

**BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.**

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

VANCOUVER, B. C., November 21st, 1904.—Lumbermen in Vancouver are more hopeful in regard to conditions than they have been. The trade with the Northwest Territories has been better than expected, and since the American mills have got rid of most of their surplus stock the dumping at slaughter prices may not continue much longer. Still there are evidences of depression, and the fourth of the smaller mills is in the hands of the sheriff for the satisfaction of creditors. Were conditions good, these could have pulled through.

There is talk of the federal member for Vancouver moving for the appointment of a commission to enquire into the conditions affecting the lumber industry in British Columbia. Anyway, he has promised to continue the fight for a duty of \$2 per thousand feet of lumber imported from the United States.

American manufacturers like to acknowledge that British Columbia shingles are better in quality than those manufactured south of the line, and even state there is no foundation for such a statement. Notwithstanding, Mr. H. S. Stine, representing Barnes & Mauk, of Toledo, Ohio, who was in the city recently and who

spent ten days investigating the shingle industry of the province, contracted for the output of two mills, besides securing a lot for immediate delivery. He said the timber was better, and while the shingles might not be better sawed, they were better packed.

Local millmen are strongly of the opinion now that price slashing should be stopped, and there is talk of a new price list being issued early in January. Twenty-five per cent off the list price is the discount now obtaining, instead of 10 per cent, as formerly, and it is stated that in instances it is even lower. The owners of shingle mills are considering the adoption of some plan for their common welfare, the market in that line suffering from over-production.

Logs are beginning to get dearer, the figures having advanced from \$3.50 to \$5 per thousand to \$5 to \$8 per thousand. The small logger may again do business, and those who bought up large quantities some time ago will realize.

There is talk locally of Japanese capital being interested by Japanese for the manufacture of lumber for export to Corea and Manchuria as soon as the war is over. The market will be a virgin one, and the Japanese think they are in a better position than anyone else to engage in the

trade. They do not think the depression will affect them.

Michigan capitalists, represented by Daniel F. Atland, have paid spot cash for 600,000,000 feet of fine timber, easily accessible, on Toba Inlet. They purpose erecting a large mill and engaging in the business with the eastern American cities which will follow the opening of the Panama canal. They also have contracts in connection with the construction. This deal had been ending since last spring.

The Kamloops Lumber Company are re-building their mill at a cost of \$75,000.

The Mundy Lumber Company, of Bradford, Pa., will erect a large mill at Three Valley Lake, near Revelstoke.

The Canadian Timber and Sawmills, Limited, will pay 80 cents on the dollar. A public meeting held in Trout Lake City decided to ask the Government to cancel the licenses held by the company unless all wages were paid immediately.

**CANADIAN LUMBER SHIPMENTS.**

From St. John, N. B.: Schooner John C. Gregory, for Fort de France, 160,150 ft. pine boards. Schooner John C. Gregory, for St. Lucia, 190,470 ft. boards, 11 spruce spars. Barque Giuseppe, for Bordeaux, 441,341 ft. deals, 10,416 ft. scantling.

Schooner A. P. Emerson, for City Island, 284,223 ft. deals, 10,416 ft. scantling. Schooner Abbe Keast, for New Bedford, 20,000 feet hemlock boards, 1,300,000 shingles. Schooner Erie, for Boston, 90,543 ft. boards, 81,396 ft. scantling. 75,000 cedar shingles. Schooner Harry Knowlton, for City Island, 178,427 ft. pine boards, 46,342 feet deals, 65,844 feet scantling.

From Parrsboro, N. S.: Steamer Lord Lansdowne, for Preston, 1,776,947 feet of deals and battens, 52,946 ft. scantling, 48,611 ft. ends, by Nova Scotia Lumber Co.

From Halifax, N. S.: Steamer Ulunda, for Liverpool, 44,123 ft. birch deals, value \$480; 243,664 ft. spruce deals, value \$3,168, by Furness, Withy & Co., agents.

The Macaza Timber & Lumber Company, Macaza, Que., have assigned, and the assets are to be sold.

It is announced that the assets of R. J. Stewart, lumber dealer, Holland, Man., have been sold in the interest of creditors.

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