

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

VOLUME XIX.
NUMBER 7.

TORONTO, ONT., JULY, 1898

TERMS, \$1.00 PER YEAR.
Single Copies, 10 CENTS.

RECORD OF A PROGRESSIVE LUMBERMAN.

As one of the most enterprising and successful lumbermen in Western Ontario, a portrait of Mr. J. E. Murphy, of Hepworth Station, is presented to our readers. Mr. Murphy is so well known to the lumber trade that any introduction here would seem almost superfluous. Suffice it to say that his operations are confined to hardwoods and hemlock, and that he is one of the foremost advocates of a direct export trade in lumber and manufactures of wood between Canada and foreign countries.

The subject of our sketch left the printer's case in the city of Boston owing to ill health, in 1873, and entered the employ of Jones & Murphy, then a prominent firm of lumbermen in the County of Perth, where at that time considerable quantities of standing pine were owned by the firm in the townships of Elma and Logan. He continued in their employ until their timber was about exhausted and a dissolution of the firm took place. In 1879 he purchased from his employers one of their mills in Logan township, and operated it for two seasons, when it became necessary to move the mill for want of timber. The G. B. and L. E. railway was then being extended northward from Chesley to the Georgian Bay, and in December, 1881, Mr. Murphy went north in search of a location, visiting Hepworth, Wiarton and Owen Sound, all three of which places he then looked upon as excellent locations for a mill. His capital being limited, he decided to locate at Hepworth, where he could build cheaper than at either of the other places. For the first year or two the business was not very remunerative, owing to the antipathy of the building trade to using hemlock, which was the staple variety of timber there, and which was found in abundance at that period. Things took a change, however, hemlock worked its way to the front steadily, and in a few years it was a difficult matter to yard as many logs as would supply his steadily growing trade. In 1889 Mr. Murphy lost his residence and contents, on which the insurance was unfortunately allowed to lapse, and the loss entailed in replacing the building and furnishings amounted to \$4,000.

In the year 1890, in partnership with Mr. George Gates, of Alpena, Mich., Mr. Murphy built a large mill in Owen Sound, for the purpose of manufacturing north shore pine timber, but about the time the mill was ready for operation the export duty was removed and our logs made free to the Americans. The result of this was that logs advanced considerably in price, and loggers found it more to their advantage to sell their logs to Americans than to

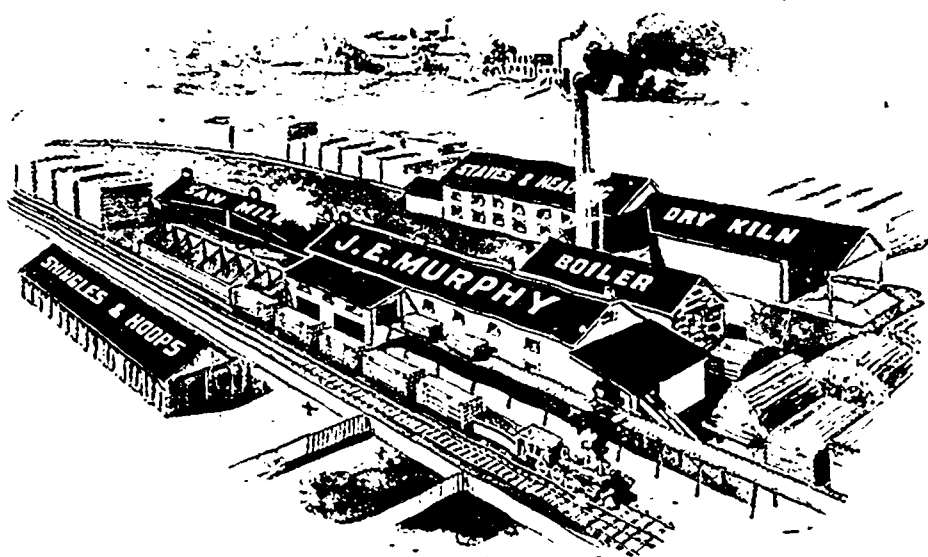
cut them on our own shores. The partnership was subsequently dissolved, and the mill, together with 2,200 acres of hardwood land on the Bruce peninsula, about 60 miles distant from the mill, sold to Messrs. Pickard & Rowan, who still operate it.

The erection of a new mill five miles west of



MR. J. E. MURPHY.

Owen Sound, on the G. T. R. extension from Park Head, was the next venture of Mr. Murphy. There he built a splendid mill, where he has 500 acres of timber. But after getting two seasons' cut piled up he was again visited by fire in August, 1891, the whole establishment being de-



MILLS OF J. E. MURPHY AT MURPHY, TOWNSHIP OF KEPPELL, ONT.

stroyed, entailing a loss of \$20,000, with only \$7,000 insurance. Not easily discouraged, however, he immediately made preparations to rebuild, and the buildings shown in the accompanying illustration are the result. The original buildings have been added to from time to time, until they now include a complete and handy saw mill, shingle mill, stave, heading and hoop factory, and a large dry kiln erected by the Mc-

Eachren Heating & Ventilating Co., of Galt, than whom Mr. Murphy considers there are no more capable men in their line. With the aid of this kiln he is enabled to turn out staves and heading to order from the stump to the car in two weeks time, recognizing that it is promptness and superior goods that count in building up a trade to-day.

The cutting capacity of each saw mill is about 12,000 feet per day; shingle mill, 12,000 cedar shingles; hoop mill, 7,000 per day; stave factory, 20,000 staves per day. The average amount of lumber turned over per year for the past 16 years has been 4,000,000 feet, the greater part of which has been hemlock, and the balance ash, birch, elm, basswood, maple and other minor hardwoods.

Although the largest portion of Mr. Murphy's business is at the Keppell mills, he still continues to reside at Hepworth, where he holds considerable farming lands, as well as a smaller mill that he has operated there for the past sixteen years. The timber is now pretty well cut away within several miles of this mill, and it is his present intention to either sell the mill, or after cutting one more stock, move to some location yet to be selected, where timber is more plentiful. Mr. Murphy is also interested in the Owen Sound Portland Cement Works at Shallow Lake, near Owen Sound.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A MANUFACTURED ARTICLE.

The United States Supreme Court at Washington has handed down a decision, through Justice Brown, in the case of the Tidewater Oil Company against the United States. The case was instituted to secure a drawback of duty on shooks, sides and bottoms of boxes, and involved the question of what constitutes a manufactured article. The Tidewater Company habitually imported shooks, sides and bottoms of boxes from Canada, which they manufactured into boxes, together with iron rods which they imported from Europe. The completed articles they then exported. Justice Brown decided the question, whether the boxes were wholly manufactured in the United States, in the negative. He held that the sawing

of the shooks was an important part of the manufacturing process, and as this was done previous to their introduction into the United States, the boxes could not be said to be wholly manufactured within the United States.

The employees of Ross Bros. and the McLaren Company at Buckingham, Que., recently requested a reduction in the working hours of from 11 to 10 hours, which was granted.