

finishing purposes, although its pitch prevents it from becoming a favorite.

The red cedar is the finishing wood of the coast, taking the place which in the east is monopolized by white pine. It is not the pencil cedar of Tennessee or Florida, nor the red cedar with which we are familiar. It is of more open grain; in fact its grain is no more dense than the white cedar of Michigan. It is however a beautiful wood, and finished *au naturel* is no whit inferior in appearance to cherry, and in many instances equal to mahogany. It is almost exclusively employed in the manufacture of doors, sash, blinds and mouldings, while for ceiling and wainscoting it is unequalled. It takes paint like pine, but is so much more beautiful in natural finish, that it is seldom defaced with paint. It is often used in connection with the redwood of California, and like it sells at about \$35 to \$40 a thousand. It is somewhat gritty in working and in this respect resembles redwood, but of the two was most commended by carpenters. Like the fir it may be used direct from the saw without danger from warping or twisting. Several of the finest buildings at Victoria, notably the Victoria theater and Driard hotel, are finished in cedar, and no one could ask a richer *tout ensemble*. It is not plentiful even at Victoria, and the coast cedar does not equal in quality that of the mountains.

While upon the subject of cedar, we must not forget to mention the beautiful yellow cedar, or cypress, of the northern part of Vancouver island, and I have never heard of it elsewhere. It is of a beautiful creamy color, very dense in texture, taking a high polish and with a specific gravity of 31.21 as compared with fir at 34, red cedar, 24.95, maple, 37.41, white pine 27.79. For strength it will carry a mean breaking load of 693 as compared with fir at 638, maple, 580, oak 550. It crushes endwise at 5,900 as compared with red cedar at 5,500, fir at 7,000, oak, 6,500, white pine, 5,500, and sidewise at 1,400, as compared with red cedar at 1,500, fir, 1,750, hemlock, 1,000, maple, 1,500, and white pine, 1,000. As an ornamental panel with red cedar, mahogany or cherry, it shows a rich contrast, and is altogether a most desirable wood. I could hear of but limited quantities, in patches of 160 acres or so, but its value may be assumed from the readiness with which it finds market at \$60 per thousand and on the coast.

OTTAWA LETTER.

From Our Own Correspondent.

OTTAWA, March 24th, 1887.

The leading industry of the Ottawa Valley and the one with the most capital embarked, is undoubtedly the taking out and manufacture of lumber. Perhaps it may be a fact unknown, but it is a fact nevertheless, that sixty millions of dollars are invested in the lumber business of the Ottawa Valley, and this is almost, if not equal, to the whole of the capital invested in manufacturing in the Dominion. The principal assets of the firms engaged in lumbering are timber limits, saw mills, improvements on rivers and creeks, to facilitate driving stocks of lumber on hand, piling grounds and machinery. The area of timber limits under license on the Ottawa and its tributaries in the Province of Quebec is 9,732 square miles, and in Ontario 7,153 square miles. In 1886 there were logs cut to the enormous quantity of 496,000,000 feet board measure, the getting out of which furnished employment to thousands of men and teams in the woods, at the mills and on the river. In addition to the saw logs about twenty millions of dimension timber were taken out last year.

WHO ARE OPERATING.

The greater portion of the vast era of limits in the two Provinces mentioned above is worked by firms whose headquarters are at Ottawa. The following operate in the Province of Quebec: Gilmour & Co., Hamilton Bros. J. R. Booth, James McLaren, Ross & Co., Bronson & Grier, Alex. Fraser, Bronson & Weston, J. & G. Bryson, Gillies Bros., Perley & Pattee, E. B. Eddy, Hurdman & Co., W. C. Edwards, Bronson, Weston & Edwards, David Moore, McLaughlin Bros., Latour Estate, John Ross, Bryson & Charlton, Thomas Glover, Thompson & McKay, R. White, Peter McLaren, Martineau Estate, Rochester & Doherty, McLaren & Edwards, James Cotton, D. Murphy, J. B. Dickson, John Roche, H. U. Noel, John Smith, Estate Sir F. Hipcks, Estate A. Grant, R. White.

The names of the principal limit holders in the Province of Ontario are:—

J. R. Booth, Perley & Pattee, Bronson & Weston, McLaughlin Bros., Bronson, Weston and Grier & Co., Gillies and McLaren, Barnett & Mackay, E. B. Eddy, Wm. McKay, McClyment & Co., James McLaren, Alex. Fraser, Thistle, Carwell & Co., Boyd, Caldwell & Son, R. Klock, Hurdman & Co., R. Ryan, N. E. Cormier, Gillies Bros., O. Latour, A. & P. White, A. Barnett, H. M. McLean, Emery Bros., A. S. McLean, Ontario Lumber Co. and McCarthy & Co. There are about 18 firms engaged in the manufacture of square lumber in the Ottawa and Nipissing district. This branch of

the trade however is decreasing in operations year by year and this year will not go more than 5,000,000.

SAWN LUMBER

cut at the mills in Ottawa is shipped principally to the United States and to other points in Canada. Last year, however, quite a quantity was shipped to England and found a ready market. Nothing, however, was shipped to the latter point but first class stuff. The manner of shipping to the United States is chiefly by barges which are towed down the Ottawa and St. Lawrence and through the canals to Sorel, thence up the Richelieu River and Lake Champlain to Whitehall and down the Hudson to Albany and New York. Considerable quantities of lumber are also shipped by the Rideau Canal and Canadian Pacific and Canada Atlantic Railways, and lately some heavy shipments have been made by the Canadian Pacific Railway of square lumber from the district of Nipissing. The entire output of sawn lumber from the Ottawa district in 1886 was between 700,000,000 and 800,000,000, but this year that quantity will be lessened owing to the difficulty with the log drawing, the unprecedented snowfall curtailing and in many cases preventing the drawing.

TOTAL VALUE.

The total value of sawn and manufactured lumber exported from this district to the United States was: In 1884, \$2,843,575; 1885, \$2,254,801; 1886, \$2,170,814. It is estimated that there will be a considerable falling away in the latter figures in 1887.

OTTAWA MILLS.

The immense water power furnished by the Chaudiere and Rideau Falls runs a great number of lumber mills, many of which, at the present moment of writing, are being fitted up for the summer's operations. The Messrs. Grier have during the course of the winter erected a new mill which it is expected will be ready to begin operations about June 1st. The saw-mills in this district are of large capacity and are equipped with all modern appliances for rapid, smooth and economical work. These are all "gangs" and contain from four to eight gangs of from thirty-six to forty-two saws each with all the necessary edging tables, all lumber being made parallel and passed over chain butting tables. The lumber manufacturers of Ottawa are fully alive to the necessity of keeping abreast of the times and the necessity of the industry. The mills are run night and day for between six and seven months of the year or from the time the river opens till the Canadian Sovereign, Jack Frost, stretches his sceptre over the waters. The mills in general are lighted by electricity which aids materially in night work. About two-thirds of the sawn lumber of this district is produced at the Chaudiere and Rideau Falls mills. Eleven hours a day constitute a day's work for mill hands and others connected with the manufacture and handling of lumber, and wages are paid weekly to mill hands. The number of men who find employment in connection with the lumbering business in the Ottawa district is very large and variously estimated at from ten to 12 thousand. There is no fixed rates for work men but the following gives an approximate idea: Foremen \$50 per month, choppers \$24, road cutters \$17, teamsters \$20, cooks \$35, log measurers \$35, head sawyer for gangs \$40 to \$50, for circulars \$40 to \$60, tail sawyers \$30 to \$35, edgers and trimmers \$35 to \$40, filers \$40 to \$50, ordinary laborers \$1.25 per day.

TIMBER DUES.

The timber dues in the Province of Quebec are, generally speaking, higher than in Ontario. For oak and walnut the dues are four cents per cubic foot in Quebec and three cents in Ontario, red pine, white pine, cedar and other square timber two cents in Quebec and 1½ cents in Ontario, fine logs 13½ feet long, 17 inches diameter, 22 cents each in Quebec, 15 cents each in Ontario. Less than 17 inches 11 cents in Quebec 15 cents in Ontario. Spruce logs 5½ cents in Quebec, 10 cts. in Ontario. White and Norway pine saw logs per 1,000 board measure \$2.00, hemlock logs same measurement \$1.00.

SLIDES AND BOOMS.

In connection with the immense timber and lumber traffic of the Ottawa Valley an extensive system of slides and booms has been constructed on the Ottawa and its tributaries. The total length of the Ottawa River is about 700 miles. The upper portion of the river descends from the north-west to Lake Temiscamique and then turns to the southeast, which general direction it follows to its confluence with the St. Lawrence at Montreal. The most important tributaries of the Ottawa are the Gatineau, Mississippi, North Nation, South Nation, Lievre, Rideau, Madawaska, Bonchere, Coulange, Black River, Petewawa, Chalk, Mattawa, Dumoine and Magnasippi. On all these streams extensive timber limits are worked by Ottawa capitalists and improvements have been made by public and private enterprise to facilitate the passage of square timber and logs. The first public slides and booms constructed on the Ottawa were begun in 1841, but private enterprise had constructed slides at the Chaudiere, Portage du Fort, Calumet and at Amprior prior to that date. Philomon Wright, an American pioneer

who settled at the Chaudiere shortly after the war of 1812, built a slide on the Hull side which was purchased by the Canadian Government in 1849 for \$40,000. In 1843 Mr. David Moore built a slide at Calumet. The first important slide on the Ottawa is that at Carillon, 68 miles below Ottawa. The total amount expended by the Government of Canada in erecting slides and booms on the Ottawa river was \$339,204. For repairs, staff and operation \$275,113 were expended between the years 1867 and 1882. The total receipts for slides and booms on the Ottawa and its tributaries for 1886 was \$107,328. In 1886 269,504 pieces of square timber and 3,550,698 logs passed through the Ottawa slides.

THE TRADE FOR 1887.

The trade for 1887 promises to be brisk but the heavy snow-fall will materially lessen the log cut. In conversation with the different lumbermen of the Chaudiere they expressed themselves like this:

MR. J. R. BOOTH

said that the difficulty experienced this winter by the lumbering firms in the Ottawa district in getting out the logs will have the effect of lessening the cut by from 20 to 25 per cent. This reduction will affect the amount of lumber sawn during the coming summer and unless the mills have a large reserve of logs from last season the mills can hardly run their usual full time. In cases where lumbermen sell their whole season's cut before they begin to saw this state of affairs may prevent those who do so from keeping their contracts, but most of the large firms only sell a portion of their season's cut before hand. To all appearances, he added, the floods of this season would equal the memorable ones of seven years ago if the snow and ice went with a rush. Floods, as far as the lumbermen were concerned, would make a splendid drive but might also do damage by preventing mills from running owing to raising the back water on the Ottawa.

MR. E. B. EDDY

said the depth of snow in the bush was unprecedented in the history of lumbering in Canada and would have the effect of lessening materially the season's cut. The amount of sawn lumber turned out from the mills this coming summer would, he thought, be much smaller than last year.

MESSRS. PERLEY AND PATTEE'S, MANAGER

said the cut at the mills this year would be much less than last year. He thought injury would be done to the mill business by the high water which seemed to be inevitable.

MR. BRONSON

of Bronson & Weston, said the state of affairs in the shanties was most unsatisfactory. The number of logs cut this season would be much lessened from last year's returns. His own firm, he said, would have sufficient logs to keep them running all summer. He anticipated bad flooding.

MESSRS. GILMOUR & CO.

who are carrying on an extensive operation on the Gatineau river, state that the depth of snow would lessen the log cut from 15 to 20 per cent. but much depended on how the season would wind up.

MR. HIRAM ROBINSON

of the firm of Hamilton Bros. considered that the cut would be materially reduced owing to the depth of the snow. The probable reduction will be 15 to 20 per cent.

MR. J. HENDERSON.

of the firm of James McLaren & Co., said there was a likelihood that the reduction would be 25 per cent. The markets are steady at present but he thought it likely judging from the diminution in the cut that prices would go up considerably.

G. B. GRIER & CO'S. MANAGER

thought that the firms would be able to keep their contracts with buyers, but owing to the reduction in the log cut there would be no reserve logs for next fall. He feared bad floods.

Other lumbermen seen on the subject coincided in the view that fewer logs would be cut this season than last, but all agreed that prices would feel more or less of a boom. The date for opening the mills is fixed all the way from April 20th to May 1st, but all depends on the season, and whether or not operations will be carried on between the 20th of May and the 20th of June, depends on the rise in the waters of the Ottawa. From careful competition 600,000,000 feet will cover the output of the entire Ottawa district for the year 1887.

LUMBERING.

McARTHUR BROS., of Toronto, are cutting a quantity of very nice pine timber, only eight miles from the city of Toronto. It is timber that has been saved apparently for this special occasion. This firm is also putting in a quantity of logs and board pine in upper Michigan and in the Georgian Bay district. It owns large tracts of timber, and has made a large sum of money in knowing how to do business in a strictly orthodox style. The firm maintains an office in Saginaw as well as at Toronto, and in the palmy day of oak timber in the Saginaw country it was among the largest shippers.