumber trade will sustain great loss.

—Preparations are being made in the Hull lumber yards for the opening of the season. As soon as ever the ice sufficiently breaks up great activity may be anticipated in this department as the supply of logs at the boom is sufficient to keep the mills going six weeks without any additional supplies from the shanties.

—Messrs. Fuller & Hill, of Bolton Center, Que., are turning out all the butter tubs it is possible for them to make. They have an order from Scotland for two car-loads of tubs per week. A car contains from 1,500 to 2,000 tubs.

—An American firm who possess a patent for manufacturing a fireproof composition out of sawdust and clay are considering the advisability of opening a branch establishment at Hull. The immense quantities of sawdust which can be obtained at an almost nominal price greatly favors such an enterprise, and its establishment will be a decided boon to Hull. If this scheme be carried out it will certainly develop a new industry in the Ottawa Valley and one which would employ a large number of hands, and furnish a considerable export trade to this district. If water power should be required Ottawa instead of Hull may be selected.

## NEW BRUNSWICK.

—A man named Joseph Miller, employed in a factory at St. John, N.B., recently had his arm split by a circular saw from wrist to elbow.

—St. John, N. B., exported \$22,048 worth of timber; lumber, lath, shingles, etc., during the month of February, against \$36,596 during the same time last year.

—A large quantity of pulp wood concentrated at Moncton, New Brunswick, for shipment to the United States. Several vessel loads will be thus shipped, it is said.

—Messrs. Simson & Mason, Limited, have just been appointed sole agents in France, Spain, Portugal, and Algeria for the New Brunswick Trading Company of London, Limited. The New Brunswick Company handle the entire well-known stocks of Messrs. R. & J. Stewart and Messrs. Guy & Co., who ship spruce from St. John, Miramichi, Bathurst and Shediac, besides pitch pine from Mobile and Pensacola. These classes of wood goods are being sold more and more each succeeding year on the continent.

—Wm. H. Murray, Isaac H. Page, John Kilburn, Franklin Stetson, Walter S. Stevens, George B. Dunn, Whitfield Giberson, J. Fraser Richardson, Edward L. Jewett, David Keswick, Jarvis Hayward, Chas. F. Woodman, Darius Vixon, Wm. H. Cunliffe, Archibald F. Randolph, Geo. T. Baird, John E. Leighton, Adam J. Beveridge, Israel Merritt, James Yerna, Cornelius Hagerman, Matthias Nadeau, Bedford Hume, Frederick Moore, Thomas H. Phair, and Wm. F. Fowler have petitioned the Main legislature to be incorporated into "The St. John Log Driving Company."

—Messrs. Weldon, McLean & Devlin, solicitors for the People's Bank of New Brunswick, have obtained an injunction from Judge Palmer, prohibiting the New Brunswick Trading Company of London from conveying to any person the real estate lands and premises described in certain deeds from one John Stewart to them executed upon the 8th inst., and recorded on the 9th in the county of Gloucester; also prohibiting the same company from disposing or removing any of the property described in a certain bill of sale dated Aug. 7, 1884, from Robert and John Stewart to the People's Bank, and registered March 10, 1887.

—The St. John River Log-Driving Company held its annual meeting in Fredericton on the 13th ult., when directors were appointed in the persons of Frank Stetson, president; Robert Conners, F. W. Giberson, Wm. Tiddie, and Darius Nixon. The secretary-treasurer is J. Fraser Gregory. For driving purposes the river is divided into seven districts; 1st, from Grand Falls to boom limits; 2nd, Salmon Falls to boom limits; 3rd, Aroostook Falls to boom limits; 4th, Tobique to boom limits; 5th, Big Presque Isle to boom limits; 6th, Bequimie to boom limits; 7th, Maduxinkeag to boom limits. The driving was sold at the following rates; district No. 1, 18c. per thousand; No. 2, 11c.; No. 3, 15c.; No. 4, 14c.; Nos. 5, 6, and 7, 9c. per thousand.

## MANITOBA AND THE NORTH-WEST.

Alex. McIsaacs was brought in from Cameron & Kennedy's camp at Rat Portage a few days ago having his back broken by a tree falling upon him. The whole lower part of his body is completely paralyzed. Very little hope is entertained.

On account of the recent increase of freight rates from the Mountains to Calgary, all the lumber merchants have cancelled the orders they had placed with the Mill-owners in the west, and have appealed to General Manager Whyte for a reduction in the tariff.

—Thirty-eight thousand shingles were cut, edged and packed recently in a day of ten hours at McFadden's mill, Minnedosa, by the Orr boys. It is stated that if it had been a favorable day the cut would have reached forty-five thousand. The men at the mill claim this to be the best day's cutting ever done in Manitoba, and want to know who can beat it.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA.

—Victoria, B. C., has three saw mills which have an annual capacity of 40,000,000 feet. There are numerous small saw mills in operation near the city, and all doing well.