

Mr. Bertram, "but it seems to me not unlikely. And if they did how would our mills fare then? We have got the logs, but the export duty would prevent shipping them as now; on the other hand no one could manufacture this coarse stuff here and ship it to the States with a practically prohibitory tariff against it. I trust that the Dominion Government are not so vacillating in their views as to make any change of policy in this respect."

"One word" at parting said Mr. Bertram, "some folks talk about the amount of money that is being taken out of the country the product of timber limits owned by Americans. In the first place these people bought their limits, have had to pay for them and surely should be allowed to realize on them in their own way. The country got the purchase money. But we are Canadians too, who are large owners of limits. Our money is locked up in these limits. As a Canadian I will say \$200,000 of stuff which before was unsaleable, is this money going to remain idle in my hands? I have that much more money to place in circulation in our own country. There is a lot of nonsense talked on this question."

#### ANDREW MISCAMPBELL M.L.A.

ANDREW MISCAMPBELL M.L.A., for East Simcoe is a representative lumberman. His parents hail from the Green Isle, but in 1834 they came to Canada, and on 28th of June, 1848, in Simcoe County this promising legislator was born. He has quite a military record. He was engaged in the Fenian repulse as sergeant-major of the provisional battalion of companies from the north put together in Toronto. From 1864 to 1866 he was drill instructor of the volunteers of Simcoe. Eighteen years ago he went to Midland where he now lives, to take charge of the lumber business of Mr. H. H. Cook. Later he ran a saw mill on his own account, which since the new year he has sold to the Emery Lumber Co., of Michigan. At the last general election he contested East Simcoe with Hon. Charles Drury, then Minister of Agriculture, and counted the victorious candidate. He has a thorough knowledge of lumbering and as is shown by his part in the debates in the House, he has a good grasp of all public matters.

The following is an extract from his speech delivered at the last session of the Legislature during the Budget debate:

"In the estimates of the expenditures on public lands he expected to have seen a larger amount, because the timber lands were one of the greatest sources of revenue that the Province had. A short time ago, in one of the sessions of the House, the honorable leader of the opposition asked for an exploration party to see what amount of timber we had. That was a very fair request. No business man was afraid to take stock of his affairs, and they thought on the Opposition side of the House that the government should have acquiesced in this proposition. One gentleman had told them that they had timber enough to last for a century, and another member had said that the timber land and mineral resources would amount to \$200,000,000. And they said there was no danger of these becoming exhausted; just let the present system of their disposal go on. It had been stated that the prices for timber lands were lower this year on account of the depreciation in the value of lumber. True, the lumber interests were somewhat depressed. At the last sale of timber lands they had received only \$930 per square mile. At the preceding sale they had received \$2,800 a square mile. They received per mile last year about one-third what they received the year previous. Admitting that there had been a depression in the price of lumber last year, was it fair to assume that there was such a difference that timber would fall two-thirds in value per sq. mile? Was it not fair to assume that there were other reasons for this depreciation? Was not the lumber now being sold more inaccessible than that which had been sold before? Was the timber being disposed of at the present time of as good a quality as that sold in former years? When these two things were taken into consideration the cause of the depreciation would be better understood, and they

must remember that when they had received so much for the timber in the past they had sold the best land. The members of the House, who were responsible for the welfare of the Province, press upon the honorable gentlemen opposite for a judgment, as far as timber lands were concerned, similar to what they had given in regard to the mineral lands. They should withhold for the time being the timber lands. Let such a proposition be laid before the House. He would give the honorable gentlemen opposite every support for the best interests of the country. He would lift his country above his party. If he had to sink his individuality, his character, and principles for politics, he would let politics go. He hoped the Government would issue that commission and that there would be an exploration of the timber lands. By the legislation of the Federal Government a short time ago the export duty had been taken off logs, and the consequence was that large quantities of timber were being taken across the line to the other side and sent to the mills. If the lumber was of value to the people of the United States,



ANDREW MISCAMPBELL M.L.A.

it was of greater importance to Ontario to know just how much of it she had. They were told by some gentlemen that they had obtained an estimate of the value of the timber. He would like to see the estimate that the honorable gentlemen opposite were talking about. True, Col. Dennis had gone through the country and made some kind of a report, but he had never made a careful estimate. They had been told time and time again, they had heard it on different platforms, that the Opposition had never objected to a dollar being expended in the way he had been speaking of. He did not know whether exception had been taken to such an expenditure or not. One reason why they had not done so was that the matter had not become public, because it had been discussed at a committee and not on the floor of the House."

#### HOW TO PILE HARD WOOD.

TO know exactly how to pile hard woods to secure quick results and prevent checks, strains and mold is more of a science, says the *Timberman*, than most people imagine. For instance, oak, ash, hickory and other tough woods must dry very slowly, and therefore when piled must be crossed with very thin sticks, placed closely together, in order to get it dry as slowly as possible. The soft woods, like basswood, pine and poplar dry more quickly, and there is not so much danger of checking. No hardwood pile should be more than six or eight feet wide. The front part of the foundation should be at least two feet from the ground, the back about eighteen inches. A space of at least two feet should be left between the piles. Begin the pile by leaving a space between each board, and continue to do so until the top is reached. Place the cross sticks about four feet apart and directly over each other. Put the sap boards with sap down and on the outside of the pile. Cross-sticks should never be more than three inches wide and thoroughly dry, and the front sticks should be placed so as to project about an inch beyond the ends of the lumber. This allows just enough moisture to collect to prevent the stick drying too rapidly on the ends, or faster than other portions of the pile. When a pile is completed, the top should be covered in a substantial manner to protect the lumber from rain and sun. This covering should project from each end of the pile, and also over each side.

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

##### A REPLY TO THE HASTINGS MILL—A BUDGET OF NEWS NOTES—THE EXPECTATIONS OF TRADE.

My first care in this letter is to make a short reply to "A.P." of Vancouver. The Hastings mill, last year cut as near 30 millions as can be counted. Since being repaired it can cut 150 M per day, easily, and pushed, 200 M. This is in 10 hours, and it will give 45 millions per annum if you multiply it by 300 days. By running nights as well, double this amount can be produced. "A.P." ought to have seen that an error, or misprint had crept in somewhere in the value of product at \$1,750,000 and not wasted half a column of your valuable space in discussing it. The 35 millions I put down as being cut by 3 mills of the R. C. P. Mills Co. is correct. The Hastings is the fourth mill belonging to this company, and "A.P." does not seem to be aware of this.

##### NEWS NOTES.

Wm. Mackay, of Ottawa, paid a visit to this coast this month.

The Shuswap Milling Co.'s mill at Kamloops was started up this month.

The Revelstoke Lumber Co. has added new and improved machinery to their mill.

The lumber export market is still quiet on account of the scarcity of tonnage. Freights are very high for the few vessels that offer. A good local trade is being done by all the mills.

The cut for 1890 of Knight Bros.' mill at Popcum, on Fraser River, was 812 M feet of lumber, 500,000 shingles and 8,000 fruit boxes. These latter were used at Chilliwack for the packing and shipping of fruit.

Elmar Ward's shingle mill has started up again this month, and shipping to Winnipeg and the North-west has begun. He has received very flattering letters as to the quality of his shingles and expects a good summer's trade.

Hughitt & McIntyre's new mill at Genoa, on Cowichan Bay has just been started. The capacity is 125 M per day. Six million feet are in the booms, and contracts are let for 16,000,000 feet to be delivered them this season.

Andrew McLaughlin, manager of the Pacific Lumber Co., has returned from a trip to Eastern Canada where he succeeded in getting the necessary stock for his company subscribed. Machinery, etc., will be forwarded shortly and construction will begin as soon as it arrives.

There will be a busy season in building operations in Vancouver. Among the larger works are the Bank of British Columbia building, new post office, the hotel Metropole and Y.M.C.A., and among the buildings announced for the summer are the C.P.R. general offices and the Hudson Bay Co.'s block. Nearly the whole of Water street will be built up including a block by C. G. Major, and a number of new blocks are in contemplation on Cordova street.

Several new saw mills are talked of in the Province, at Liverpool, opposite McLaren-Ross mill; at Hall's Prairie; one by Clarence Debeck, a late partner in the Brunnette Saw Mill Co., on the north-west coast of the mainland, with a capacity of 100,000 feet per day; one by N. Slught & Co., late of Michigan, at Steveston, near mouth of Fraser River; one by C. L. Street & Co., at Chilliwack, now almost ready and making a specialty of box lumber. The Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Co.'s new mill at Chemainus, began cutting early in April with a capacity of 200,000 per day. The Brunnette saw mill has started again after completing some improvements and alterations. The McLaren-Ross mill is in full operation.

The cut of the Vancouver Saw Mill Co. for 1890 was 4½ million feet. The mill only ran five months or so. Extensive alterations have been made to greatly increase this output.

H. G. R.  
New Westminster, B.C., April 25th, 1891.

Oak timber loses about one-fifth of its weight in ordinary seasoning, and about one-third of its weight in becoming perfectly dry.