

## OUR LETTER BOX.

## SOMETHING ABOUT SHINGLES.

KINGSTON, Jan. 14, 1887.

To the Editor of the Canada Lumberman.

DEAR SIR—Among the many kinds of material now used by architects there is none subjected to so many different opinions as shingles. One man says: 'give me shaved shingles for durability,' and as proof of his opinion he will say, "there is that old barn yonder, I and my father cut the bolts out of trees which grow on such a hill, drew them to the shanty on an Ox sled, and shaved them evenings by the light of a fat pine knot when Jim was the baby, (that is over 30 years ago) and this roof is not altogether worthless yet and we left the sap on top. If I could get them I would have shaved pine shingles sure!"

Next observer says, "I don't like sap. I shingled my house, or barns, and the sap is all defective while the heart-wood is good. I believe like my friend No 1 that shaved pine shingles are best but take the sap off for me."

No. 3 says, "I like cedar shingles, (shaved of course). There is such and such a roof made of it of shaved cedar, which my father made long ago. They were 2 feet long and 7/8 in. thick. They are worn very thin where the sap comes but will last a while yet. I prefer cedar."

No. 4 says, "I have not much experience in shaved shingles but in 1882 I shingled my house with X X X pine sawed shingles and it is a good roof yet. The sap was all taken off. I believe it will last 8 or 10 years yet."

No. 5 says, "I shingled my house with sawed pine shingles, sap all off, and I got my shingles from the same mill and the same man made mine that made No 4's. He said mine were as good as he could make, and my roof lasted about 12 years, and I had to put on another roof. I took cedar the last time. I don't like sawed pine shingles. There is a fuzz on them that holds dampness and soon rots."

No. 6 says, "I like sawed cedar; they lay more flat and don't split and curl up so much as pine does."

And more of these kind of theories could be brought forward if space would permit.

Now the question is, which is the best and how can we harmonize the different views expressed? for they are all true and are repeating themselves every day.

In the first place, let me say, it is not the sawing or shaving of a shingle that makes them stand the weather best or last longest. I know the roof well that No 1 mentions, it has lasted over 30 years and No 4's roof will also last 30 years.

The former was cut green, bark taken off, split and shaved; the turpentine dried in the timber and made the sap hard. It lasted almost as well as the heart wood.

No 4's roof was cut and split green, drew to the shingle factory 1/2 lengths, sawed early in the spring before the gum or turpentine had been run out. It was not put in the water. When it was sawed the gum and pitch collected at the bottom of the saw teeth. When the sawyer filed his saw he took his jack knife and cleaned the gum off his saw teeth so as not to stick up the teeth of his file. Then they were packed up in bunches and kept under cover dry until laid on the roof. They were cut across the grain, not slab fashion. They won't curl nor split any more than No. 6's cedar did.

No. 2's shingles had black sap on them when they were nailed on the roof. The sap might have been green and bright when bunched up but they were not kept covered and lay exposed to wet before used. Sap is not very good under any circumstances, but unless the gum dries in the wood it is almost worthless.

No. 5's shingles were sawed by the same man that cut No. 4's. These shingles were made of nice pine saw-logs 12 to 15 inches in diameter, had laid in the water three years when the sawyer sawed them. All the gum spots on the side of the saw and the saw teeth became clean and bright. There was nothing in the wood to preserve the shingles; the sap was taken off but still they rotted in 12 years. Had they been cut before the gum had left the wood they would also have lasted 30 years.

No 3's roof lasted well because they were 7/8 in thick. Cedar makes good shingles but they require to be thicker than pine. They don't rot but wear out. The nails rust and become loose in the wood more than in pine.

Hemlock makes a good shingle if not too wide and laid 1/2 inches to the weather. I don't know the durability of hemlock shingles, I have made and sold hemlock, ash and tamarac shingles and they have given good satisfaction.

I had one man say to me once, "Hoppins, your theory about the durability of shingles, depending on the way that the timber is handled before manufactured, is all wrong. My father and I made the shingles on our buildings and we made some of them out of pine that lay on the ground until the moss and vines had grown over top of the logs and it made good shingles and they have lasted as long as those that you say were cut green."

"Yes sir," said I, "there were no worm holes in that moss-covered tree neither were there?" "No," said he. Now this proves my theory true more than not true. There is a kind of

pine, which in this part of Ontario we call yellow pine or cork pine. It is not the common pine generally growing in our pineries, the sap is not over 1/4 inch thick. This kind of pine does not rot easily and it is very scarce. Not much of this kind of pine gets manufactured into shingles. As proof of that it is different from our common pine. The worms do not work in it. My long and watchful experience in shingles convinces me that shingles cut out of good large pine and kept out of water are best, the durability 30 years; cedar not much difference, whether kept out of water or not durability 20 years. Pine left in water for a couple of years 12 to 18 years; hemlock, tamarac and ash I have not tested but I believe they will last 20 years. I erected two dwelling houses last year and put hemlock shingles on them, I intend to erect two more this year and will put hemlock shingles on them also.

A. HOPPINS.

## A FEW POINTS WORTH CONSIDERING.

TORONTO, Jan. 27th, 1887.

To the Editor of the Canada Lumberman.

SIR.—As your journal is the only one devoted to the interests of the Lumber business of Ontario, I desire a short space in your columns in order to ventilate a few of the many grievances that for years past the lumbermen of Ontario have been enduring.

First of all I take up the Insurance Question. As a rule a saw mill is shut down for five months every year. The danger from fire, not only to the mill but also to the lumber piled in the yard, is very small, but notwithstanding this the Insurance Companies charge the same exorbitant rates as when the mill is running, and the risk from fire correspondingly large, declining in all cases to make any rebate.

Secondly, why should lumbermen have to furnish car stakes? Should not the Railway Companies be compelled to stake every car before it is loaded? If not, why do they invariably provide lumber for raiing up the doors of grain cars? To ship one million feet of lumber requires an expenditure of at least seventy-five dollars for car stakes. Should the shipper or the Railway Company bear this expense?

These two questions and the vexed one of weighing lumber have long been of interest to the trade in general. There is in my opinion, only one way by which justice and fair play can be obtained. It is by the lumbermen of Ontario forming a union and taking united action to avoid the heavy losses they have sustained in the past. The lumber section of the Toronto Board of Trade has proved itself to be a distinct failure. Now is the time for action. Will not those who have millions invested in lumber limits, saw mills and lumber, take the initiative.

Yours truly,

A LUMBER MANUFACTURER.

## THE MAGUIRE FAILURE.

FURTHER particulars, which have come to hand since our last issue, so to show that there has been something crooked in the matter of the Maguire failure, which took place in Montreal in December. At a meeting of the creditors of this firm recently held, the Messrs. Maguire presented a statement which lumps the liabilities at about \$327,000, and the assets at \$300,000 and undertakes to account for their suspension by the fact that eight of their vessels are locked up at Buenos Ayres in consequence of the cholera outbreak there. The statement and figures submitted were regarded as unsatisfactory by the chairman, Mr. R. R. Dobell, and others, in consequence of the absence of a proper set of books and of ordinary business entries with details of some of the firm's transactions. After an adjournment of some hours the insolvents produced the books which had been kept by them from which it appeared that the last entry in the day book was made in the early part of October. The creditors who had objected to the firm's system of book-keeping pointed to the fact in justification of their complaints. The insolvents thereupon surrendered their estate to the creditors, and the meeting proceeded to appoint three trustees to take charge of it. The first two named were the Hon. James G. Ross and Mr. Kennedy, from the office of Messrs. R. R. Dobell & Co. and the third was appointed by the Bank of Montreal, in the person of Mr. Meredith, of Montreal. The trustees will make a full investigation into the affairs of the firm, and will report as to the best means of realizing upon the estate. Meanwhile Mr. James Maguire continues to manage the estate under instructions from the trustees. Since the date of the meeting above referred to, however, a new phase has occurred in this matter, caused by the entry of an action in the Superior Court at Quebec. The action, we understand, is for \$100,000, and is taken by Messrs. Kidder, Peabody & Co., of Boston, against Messrs. D. & J. Maguire, the Hon. James G. Ross, and the three trustees of the insolvent estate. Hon. James G. Ross has mortgages amounting to \$44,000 on nine of the Maguire ships. The action seeks to set aside these mortgages on the ground that they give Mr. Ross an undue preference as a creditor. It also applies for a writ of injunction to restrain Mr. Ross and the trustees of the estate from controlling the ships belonging to the firm, on the ground that the plaintiffs had no part in the appointment of the said trustees. Messrs. Kidder, Peabody & Co., who are the American agents of the Baring's, have a claim against the estate of about \$90,000.

## PERSONAL MENTION.

(Contributions from or concerning our friends and patrons are freely welcome to this column. The name of the sender must always accompany such notices.)

Mr. E. B. Eddy, lumberman, has been elected Mayor of Hull, Que.

The Ottawa Board of Trade have elected Mr. G. B. Pattee, lumberman president for 1887.

Mr. G. C. Pattee, of Perley & Pattee, lumber merchants of Ottawa, will make a trip to California, where he has an orange plantation.

THE LUMBERMAN was favored by a call a few days ago from Mr. Geo. Corinack, lumber merchant, of Whitby. He reports a prosperous business.

News has been received of the death of the well known lumberman of the Mattawa, Mr. Noah Timmins, which sad event took place January 12th. Mr. Timmins was obliged to go down to Montreal some time ago to have an operation performed. His system was considerably run down by the trying affliction and he succumbed. Mr. Timmins has been identified with the Upper Ottawa country for the last thirty years, residing at Mattawa when he carried on a large lumbering and mercantile business. His many friends in the business will miss him as he was one of the landmarks of the Upper Ottawa. The deceased gentleman was about 65 years of age and leaves a numerous family.

It is probable that Mr. George Humphrey, lumber merchant, who ran Mr. McGreevy so closely in Quebec West at the last general election, will again be his opponent in the Liberal interest.

Hon. H. W. Pratt, a Parry Sound, Ont., lumberman, recently received the nomination for a seat in the Ontario parliament, but it was found that through some informality in his naturalization papers, he is still a citizen of the United States, and therefore incapable of holding office in the Dominion. He is a partner of A. N. Sprat, of Alpena, Mich.

Mr. F. E. Bushwell, of Grand Haven, Mich., has returned home from a several weeks' trip to the Spanish river, Georgian Bay, Ont., where his firm is putting in a large sawmill plant.

The Ottawa Evening Journal thus compliments a well-known lumberman: It is a pity that Mr. J. R. Booth will not stand for South Renfrew. Such men as Mr. Booth are needed in Parliament by the country.

The serious loss by fire which fell to the lot of Mr. J. M. Irwin, of Peterborough, on the 27th ult., is to be regretted. His fine residence was completely destroyed, as well as a considerable amount of valuable household effects.

Mr. J. T. Lambert, lumber broker of Ottawa, has recently returned from a trip up the Colonge River. He reports the lumber trade in that district to be brisk, and states that the great quantity of snow up there has not effected operations in the least. The lakes are beginning to flood, however, owing to the large body of snow on them, and as a result traffic is difficult.

Mr. Alex Calley, at one time engaged in the lumber business in Western Ontario, has opened out business as general merchant and commission agent under the style of Calley & Co., at 15 Merton Chambers, Stanley street, Liverpool Eng.

## THE TIMBER LICENSES IN THE DISPUTED TERRITORY.

The Minister of the Interior has issued a fly sheet, containing a statement regarding the timber limits in the disputed territory. Licenses to cut this timber were first granted by Mr. Mackenzie's government. The form of lease was sanctioned by Mr. David Laird, then Minister of the Interior, Mr. R. W. Scott, Secretary of State, and Mr. Edward Blake, Minister of Justice. In the case of the first lease a bonus of \$20 a square mile was given, and in the case of others issued under that government, \$15. But the leases were for twenty-one years, and the bonus spread over the term of the lease, would be about \$3 a mile per annum. Under the present government the system was continued, but it was modified by substituting an annual for a twenty one year's lease, and making the rental \$5 instead of \$2 with \$15 spread over twenty-one years. Under the modified policy 121 orders in-council were passed, but only twenty two licenses were issued. Of twenty one licenses issued timber was cut only under one. The last of the licenses expired on the 31st December, 1885, and the government has persistently refused to renew them. Of the twenty-one years' license four are still in existence, three of which were issued by the late government; and the holders of these licenses are the only persons now cutting timber in the disputed territory. Six persons in whose favor orders in-council were issued never received licenses. Permits for cutting cordwood, telegraph poles and railway stuff were issued, but they have all lapsed, and none of them has been renewed. It is very desirable that some arrangement should be made by which timber could be cut in the disputed territory.

Send in your subscription for 1887.