

—The value of the lumber exports from St. John during November was less than half of that for the same month last year, the amount being \$66,772, as against \$143,143.

—Fairfield lumbermen will cut about 8,000,000 feet this year. Estimates of cuts in other sections are hard to get at, but it is believed that the coming season will show the largest cut for years.

—At Baring, Dec. 12th, H. F. Eaton & Son lost three gang muleys, two planing machines, lath and shingle machines, and a quantity of lumber by fire. The loss is placed at \$15,000; insurance, \$8,000.

—Business in St. John and vicinity, so far as lumber is concerned, has kept up well so far, and the prospect for the winter is decidedly encouraging. An advance in certain kinds of lumber is being talked of, although no particulars are yet to hand.

—In an old volume entitled, Sketches of New Brunswick, I find these figures given as the market quotations of New Brunswick lumber, etc., in 1825: Pine and Birch timber, 20s. sterling per ton; lumber and plank, 40s. sterling per M; shingles, 12s. 6d. per M; lathwood, 20s. per cord; staves, 60s. per M.

—Lumbermen say there will not be so much lumbering done in the Miramichi region this season as in former years, on account of the stumpage tax. Besides that, lumber is scarcer and more difficult to get at, the hauls are longer and, with the work of building dams and cleaning out streams, the expenses lap over the profits. Reduction of stumpage is now an issue in the local election there.

—The lumber mills of Messrs. H. F. Eaton & Sons, St. Stephen, N. B., known as the "Upper Mills," were destroyed by fire Dec. 5th. Loss about \$12,000. These are the mills about which there was a dispute as to which side of the river they were on. A few weeks since the United States customs officers seized some of the lumber manufactured there, contending it was from Canadian mills and liable to duty on going into the United States. The owners claimed that the mills were in Maine. It is probable that the mills will not be rebuilt unless it is decided that their site is on the Baring side of the boundary line.

—Maine dealers say that the past season has been a prosperous one for everybody interested in the lumber business and that the trade, both foreign and domestic, has been limited only by the supply. I gather from lumbermen and correspondence, says a writer in the N. Y. *Lumber Trade Journal*, some interesting notes. The tide mills of the lower Kennebec, which had hard luck from 1884 to 1886, sawed over 5,000,000 feet this season, most of which went to the Boston market at \$14 to \$14.50 per M. The amount of lumber handled by Portland houses during the year will be about 150,000,000 feet. The South American export trade this year will probably amount to 50,000,000 feet, a large advance over any previous year.

MANITOBA AND THE NORTHWEST.

—Minnedosa saw mills are reaping a profit from the sale of their sawdust.

—Jeffrey Bros., of Laggan, are getting out 20,000 poles and some flat timber for the Galt Mining Company.

—From twelve to fifteen cars of lumber are being sent weekly from Selkirk to Winnipeg and other western ports.

—Fraser & Co. have sawed about eight hundred and fifty thousand feet of lumber this season and have about seventy-five thousand feet of logs up the river yet. They will take out half a million feet this winter.

—Seven thousand railway ties were sold in Brandon recently for timber dues. They only brought \$5200, or just about enough to cover the dues and the wages of the men who brought them down the river to Brandon.

—Mr. W. B. Fotheringham is building a saw mill and grist mill on the island at the head of the Sault rapids of the Rainy River. He has already got in his camp and is taking out logs and will have about 600,000 feet by the time the mill is ready. The roads are cut to the mill and everything is in good running order for this time of the year, in fact he has got out these supplies for a year. The mill site selected is exactly midway between Rainy River and Lake of the Woods so that as it is in the middle of the settlement on the banks of the Rainy River it must naturally follow that it will be the headquarters for the settlement on the river. The place has been called Jubilee.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

—From the *Sentinel* we learn that Wm. Fortune, of Tranquille, has completed the building of his new mill and commenced cutting lumber.

—Knight Bros., Popcum, write *THE LUMBERMAN* that they have some choice timber in that Province, and that they had the pleasure a short time ago of examining a grove of timber containing about one hundred and sixty acres. There was

no underbrush, and the trees did not stand more than ten feet apart on the average, sometimes three or four would be almost touching at the roots.

—The Dominion Government has completed an arrangement for the transportation of mails on the new route between Great Britain and Japan, via the Canadian Pacific railway. Vancouver will be made a postal centre under the new arrangement, and all foreign mails coming east, and destined most points in the United States and Canada will be distributed from there.

AMERICAN NOTES.

—There will be a heavy accumulation of lumber in the Philadelphia market this winter.

—A large number of Michigan lumbermen will operate this winter in California and the south.

—Saginaw lumbermen are making heavy investments in pine timber in the Duluth districts.

—The total cut of lumber for the season of 1887 by the Ash land saw mills has been 69,774,024 feet.

—The Chicago market is virtually at an end for the season. There will be no further sales worthy of note until next spring.

—The forest lands of the United States, excluding Alaska, embrace 500,000,000 acres, or 28 per cent of the entire area.

—The devastation caused by fire on the Saginaw river has been extensive the past season; it is estimated that nearly \$200,000 has gone up in smoke.

—An approximate estimate of the amount of lumber hauled by the principal railway lines of eastern Michigan, for the year just closed, is placed at 200,000,000 feet.

—The white cedar movement on the lakes, as well as by rail, have been enormous this year, Chicago dealers have handled the larger portion of this year's products.

—A change in the editorial management of the *Timberman* is announced in its last issue, A. H. Hitchcock retiring from the editorial chair, which is assumed by J. E. Defelbaugh.

—The mills at the mouth of Menominee river have closed down for the year 1887. During the past season there has been about 217,000,000 feet of lumber cut by these mills besides a large quantity of lath, shingles and picket.

—The lake receipts at Buffalo for the season amount to 258,000,000 against 285,000,000 feet the previous year, a slight falling off, and the canal shipments amount to only 56,000,000 in round numbers against 83,000,000 the previous year.

—About 100,000,000 feet of lumber was cut at Cheboygan, Mich., the last season, the largest ever recorded. It falls about 25,000,000 feet short of the amount anticipated at the start, but is about 20,000,000 feet in excess of the cut of 1886.

—The Tonawanda and Buffalo dealers have, the past season, labored under the serious difficulty of a short supply of cars. Some dealers in the two markets declare that they could have shipped a third more lumber if they had been furnished a sufficiency of cars.

—From New York we learn that the export demand continues light in all directions. The near future may produce a reaction, as several features of the market are undergoing a change that will benefit us. The River Plate trade is about to begin from this port, and things look brighter in the direction of the West Indies. Trade with Australia and Africa is dull.

—Wages in the Michigan woods, it is believed, will average two or three dollars per month the coming winter better than last. In some portions of Wisconsin, it is reported, there is a larger increase than the above. In the vicinity of Wausau, Wis., men who received \$26 last winter are getting from \$30 to \$33, and teamsters, loaders and choppers are offered \$40, and some very desirable men are even offered \$45. This rate of wages is about equal to the years 1871 and 1872, previous to the panic.

EUROPEAN NOTES.

—The London timber market is unusually heavily stocked this winter.

—The London mahogany and hardwood market shows signs of increased firmness every week.

—There will likely be an advance in London shipping rates at the opening of navigation next spring.

—Advices from Glasgow go to show that the outlook for the winter's work on the Clyde is pretty good.

—The preparatory works for the commencement of the Manchester Ship Canal are being pushed on vigorously.

—The timber trade throughout England and Scotland is showing very satisfactory signs of improvement, especially as regards hardwoods.

—Private transactions in the lumber world are becoming more numerous than heretofore, and as a result auctions are not as well patronized.

—John H. Burrell has retired from the firm of Alfred Dobell & Co., Liverpool, Eng., timber merchants and brokers, but business will be continued under the old style.

—There has been a rise in mahogany on this side of the water, and principally owing to this fact cedar has gone up also. The stocks in the latter line are very much reduced, and consumers are showing a better disposition to purchase.

—Deals from Quebec and Montreal, to the Glasgow market, imports of which were large in the earlier part of the season, and ran considerably ahead of last year's at corresponding period, are now in total quantity rather behind that of last year.

—The vessel *New Brunswick*, bound from Quebec to Liverpool with a cargo of timber, etc., for Messrs. Gilbert Harrison & Brothers, has again been passed derelict in the Atlantic, and from her position is a source of danger to the navigation of the transatlantic steamers, as she is in the customary track taken by them when bound for New York.

—Messrs. Singleton, Dunn & Co.'s circular, dated Glasgow, Dec. 1, says:—"The trade is now realising that things seem to have got past the worst, and the moderate imports of Canadian goods and Pitch Pine have begun to exercise a wholesome influence on prices. In addition to this a fair amount of tonnage has been contracted for by our shipbuilders, and several transactions of more or less importance were arranged by merchants in consequence. Housebuilding is not better, but still maintains a fair average. It may be remembered that a year ago a like condition of hopefulness prevailed in our trade, and in other trades, to be followed by a depression all the more felt that it came so quickly after the buoyant tone. At this time, however, there are many circumstances which point to a continuance of the improvement now felt."

AMONG THE MANUFACTURERS.

THE William Hamilton Manufacturing Company, Peterboro', Ont., have their establishment full of work. Among some of their recent shipments of machinery are an 18x24 inch slide valve engine and equipment for a saw mill for the Georgian Bay Lumber Company; an 11x24 engine and shingle mill equipment for the Midland North Shore Lumber Company, Parry Harbor, Ont., and a lot of heavy machinery, boiler, etc., for the Haslan Lumber Company, Nanaimo, B. C. They are now building a 13x50 inch 50 horse-power Corliss engine for the new works of the W. F. Cochrane Roller Mills Supply Company now being built at Dundas, Ont.

MESSRS. W. R. THISTLE & Co., of Pembroke and Ottawa, take a place among the lumbermen's notices for the first time this month. They have started their winter saw mill at Chalk River, for supplying dimension timber, in white and red pine, car lumber, spiles, etc. We have pleasure in directing attention to their advertisement on another page.

AMONG the new advertisements contained in this issue is one from the Lake Shore Saw Mill Lumber Co., of Cleveland, Ohio. This firm are in need of about two million feet of white and Norway pine logs, principally the former, long or short lengths, which they wish rafted to their mills in the above city. The announcement will doubtless be of interest to many LUMBERMAN readers.

THE WESTERN STATES.

Special Correspondence to *THE LUMBERMAN*.

ST. LOUIS, MO., Dec. 28th, 1887.

It is really surprising, yet it is a fact, that the white pine lumber trade of St. Louis was as good the first part of December as it was in the first part of the month preceeding. From now on, however, the merchants do not anticipate more than a local business, and that with regular winter weather will be confined mostly for six weeks at least to urgent orders. Since my letter of December to *THE CANADA LUMBERMAN* prices have advanced slightly on some scarce grades of white pine. In this stock of lumber there is badly broken stocks at every point from here north on the upper Mississippi to St. Paul. Locally the yards will wind up the season to January with less by 50,000,000 or 60,000,000 feet than there was in stock at this season last year.

Davenport, a thriving city and big saw mill centre on the upper Mississippi, will in all probability get the convention of '88 of the National Retail Lumber Dealers' Association. St. Louis has made a strong bid but the directors of the association are favorably inclined to the city named. The association now numbers one thousand in good standing.

FRANK R. BIGNEY.

—Reports of scarcity of all lengths of bill stuff reach us from all directions. The cause is attributed to the early closing down of the mills through lack of logs. Dimension timber is also hard to obtain. We have not learned, however, of any advance in prices as yet.