

## OTTAWA LETTER.

THE MILLMEN'S STRIKE—3000 WORKINGMEN IDLE  
VISIT OF A PROMINENT ENGLISH LUMBER-  
MAN—BRITISH COLUMBIA LUMBER IN  
OTTAWA—NOTES OF THE TRADE.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

PARLIAMENT will have prorogued by the time this letter is in print, but the millmen's strike is still with us. On the morning of the 14th, inst., 1,500 men employed in the lumber mills of the Chaudiere went on strike, and this number has grown by accessions of men from other mills, forced into line since then, until to-day probably 3,000 men are walking our streets idle. The demand of the men is for shorter hours and increased pay. It is interesting to observe how working men in their demands seldom go it moderately. They would have every concession granted to them at the one time.

The hours of the men now are eleven and three-quarters; the request is for a ten hour day; and that wages be increased 50 cents per week. This does not at first thought appear an extortionate demand, but there are other factors to be taken into account, which no doubt will receive attention from THE LUMBERMAN.

The excitement for the first few days was intense. It is to be regretted that the mill-men resorted to violence and coercion to such an extent that the military had to be called out. I am not going to say how far circumstances, in this case or any other, justify a strike as a means of solving the troubles between employer and employed. Only decency and common fairness suggests that when a strike is proposed that the working men themselves shall say whether or not they shall be participants in it. In this case, and it is not the only case on record, the men who went out the first morning marched in hundreds first from one mill and then to another and by absolute force compelled the men who were diligently earning their daily bread to at once drop their work and come out. This occurred first at Booth's new mill where everything was in full swing and four hundred men were at work. From Booth's the strikers went to Mason's and did the same thing. Later Eddy's mill was attacked with the same result, but not until plucky resistance had been made by Mr. Eddy and his manager.

The usual program of all strikes has been followed out in the case of the millmen. Though not as thoroughly organized as some trades still much active organization has been perfected among the men within the past week. The "walking boss" and the professional labor agitator have been here—even your own Dan O'Donohue, Ottawa's whilom citizen. I can never see that these men do else than fan the flame of discontent in troubles like the present. What is wanted is calm council, a little common sense, and a measure of consideration, and that old staple medicine, "give and take," and by these means such troubles as are now worrying our people are more likely to be settled.

At this writing no settlement has been reached. The Shepherd & Morse company have resumed work. In this case it is claimed a mistake was made in calling out the men as they had only been working ten hours a day whilst their lowest rates of wages was \$7.50 and the highest \$10.50. The general situation, however, remains unchanged, and whilst the hope is entertained that a speedy settlement will be reached it does not look over probable. Be it not and a bleak Christmas is in store for a host of men, women and children in this section of the Dominion.

## OTHER LUMBER MATTERS.

Mr. J. W. Todd, lumber merchant, of Liverpool, Eng. was in the city during the month. This gentleman is an extensive purchaser of Canadian lumber and his visit was purely of a business character. Speaking on the lumber business in general Mr. Todd made a rather significant statement to an interviewer. He said that in England lumber dealers consider the statements made on this side respecting the shortness of lumber here to be greatly exaggerated. Many of them he said would continue to be credulous till they realize the truth by actual experience. Quite recently, however, a few of the buyers who are better informed on the condition of the markets here, have wakened up and have commenced purchasing. The stocks in the old country

which have been low for the past year still remain low, but the prospects are that they will take a jump in the near future. The market now is hardening for pine lumber and timber. In view of the real conditions of the market which have been understated rather than exaggerated by the press on this side of the Atlantic it is fortunate that Mr. Todd has been with us to learn for himself that it is a fact that not for years has the piling grounds of every leading centre in the province been so bare of saleable lumber. Speaking of Mr. Todd's transactions in Canada it is opportune to note that Watson & Todd of which firm he is a member have purchased the entire cut of deals of Messrs. Buell, Orr, Hurdman & Co., of this city.

On the 9th of the month a car load of lumber unloaded at the C.P.R. from the mills at New Westminster in which Mr. J. W. McRae has a large interest, the material being intended for use in the new stables in course of completion on that gentleman's property on Elgin and Lisgar streets. The shipment comprises a quantity of red cedar shingles of excellent width and cut from timber that is perfect in construction, the great beauty being that this wood will not warp. Besides this there is a lot of spruce sheeting, for flooring and the ordinary millrun of red cedar ranging from two to five inches in thickness and some of it thirty inches wide. This lumber when oiled and varnished will present a beautiful finish as the grain is remarkably clear and well sustained throughout. Mr. McRae states that despite the high rate of freightage this lumber can be laid down in Ottawa at a good profit. It is as fine a car load of mill produce as can be found on this continent.

A feature of work in the woods this season will be the number of broad-axe men who will be employed, owing to the increased quantity of square timber that will be taken out in the bush.

Messrs. Bronson & Weston now have most of their men in the bush. The firm have two shanties on the Dumoine river, and two at Rockcliffe, and four on the Quinze. They will likely put in several on the York branch, bringing the number up to twelve or thirteen as against eight or nine last year.

The full capacity of the machinery in the new Eddy paper mill is equal to 180 to 200 feet by 72 inches in width per minute. This company are also making their new matches out of cardboard, manufactured in the same mill as that in which the paper is made.

J. R. Booth has made some extensive repairs recently by fixing up the docks and blasting away rock to make more room for piling.

Bidou Renand, the well known lumberman's agent of Murray St. has sent as many as two hundred men to the shanties in one week. He is signing wood choppers as rapidly as he can secure them. Most of the men are from the Province of Quebec.

Ottawa, Sept. 28, 1891.

## TRADE NOTES.

The Wm Hamilton Manufacturing Co., of Peterborough have established an agency at Vancouver, B. C. Robert Hamilton remains in charge. A British Columbia exchange says that when business increases the company proposes to erect a foundry and machine shop in the province.

The Magnolia Anti-Friction Metal Company has a very pleasant habit of now and then remembering their friends with something useful or ornamental, or more often a combination of both. Their latest souvenir is a sixteen inch rule for desk use, of the best pattern and make, the receipt of which THE LUMBERMAN gratefully acknowledges.

John Pell Northey, manufacturer, John Leys, merchant, Arthur Brindley Ley, merchant, Arthur Burdett Lee, accountant, and Harry Sutton Pell, insurance inspector, all of the City of Toronto, have made application for letters patent incorporating the Northey Manufacturing Company (Ltd.) incorporation being sought to manufacture and deal in pumps, engines, boilers, machinery and all other articles made wholly or in part of iron or other metals and to deal in iron and other metals.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

STATE OF TRADE—EXPORT SHIPMENTS—A LARGE  
CARGO—TIMBER PRODUCTS OF THE PROVINCE.

[Regular Correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

EVERYTHING in lumber circles continues very quiet. The Vancouver mills are still loading ships for export, in spite of the dull times. The *Neusboy* chartered by the MacLaren & Ross Lumber Co., to load for Australia is being loaded at the Brunette saw mills on MacLaren-Ross account. This is deemed wiser than to put the big mill into motion to cut seven hundred million. Local trade continues good as is the N.W.T. and Manitoba business.

A local company has been formed to erect a paper mill on Barkley Sound, Vancouver Island, with a capital of \$500,000. In addition to all kinds and grades of paper, pulp will also be manufactured.

A Norwegian steamship is loading lumber at Moodyville for Port Pirie, Australia, and will carry 2,000,000 feet. We cannot recall a larger cargo. Do you know of one? It is supposed she will make the trip in 37 days.

The agitation begun by the New Westminster Board of Trade to have B C lumber sold and quoted as "Douglas Fir" instead of "Oregon Pine" has received the full approval of the Vancouver and Victoria Boards of Trade as well as several large shippers. Several Australian ports have replied endorsing the movement and admitting that "Douglas Fir" is superior to "Oregon Pine" in every way.

We have strong hope that the export trade in general will revive this fall. Fine crops in the east, together with the cessation of the Chilean troubles should lead to a large number of orders before many months; and we hope an advance in prices.

## OUR LUMBER WEALTH.

I sometimes think that those who do not know British Columbia experimentally hardly realize the wondrous timber wealth that is born of this province. In this respect the language is moderate when I say that no other province in Canada, no country in Europe and no state in North America can compare with it. The finest growth is on the coast and in the Gold and Selkirk ranges. The Canadian Pacific Railway passes through a part of this and crosses streams that will bring untold quantities to the mills and railway stations. The species of trees found in British Columbia are as follows: Douglas fir, western hemlock, Engelman's spruce, Menzie's spruce, great silver fir, balsam spruce, white pine, giant cedar, yellow cypress, western larch, maple, aspen poplar, mountain ash and others. Of these probably the best and most in demand is Douglas fir. It is straight though coarse grain, exceedingly tough, rigid and bears great transverse strain. For lumber of all sizes and planks it is in great demand. Few woods equal it for frames, bridges, ties and strong work generally, and for shipbuilding. Its length, straightness and strength specially fit it for masts and spars. Masts specially ordered have been shipped 130 feet long and 42 inches in diameter octagonally hewn. It grows to an enormous height, frequently from 250 to 300 feet, and often exceeds 8 feet in diameter. It is only a matter of some 30 odd years since the first saw-mill was put up at Burrard Inlet and now there are mills scattered all the way from Willscrofts, near Port Simpson, down to Martins of Clover Valley, and many of which are shipping their products to Australia, South America and to ports even on the Atlantic seaboard. Our three large towns Vancouver, Victoria and New Westminster have each grown rapidly within a few years, and this growth is due in a great measure to the development of the lumber industry. In New Westminster we have five mills established, employing altogether about 600 men, a third of whom are married and have families, thus making the probable population supported by this industry in town about 1,500. Besides lumber you are aware that the wealth of the mine and the richness of our streams are likewise valuable factors in the progress of this province, but I have briefly sketched the lumber industry as that in which your readers are more particularly interested.

H. G. R.

New Westminster, B.C., Sept. 23, 1891.