
GENERAL REMARKS.

A much larger quantity of logs has been taken out of the St. Maurice this year than usual, and what is more remarkable—a circumstance heretofore unknown—the state of the water has been such that nearly all the logs came out in a body. Last year the “drive” continued until the middle of November; this year the main “drives” are already ended. This sudden rush of logs to the mouth tested the booms severely. From day to day as the “jam” increased, I was obliged to fortify the booms with chains. The value of the logs in danger of being lost was very great, probably a million of dollars; and although the chains caused a considerable additional expense, the amount will be compensated by the shortness of the drives reducing the monthly expenditure for working expenses. The means adopted undoubtedly prevented the breaking of the booms, and the loss of a large quantity of logs.

I have several times brought before the notice of the Department the fact, that the sand had accumulated near the booms at the mouth of the river to such an extent, that in low water, logs can hardly be taken out. The only remedy heretofore proposed, was to make a new boom further up the river, or to take the sand away. I am now, however, investigating another mode of getting over the difficulty, which, if found to be practicable, will obviate almost wholly the great expense which would attend the carrying out of the former plans.

It is hardly necessary to add after the foregoing, that the works this year have been successfully operated. No serious damage has been done to any of them. The usual wear and decay has, however, been considerable, and many repairs will be required; an estimate of which will be forwarded as soon as possible. The cost of staff and working expenses for the year was \$9,621.57. All of which is respectively submitted.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,)

S. R. SYMMES,
Superintendent.