

ONTARIO

THE GREAT WHITE PINE CENTRE OF THE DOMINION. - AREA OF PINE LANDS UNDER LICENSE. - REPRESENTATIVE GEORGIAN BAY MILLS. - EXTENSIVE OPERATIONS OF THE RATHBUN COMPANY. - A REVIEW OF THE LUMBER INDUSTRY OF THE OTTAWA VALLEY. - THE SQUARE TIMBER BUSINESS.

ONTARIO, although possessing a greater variety of trees than any other province of the Dominion, is renowned for its extensive pine forests, which have been the chief source of lumbering operations for many years. Dense pineries are located in the Ottawa valley and the Georgian Bay district, and while the quantity has been reduced by forest fires and the lumberman's axe, much timber of excellent quality still remains. This wood is unrivalled for house finishing and many similar purposes. The hardwoods of Ontario are also of considerable variety and abundance, being distributed more widely throughout the whole province. Those of the greatest commercial importance are: oak, elm, maple, ash, birch, beech, hickory, basswood, cherry, etc. The forests of Ontario are controlled by the provincial government, and provide the principal source of revenue. It naturally follows that the policy of the government has given special attention to obtaining as complete data as possible touching on the pine forests of the province, while on the other hand little information is obtainable regarding the extent and location of hardwoods.

In northern Ontario, and extending into the unexplored regions, some fine varieties of spruce abound. In the past this wood has not been of much value commercially. Its increasing use for the manufacture of pulp, largely for export, now gives promise of creating a demand, and within the past few years several pulp mills have been established.

The timber regulations issued by the Crown state that all timber berths shall be subject to an annual ground rent of \$3 per square mile, together with the following Crown dues, viz.:

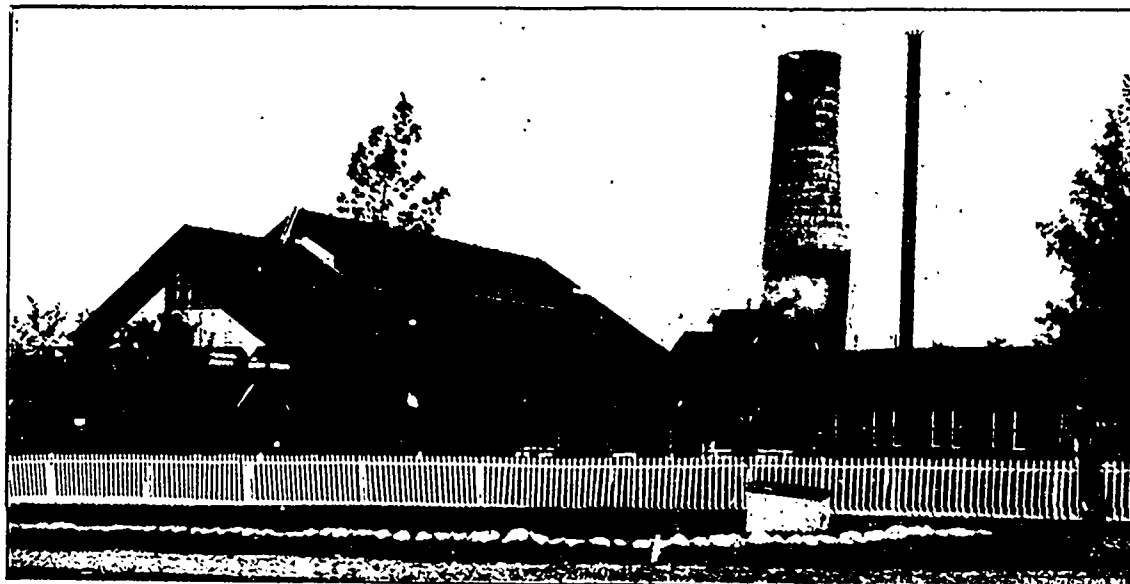
Black Walnut and Oak, per cubic foot	0 03
Elm, Ash, Tamarac and Maple, per cubic foot	0 02
Birch, Basswood, Cedar, Buttonwood and Cottonwood, and all Boom Timber, per cubic foot	0 01 1/4
Red and White Pine Timber, per cubic foot	0 02
All other woods	0 01
Basswood, Buttonwood and Cottonwood Saw Logs, per standard of 200 feet board measure	0 15
Red and White Pine Saw Logs and Boom Timber, per standard of 200 feet board measure	0 20
Walnut, Oak and Maple Saw Logs, per standard of 200 feet board measure	0 25

Hemlock, Spruce and other Woods, per standard of 200 feet board measure \$ 0 10

All unmeasured cull Saw Logs to be taken at the average of the lot, and to be charged for at the same rate.

Staves, Pipe, per mille	7 00
do. West Indian, per mille	2 25
Cordwood (hard) per cord	0 20
do. (soft) do.	0 12 1/2
Hemlock, Tan Bark, per cord	0 30
Railway Timber, Knees, etc., to be charged 15 per cent. ad valorem.	

The dues on pine timber cut under authority of license, so far as relates to berths or limits



SAW MILL OF THE GEORGIAN BAY LUMBER CO., WAUBAUSHENE.

in the Districts of Nipissing and Algoma, sold at the sale of October, 1892, are:—

Square Timber—\$25 per 1,000 feet cubic.
Saw Logs—\$1.25 per 1,000 feet board measure.

According to a return presented to the Legislature in 1893, there were about 21,000 square miles of pine lands under license, and 24,410 square miles of pine lands still unsold. In addition, there is an area of 89,000 square miles of territory upon which there is more or less pine, but which has not been taken in account by the Crown.

The receipts from woods and forests during 1895 were \$853,179.86, which included \$76,579.73 from bonuses and \$61,493.49 from ground rents, the balance, \$715,106.64, being the revenue from timber dues. The timber cut was as follows: Pine saw logs, 800,565,355 ft. B. M.; other saw logs, 12,917,017 ft. B. M.; boom and dimension timber, 34,024,047 ft. B. M.; square white pine, 873,304 cu. ft.; cedar, 336,995 lineal ft., besides minor products to the value of \$1,096,934.42.

At the Government sale of timber limits in 1892, over 600 square miles were disposed of, the prices realized being largely in excess of any

previous values. The highest price paid was \$3,657.18 per mile.

The Georgian Bay district has for many years furnished a large portion of the supply of logs required by Michigan mills, several American manufacturers owning extensive Canadian limits. The repeal of the export duty on logs, exacted by the Canadian government a few years ago, greatly stimulated the rafting of logs across the lake to Michigan points. During the season now closing, however, it is believed statistics will show a considerable decrease, the depression in the lumber business consequent upon a Presidential election in the United States causing lumbermen to curtail operations.

Located throughout the province are a number of extensive and well equipped saw mills, descriptions of some of which appear below:

GEORGIAN BAY LUMBER COMPANY.

One of the oldest established lumber concerns of the Georgian Bay district is the Georgian Bay Lumber Company, Ltd., the history of which dates back to the year 1869, when Mr. A. G. P.

Dodge purchased the mill property and limits of Messrs. William Hall, of Waubaushene, A. R. Christie, of Port Severn, and William Laramie, of Sturgeon Bay. Subsequently other lands and limits in the neighborhood were purchased, all of which were incorporated in a company called the Georgian Bay Lumber Company. The name was afterwards changed to the Georgian Bay Consolidated Lumber Company, when the mill property in Collingwood owned by Hotchkiss, Peckham & Co., and the properties at Byng Inlet owned by Mr. Dodge and White & Co.,

were purchased and incorporated therein. Mr. Anson Dodge subsequently retired, his father, the Hon. W. E. Dodge, of New York, with his son, the late Arthur M. Dodge, becoming the purchasers. The property at Byng Inlet, including the very extensive Maganetawan limits, were disposed of to Merrill, Ring & Co., of Saginaw, and the Collingwood mills were sold to Toner & Gregory, of that town.

In 1893 the present company, called the Georgian Bay Lumber Co., Ltd., was formed, at which time the Waubaushene and Port Severn properties, with the extensive limits connected therewith and other valuable limits on the Wahnapiata, were purchased from the Consolidated Company, which, owing to the death of the Hon. W. E. Dodge, went into voluntary liquidation. The present company, until the death of Mr. A. M. Dodge a fortnight ago, was composed of Messrs. Arthur M. Dodge and D. Stewart Dodge, of New York, Alderman James Scott, of Toronto, W. J. Sheppard and H. L. Lovering, of Coldwater, and some others who have been long connected with the business, the officers being: A. M. Dodge, president; James Scott, vice-president; C. P. Stocking, secretary-treasurer; W. J. Sheppard, general manager.

About the middle of August last the Port Severn mill was struck by lightning and burned, together with the company's store and storehouse, all of which were a total loss. This mill was the third which had been erected at that