

County lumberer to furnish him with 100 pieces of large Tamarack for the same purposes to which the Hard Pine has been heretofore applied, and is to pay him \$2,400 for the hundred pieces.

The Shingle business has also increased wonderfully within a few years. Mr. Burpee states that the down-river traffic for 1863 was 32,000,000. The Deputy Treasurer at Woodstock informs your committee that in the same year 15,750,000 foreign shingles, (made in the adjoining parts of the State of Maine above Woodstock), were bonded here for exportation from the lower ports. It has been stated on the authority of an extensive lumberer that the production of shingles this winter above Grand Falls will be 50,000,000. A leading merchant of Victoria puts the production from Tobique upwards at 60,000,000. We may, therefore, say that at a low estimate 80,000,000 will be made in the St. John valley from Woodstock upwards; and that with a Railway tapping the River St. John 50,000,000 would be sent over it. At 25 cents per thousand this branch of production alone would produce to a Railway \$12,500.

Immense quantities of other small lumber might be depended upon as soon as Railway communication was perfected to the various markets and seaports of the Province. Among the most noticeable of these are clapboards and laths. But our wood production is already expanding into other equally profitable branches. We may mention that in the vicinity of the Houlton Road Station a manufactory of barrel, cask and hogshead hoops has been recently commenced. The proprietor pays persons in the vicinity twenty dollars a thousand, United States currency, for the small poles from which the hoops are made, and employs eleven men in making them. He states, your committee are informed, that the wood of the County is of a superior quality for this purpose, and talks of establishing factories along the River, in order to afford central points in every section to which farmers and operators may haul in the poles. The market for this description of lumber is extensive enough for an enormous business. From hoops we shall proceed to staves; and having got to furnishing the wood for "heads," we may consider the barrel and cask business perfected. Of course the manufacture and exportation of all these would form an important branch of our West-India trade.