



Mr. J. B. McWilliams, crown timber agent, of Peterboro', Ont., returned early in March from an inspection of the lumber camps in Northern Ontario. From Huntsville he drove through a rough section of country, sheltered, however, from cold winds by thick forests and almost insurmountable walls of rock. Passing through the townships of McClintock and Livingstone to the village of Dorset, the former headquarters of the Gilmour Company, Mr. McWilliams proceeded to the headquarters of the superintendent of Algonquin Park at Canoe Lake. He visited during his tour the camps of the Rathbun Co., Gilmour Co., Mickle, Dymont & Son, J. D. Shier and the St. Anthony Lumber Co., and inspected operations amounting to 80,000,000 feet board measure of saw logs, and 530,000 cubic feet of board timber, representing a total revenue to the government of over \$110,000. Mr. McWilliams found the largest stick of board timber on the limits of Mr. Dymont. It measured 305 cubic feet. In the St. Anthony Lumber Co.'s limits he found a log 4,069 feet, board measure. The largest average in the size of logs were those of the Gilmour Co., 230 feet being the average. Mr. McWilliams declares the Rathbun Company to have the best camp and the best accommodations for the men. They do the closest cutting and take greater care in preserving their timber.

How the position of the lumber business in many parts of Canada has changed of late! Where a few years ago the business was chiefly confined to a few large operators, we now have a very large number of small mills, and many farmers who have a few thousand feet of timber to dispose of, put in a portable saw mill and cut the lumber, either for their own use or for market. There are several reasons for this change, among which may be mentioned the perfecting of the portable saw mill, the meagre returns from farming, and the increase in the price of lumber as compared with twenty-five years ago. I was recently given access to some returns showing the number of small mills in Ontario which cut entirely from timber obtained from private lands, and was surprised to find that such mills numbered well up to fifteen hundred. Of course the average annual cut of most of these would probably not be more than a few thousand feet, but it would go a long way towards supplying the local demand from the farming community. In New Brunswick similar conditions exist, and as a result property has materially advanced in price. Lands which at one time were considered almost valueless are now held at a high figure, owing to the general adoption of the portable mill.

I HAD a conversation recently with the head of a large manufacturing firm which had become insolvent. His account to me of the business of the firm since its establishment was interesting and suggestive. Starting in business about fifteen years ago with a very limited capital, the

combined possessions of the partners in the enterprise, success was at once met with, and year after year showed an increase in the profits of the company. In keeping with the increasing business, it became necessary almost every year to enlarge the plant, and to this end nearly all the profits were devoted, until the almost insignificant establishment of a few years ago became an extensive and modern concern. But during the general business depression of the past two or three years, orders commenced to slacken, a condition the company were ill prepared for, having their funds largely locked up in manufacturing plant. Profits decreased, and it became necessary to mortgage the plant to meet their expenses. No assistance coming in the way of renewed activity, the abandonment of their estate was the only resort. In the above lines there may be a lesson for some one. While enterprise is at all times to be commended, there is danger in branching out to such an extent as to jeopardize one's position when unusual financial or commercial depression is experienced. The shrewd business man is he who makes ample provision for the many ups and downs which are certain to be encountered in business life. Had the firm referred to been content with a smaller plant, and retained some of their capital for an emergency such as subsequently was met with, they would undoubtedly have weathered the storm more successfully. Slow but steady progress is certain to attain the best results.

#### QUERY FOR LUMBERMEN.

MAY & SON, of Weston, Ont., were cutting in their mill an elm log, third from butt of tree, say 30 feet from ground, and the saw ran on to five iron spikes, half inch thick. They were imbedded in about 8 inches, and eighty growths were outside of them. How did they get there?

The LUMBERMAN solicits the opinions of its readers as to the most feasible solution of the problem.

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

(Regular Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

THE subject of forest preservation has received considerable attention in the local legislature. Mr. Kennedy moved that more efficient means for preventing forest fires be adopted, by some system of patrol by the provincial police during the months of July, August and September. Hon. Mr. Martin suggested that, owing to the large area of timber limits, a steam yacht be employed to cruise along the coast. Mr. Kennedy suggested the establishment of fire districts and the appointment of a warden for each district, such warden to have the power of a police officer and authority to call on the public for assistance in putting out fires. He thought loggers should be required to burn over their cuttings at the close of the cutting season.

Mr. E. J. Palmer, manager of the Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Company's Chemainus mill, spoke as follows with regard to the lumber trade: "Business is rushing—so much so that we are running night and day, and even then find it hard to keep up with the orders. Oh yes, the lumber trade is looking up at last, I'm glad to say."

According to the report of Timber Inspector Skinner, the timber cut during 1896, not including that from the Dominion and the E. & N. lands, was 112,957,106 feet, of which 61,523,798 feet was from Crown lands, 30,375,180 from timber leaseholds, 13,549,228 from private property, and 6,986,900 from timber limits. The royalty payable was \$30,922 in respect of Crown lands, \$15,287 timber leaseholds, and \$3,493 timber limits, making a total of \$49,702. The rebates allowed for exportation were \$18,395, leaving the net royalty on timber \$31,307. The royalty collected on cordwood was \$7,663. The rent

accruing on timber leases during 1896 came to \$155. The total revenue from timber sources was \$90,400. The largest payments for royalty were made by the M. D. Lands and Saw Mill Co., \$7,893 less \$3,919 rebate; C. Mills, Timber & Trading Company, Vancouver, New Westminster, \$20,432 less \$10,216; Victoria Lumber & Manufacturing Co., Chemainus, \$3,874 less \$1,760; Geo. Cassidy & Co., Ltd., St. John's less \$649; and Blue, Roseland, \$1,705.

#### COAST CHIPS.

The large mill of the Takush Harbor Lumber Co. closed down.

A shipment of 80,000 feet of cedar timber and bolts was recently made to Japan as an export order.

Mr. J. C. Schermerhorn, formerly of the Sayward Co., of Vancouver, has been appointed manager of Sayward's mill at Pilot Bay, and assumed his new duty a fortnight ago.

Mr. E. F. Stephenson, Dominion Land and Timber Agent, of Winnipeg, was in this province early in the month investigating the affairs of the Crown Timber Agency here. A commission was held yesterday to inquire into matters, the result of which I have not learned. Pending the result, Mr. T. S. Higginson has been suspended.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C., March 20, 1897.

#### NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER.

(Regular Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

MUCH interest is taken here by lumbermen in the proposal of the United States government to impose a duty upon Canadian lumber. A number of American holding timber limits in Maine have mills on this side of the border, in which they manufacture the logs from Maine limits. Among those may be mentioned the following: Stetson, Cutler & Co., two mills; M. Woodman, two mills; J. R. Warner & Co., S. T. K. Sons, A. Cushing & Co., Dunn Bros., James F. Hall, Charles Miller, and E. L. Jewett, all of whose mills are located at St. John. The above firms find it more advantageous to manufacture their logs on the Canadian side, and are therefore opposed to a duty on lumber.

St. John is coming to the front as a winter shipping port. A statement recently prepared shows that the season is completed 48 vessels will have sailed from British ports and eight to the West Indies, carrying a total of 106,162 tons. The figures for 1895-96 were 100,000 tons. The regular liners have taken a large quantity of lumber in small lots, which has enabled light importers to obtain goods direct.

J. A. Sinclair, brother of Mr. Edward Sinclair, the known lumber operator of Miramichi, is manager of one of the largest saw mills in California. He went to the Pacific coast in the early seventies and located in Humboldt County. The town of Scotia, Humboldt Co., built principally by Mr. Sinclair. An idea of the size of the mill may be obtained from the fact that the owner has the largest single contract for saw mill machinery taken in the United States.

#### BITS OF LUMBER.

The annual meeting of the St. John River Log Drift Company is announced to take place in this city on the 7th of April.

Charles D. Stanford and F. W. Hall, of Bangor, have decided to erect a large mill on their property at Tracadie next summer.

Messrs. Timothy Lynch, Michael Welsh, David L. James Love, John Reynolds and Peter B. Miller are incorporating as the Upper Southwest Miramichi Logging Company.

Leonard & Son's mill at Annisdale, Queens Co., is sawing. Their mill at Armstrong's Corner will be completed this year with lumber cut on Canaan river and north-east branch of Long creek. There will be a total of two and a half millions to supply these mills this year. St. John, N. B., March 23, 1897.

The McEachren Heating & Ventilating Co., of Ont., will shortly remove their works to the larger premises recently occupied by the Cant Bros. Co. company propose to extend their business by several new lines of manufacture.