

# THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

VOLUME XXIV.  
NUMBER 7.

TORONTO AND MONTREAL, CANADA, JULY, 1904

TERMS, \$1.00 PER YEAR  
Single Copies, 10 Cents

## PROMINENT BRITISH COLUMBIA LUMBERMEN.

MR. JOHN HENDRY.

Mr. John Hendry, president of the British Columbia Mills, Timber and Trading Company, is perhaps the most important man in the lumber industry in British Columbia to-day, and has had one of the most interesting careers. Descendant of milling stock, it was only natural that he should have been the man to install the machinery in the first large mill on the mainland of British Columbia when it was erected at Moodyville over thirty years ago. Mr. Hendry was born on January 20th, 1846, in the district of Belle Dune, county of Gloucester, New Brunswick, and is the second son of the late James Hendry and Margaret Wilson, who left Kilbride, Ayrshire, Scotland, on the 6th of April, 1832, in the ship "Margaret Ritchie," on which a large number came to Canada and are still living in the Dominion, and who remember the seaport Ardrossan.

The father of the subject of this sketch was engaged extensively in milling enterprises in Belle Dune, establishing flour and lumber mills. Mr. Hendry was educated at the public school in his native county, and at an early age entered the same occupation as his father. In conjunction with his elder brother, he established a mill in the distant part of the county and continued to conduct it until his father's death, when he took charge of the business and carried it on until his younger brother became old enough to assume control. His father had toward the close of his life gradually centred his interests in flour milling, and this business not being congenial to Mr. Hendry's tastes, he withdrew himself from connection with it at as early a date as possible. In 1870, before going into any other enterprise, he took a trip through a portion of the Western States, and was greatly inclined to establish a business in Duluth, which was then just springing into existence, and the excellent situation of which as a lake port Mr. Hendry clearly saw. He returned to New Brunswick, however, and again established a saw mill. For two years he continued at this, doing a large export business, one of his chief markets being the West Indies. He was restless in New Brunswick, and like most young men of enterprise decided to enlarge his knowledge of the world. He had determined to go to the Argentine Republic, and would have done so had it not been that the yellow fever broke out there and continued to

rage. He then turned his attention to British Columbia, which had just entered the Canadian Confederation, and about which there was a great deal of talk. Early in the summer of 1872 he made preparation for leaving Eastern Canada, and in August he came by way of Duluth, which he desired again to visit, and over the American system of railway. He reached Victoria in the latter part of September. He found the lumber business very dull in British Columbia at that time, this industry on the Pacific

on the Pacific Coast, but also of thoroughly learning the quality of the timber, and especially that employed in the export trade. In January, 1874, he left Port Gamble.

The Moodyville saw mill on Burrard Inlet had been destroyed, and the manager, Mr. Moody, had gone over to Puget Sound to engage millwrights for its reconstruction. Mr. Hendry determined to see how matters stood and accordingly came to British Columbia. He went to Moodyville, where he obtained the position of foreman of the millwrights engaged in installing the machinery. When the mill was completed it ran day and night, and Mr. Hendry had charge during the night. He remained at Moodyville until June, 1875, using his opportunities during this time to study the business. It seemed to him then that it would be many years before the timber in British Columbia would be very valuable, owing to its abundance and the sparse population. The Red River country was then coming into prominence, and he observed the large prices which were being given for lumber in Winnipeg. He thought, therefore, that would be a better country than British Columbia to engage in the industry. He went to Winnipeg, where he remained for a very short time indeed. He was disgusted with the stunted and sickly growth of the forests of the plains after the magnificent woods of British Columbia, and he could hardly bring himself to regard as timber the articles so termed. At this time, too, business was very dull in Winnipeg, owing to the grasshopper visitation. From there he returned to the coast, and determined to settle in California. When he arrived in San Francisco he deposited his

money in the bank, and looked about the country for some time. He finally decided to go to the redwood country, and was on the eve of starting when the bank in which all his money was deposited went into liquidation, and all he could get at that time was \$50. He saw it was useless to remain longer in California, and he returned to British Columbia where he was known.

He went to Nanaimo first, where he spent the winter building a saw mill for Mr. Carpenter. He then went to New Westminster, where during the summer of 1876 he put up a mill for Mr. W. J. Armstrong. In the autumn he returned to Nanaimo and formed a partnership with Mr. David McNair to build and operate a sash and door factory. Early in 1877 he went to

(Continued on page 15)



MR. JOHN HENDRY,  
President of the British Columbia Mills, Timber and Trading Company.

Coast being chiefly confined to Puget Sound. He accordingly did not remain in the province, but returned to Washington territory. As he was anxious to obtain a knowledge of any details of the business peculiar to this coast, before investing capital in an enterprise, he spent the winter in Seabeck, in the employ of the Washington Sawmill Company, engaged in surveying logs and millwrighting. He remained there till April, 1873, when he decided to return to British Columbia. He stopped on his way at Port Gamble, where he was induced to enter the employ of the Puget Sound Sawmill Company, of which Mr. Cyrus Walker was then the local manager. Here he was engaged at the same work as at Seabeck and he had thus every facility to obtain an insight, not only into the manner in which the milling business was conducted