

OUR QUEBEC LETTER.

RENEWED ACTIVITY IN WHITE PINE—IMPORTANT TRANSACTIONS—RULING PRICES—CONTINUED STAGNATION IN HARDWOODS—MINING.

A period of almost unprecedented inactivity in the Quebec market, lasting over several months, has been broken, so far as white pine is concerned, by several important transactions within the past two weeks, which are worthy of special notice for two distinct reasons: the size of the sales and the prices obtained. Last week a large lot of lumber in the Bridgewater cove changed hands at an advance of a half cent per foot over the price agreed upon last year for another lot of the same quality lying right alongside of it.

Amongst the most noteworthy of recent sales are the following: 370,000 feet of Mr. McLaren's white pine, 60 feet average, 16 inches, has been sold at 25 cents, measured off.

Another lot of square, white pine, 53½ feet average, and containing 150,000 feet, has changed hands at 23½ to 24 cents.

Messrs. Sharples & Co. have recently purchased, through a broker from Jonathan Francis, 300,000 feet of square, white pine, 50 feet average, for 23 cents.

One of the cheapest lots sold this season was 50,000 feet wanow white pine, small average, purchased by Messrs. R. R. Dobell & Co., at the following figures: 18 inches, 22½ cents; 18½ inches, 23½ cents; 19 inches, 24½ cents. This sale cannot be considered an indication of ruling prices. At present writing, holders are firm at the figures given for the previously mentioned transactions, and even higher prices may, in the opinion of some old dealers, be looked for. The prospect of a temporary settlement of Irish affairs appears to have given rise to increased confidence in the home market, which, thanks to the Atlantic cables, has found its almost instantaneous echo here.

HARD WOOD.

The stagnation in hard wood continues. Buyers seem to have formed a strong combination for the purpose of bringing down prices. Manufacturers and their Quebec agents, especially in oak, are holding purchasers to last year's bargain. There are no prospects of an immediate decline either in oak or staves. Holders can afford to wait. The Banks are not pressing for their money, having no particular demands for it, while their collateral is as good as gold, and cannot be again produced for its present cost.

MINING MATTERS.

There is undoubtedly a boom just now in gold mining matters in the now famous mines of Beauce. With the opening of this summer's season comes the news of the development of more mines, and the erection of many more extensive works for the mining, crushing and washing of the earth and quartz containing the precious metal. Mr. Ainsworth, agent of the Clarence Mining Company, has just erected immense works for the washing of the gold. The water is furnished from the Labranche River by an artificial canal 780 feet long. The quartz mill has been in operation since April last, and during the last three months has given every satisfaction. This company's works are upon what is known as lot 13, Gilbert River. Lot 14 is worked by Mr. Smart for the Beauce Mining and Milling Co., which has lately acquired a new engine for the quartz mills, and is engaged in opening up new pits. Mr. McRea is opening new pits this season on lot 15, which in 1867 yielded gold to the value of \$17,000. Capt. Richards has commenced operations on lot 16, and on the "Brancho," a new company of work, composed of Messrs. DeLery, Rodrigue, Chapman, and others.

The most important operators, however, in this district, both as regards the number of its employees and the extent of its works, are the Canada Gold Mining Co. (limited), represented here by its chairman, Mr. Gordon, of London, and by Mr. Walter Moodie, manager. The scene of its operation is upon lots No. 12 and 13. The works of this company are immense. More than one hundred men are now employed by it in the shafts, puddling machines and quartz mills. Upwards of eighty tons of earth and gravel are pulverized daily.

The Titanic Iron Works at Baie St. Paul will probably ere long be re-opened. A deposit of

native silver, said to have been worked in a primitive manner under the French regime, has been discovered near the same place, partly by the aid of old records in the Crown Lands Department here. The fortunate holder has invited members of the Geological Survey to visit the site, and the readers of the LUMBERMAN shall be kept posted as to the result of their investigation.

LUBRICANTS.

The Scientific American says, in answer to a number of correspondents, we publish the following:—

The desirable features of a good lubricant or unguent may be briefly stated thus: It should, first of all, reduce friction to a minimum, should be perfectly neutral, and of uniform composition. It should not become gummy or otherwise altered by exposure to the air, should stand a high temperature without loss or decomposition, and a low temperature without solidifying or depositing solid matters. The question of cost and adaptability to the requirements of light or heavy bearings are also important considerations.

The finest lubricating oils in the market—those used for watch, clock, and similar delicate mechanism—are chiefly prepared from sperm oil by digesting it in trays, which clean lead shavings for a week or more. Solid stearate of lead is formed, and remains adhering to the metal, while the oil becomes more fluid and less liable to change or thicken on chilling.

Sperm oil is used for lubricating sewing machines and other light machinery. Some of the oils sold for that purpose contain cotton seed oil and kerosene, and others are composed largely of mineral, sperm, or signal oil—a heavy, purified distillate of petroleum.

Good heavy lubricating oil is made from heavy paraffine oil (a distillate of petroleum). Owing to "cracking" (decomposition of the vapors of the heavy distillate into lighter products), which takes place in the still, the crude oil contains a large per cent. of light offensive oils, too thin for lubricating purposes. In Morrill's process these are separated by blowing superheated steam through the oils, heated just short of its boiling point in the still, the lighter oils being driven off, a neutral, nearly odorless, heavy oil, gravity 29° B. to 26° B., and boiling at about 575° Fahr., remaining. When mixed with good lard oil it makes an excellent and cheap lubricant.

Common heavy shop and engine oils are commonly variable mixtures of heavy petroleum or paraffine oils, lard oil, whale or fish, palm, cotton seed and resin oils. There are nearly as many of these composite oils in the market as there are dealers in such supplies. The following is one of them.

Petroleum.....	30 per cent.
Paraffine oil (crude).....	20 "
Lard oil.....	20 "
Palm oil.....	9 "
Cotton seed oil.....	20 "
	99

Solid or semi-solid unguents, such as mill and axle grease, etc., are prepared from a variety of substances.

PORT HOPE.

The following is a statement of lumber, etc., shipped from Port Hope for the periods named, as obtained from the books of the Harbour Master, viz:—

LUMBER.	
April.....	3,607,376 feet.
May.....	8,618,176 "
June.....	12,552,340 "
July, (to 11th inclusive)....	4,414,015 "
Total.....	22,181,806 "
SHINGLES.	
April.....	10,250,000
May.....	5,654,250
June, (to 16th included)....	1,850,500
Total.....	17,760,750
POSTS, ETC.	
April.....	80 cords.
May.....	198 "
June.....	106 "
Total.....	883 "

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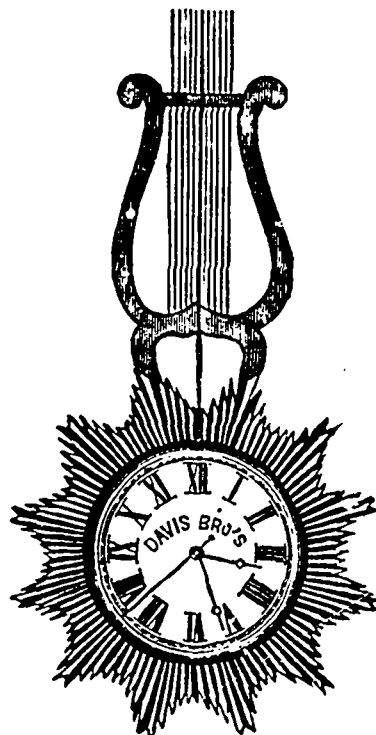
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