

THE FOREST WEALTH OF SIAM.

In a little booklet issued by the Philadelphia Commercial Museum, we find the following reference to the teak forests of Siam and the methods of lumbering: The teak forests of Siam are of immense extent. They are situated in the north, and the most productive region at present

IMPORTANT JUDGMENT AFFECTING BUSH FIRES.

Mr. Aubrey White, Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands, as referee appointed by the high courts to decide a claim by O'Neil & Ferguson, railway contractors, against the St. Anthony Lumber Co., has given an



SCENES ON THE UPPER COULOGNE.—A DRIVING CAMP—SECOND LUNCH.

sent may be included in a circle which, drawn round Chengmai and Phree, encompasses all the head waters of the Meping, Mewang (Lakon river) and Meyom. The right bank of the Meping, from the Melayan down to the Klong Kong below Kampeng, is also a very productive district. Both sides of the range of hills here are scattered over with teak forests, the timber on the west side being floated down the streams to the Thougyengh and thence into the Salween, and that on the east side into the Meping, and finally to Bangkok.

The lessees of by far the largest proportion of the forests in Siam are Burmans; a few forests are leased by Siamese and a small one by a Dutchman; but practically nearly the whole of the extensive teak forests of Siam are in the hands of British subjects, either by virtue of original leases or by an arrangement for working which is almost equivalent to handing over a lease.

An important item in the carrying on of the teak industry is the cost of elephants, which do all the dragging and arranging of the logs. The best elephants in the teak forests of Siam cost from 2500 rs. to 3000 rs. (\$550 to \$650), ordinary elephants 1000 rs. (\$200), and as many as fifty or upwards are required in some forests.

To estimate the amount of capital which lies locked up in the teak forests is a matter of some difficulty, as it is of course impossible to ascertain the capital of each individual firm. But, roughly speaking, it can be calculated from the production. The average production of full-sized marketable logs, i. e., logs over 5 kam (21 1/4 inches) in semi-girth, may be put down at say 60,000 and valued at 35 ticals a log, which makes a total of 2,100,000 ticals (\$630,000). A period of four years on an average elapses in the teak trade before any turnover is made; that is, capital invested now will not be realized on till four years hence, when the timber is actually in the market. Therefore, multiplying 2,100,000 ticals by 4, we arrive at 8,400,000 ticals (\$2,520,000), which is necessary to work out the logs which are brought down to the Bangkok market.

Taking the average of the timber that floats into the Salween from Siamese forests at 40,000 logs, which is, if any, below the mark, we arrive at another sum of 5,600,000 ticals (\$1,680,000). This sum, with the Bangkok capital, represents about \$4,200,000 invested in the teak forests of Siam, by far the largest proportion of which is British.

important decision of interest to lumbermen. The contractors were constructing a section of the Parry Sound railway when a fire broke out in the St. Anthony Co.'s limits near Whitney. At the request of the Ontario bush rangers the railway men fought the fire, about 200 men being engaged on and off for a week. The contractors asked the lumber company to pay the actual wages of the men



SCENES ON THE UPPER COULOGNE.—A LOG DUMP.

for the time so employed. The request was refused on the ground that the railway contributed to the fire, and that the bush rangers were not agents of the company.

There was a great bulk of evidence, and judgment was given against the St. Anthony Lumber Company for \$653. Mr. White found that the rangers have power to call for assistance in the event of fire at the expense of the lessees.

PERSONAL.

Mr. W. N. McEachren, lumber merchant, of Toronto, was a candidate for school trustee at the recent election in Toronto.

Mrs. Hurdman, wife of Mr. Robert Hurdman, lumberman, of Ottawa, died in that city on December 3rd, from an attack of paralysis.

We are pleased to learn that Mr. E. W. Rathbun, president of the Rathbun Company, Deseronto, Ont., who has been indisposed for some time, is now on the road to recovery.

Mr. E. Stewart, chief of the Timber and Forestry Department of the Dominion Government, has recently returned from attending the annual meeting of the American Forestry Association at Washington.

Mr. C. M. Becker, of the British Columbia Mills, Timber & Trading Co., Vancouver, left on December 6th for China. It is understood that he will tender for the supply of timber for the construction of the Tientsin railway.

MONTREAL LUMBER SHIPMENTS.

THE lumber exported by the principal shippers to the United Kingdom from Montreal, during the seasons of 1898 and 1899, was as follows:

	1898.	1899.
Watson & Todd.....	44,819,842	55,779,706
Dobell, Beckett & Co... 76,924,116		53,421,275
W. & J. Sharples.....	62,488,502	52,180,549
R. Cox & Co.....	39,626,140	35,732,949
J. Burstall & Co.....	30,802,571	26,887,315
McArthur Bros.....	35,395,533	24,368,952

These figures show a decrease for the season of 1899 of 41,885,958 feet, as compared with 1898. Five of the above shippers decreased their shipments against 1898 by some thirty million feet. The firm of Watson & Todd, however, increased their shipments over eleven million feet. It is understood that the past season has proved to be one of the healthiest in the trade for many years.

TO NON-SUBSCRIBERS.

This issue of the CANADA LUMBERMAN will be received by a number of persons interested in the lumber business who are not regular subscribers, it being the aim of

the publishers that every lumberman in Canada should be come acquainted with the paper. Those who are not subscribers are asked to peruse this number carefully, when we feel satisfied they will commence the new year by investing the sum of one dollar in a subscription. For this they will receive both the weekly and monthly editions. Send in your name to-day.