

## OTTAWA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THE feeling is growing that the financial depression that has prevailed in United States lumber markets for a few months will not affect conditions here as seriously as was anticipated a month ago. Reports from across the border indicate that confidence is being slowly restored and with it an increased demand for lumber. At the same time lumbermen are moving cautiously so far as work in the woods for the approaching season is concerned. The city is full of shantymen; a number of camps have been started and the men dispatched, yet a holding-off policy prevails. It is anticipated that if the cut is light in the States, as is likely to be the case, that a number of the unemployed will drift to Canada and there will be a slump in wages for the winter. Besides the disposition is to further wait events and learn how large the demand may be for lumber.

Of men already sent to the woods, there are 85 for the Sheppard & Morse Lumber Co., 40 to the Kippewa for Buell, Hurdman & Co., 46 to the Quinze for the Moore Lumber Co., and 41 for Bronson & Weston. W. C. Edwards & Co. have also made a start in the despatch of an advance gang of six men to Bois Franc.

## INDIFFERENT LENGTHS.

A foreman for the firm of R. H. Klock & Co. states that they have taken out 4,600 pieces of square and "waney" timber this season on the Quinze river.

The sum of \$30,000 is said to have been paid by Alex. Gordon, for a 36-mile limit in the Wahnapiatae river, Neeland township, purchased from Andrew McCormick.

An addition to W. C. Edwards & Co.'s mill at the Rideau Falls, on which contractors have been working all summer, will hardly be completed in time for cutting this season.

The statement that there will be little or no square timber cut in the Ottawa district this winter is denied by lumbermen here. The stock at Quebec is already pretty well moved.

The old Perley & Pattee mill at the Chaudiere, now the property of J. R. Booth, and which has been thoroughly remodelled and improved, is now cutting at full blast. It has four large band saws, two Wickes' gates, and two large twin circulars.

OTTAWA, Can., Sept. 26, 1893.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

SOME disappointment has been occasioned by the news that the Nicaragua Canal Company has suspended operations and might possibly go into liquidation in consequence of a failure to obtain a further loan of less than \$500,000 for present emergencies. British Columbia lumbermen have been watching with interest the progress of this canal movement, for with its completion would come no doubt an important development of our export trade in lumber. As has been pointed out in your columns on another occasion the journey from Victoria to Great Britain is about 16,000 miles. The proposed Nicaragua canal route would shorten this distance nearly one-half. But another danger has threatened the building of the canal and escape from it may possibly come through the precipitation of the first. Strong effort has been put forth by United States capitalists to obtain sole control of the canal. It would be calamitous to British interests to have this proposed highway controlled absolutely by a foreign power. The canal should be open to the mercantile shipping of all nations and on equal terms. The present crisis will likely mean the employment of British capital in the enterprise and the accomplishing of this end.

## COAST CHIPS.

The last week has been rainy, but it is to be hoped our "wet season" has not set in yet.

Both export and local trade are quieter than when I reported last month, but Australia shows signs of improvement.

Messrs. Kirkpatrick & Tupper, shingle manufacturers, of Vancouver, have dissolved. Thomas Kirkpatrick continues alone.

McSween Bros., the Stave River loggers, have sustained a loss of \$600 in the destruction of one of their camp buildings by fire.

The Brunette Sawmill Co. lost part of boom of logs in a storm. The same company are loading the American barkentine Hilo, for Sydney. She will carry about 800,000 feet.

The first fire loss in wood-working establishments, for a long time, occurred to-day, when the Pacific Coast Lumber Co. had their dry kiln destroyed and the shingles with which it was filled. The dry kiln was heated by steam from the sawmill.

The American four-masted schooner William Bowden has been chartered by R. Ward & Co. to load lumber at Victoria for Adelaide, Australia. She will load at the Sayward Mill company's mill. This is the first vessel to load lumber at Victoria for a foreign port.

We are hopeful that the visit of Hon. Mackenzie Bowell to Australia will result in increased business between this province and the Antipodes. Opportunity was taken of the presence of the Minister of Trade and Commerce with us during the month, en route for Australia, to give him a few pointers that may be helpful to him and us in his mission.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., Sept. 25, 1893.

## NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER.

[Regular Correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

BIRCH is a lumber that has experienced a bad year. The larger part of the stock goes to England, and the demand has been poor. The season will close with a considerable stock carried over.

One of the busy places of Nova Scotia this year is Lower Stewiacke, where Dickie's sawmill is located. He has done a large business.

Dating from October 1st, the winter deck load law comes into force. This will reduce the carrying powers of vessels, making nearly \$500 less freight for a vessel of 1,000 tons.

George Prescott, formerly of Eastport, Me., has purchased a large lumbering and milling property at West River, Albert Co., and is making improvements in anticipation of a busy winter.

Alexander & Crowe, of Portauquique, N.S., are putting a shingle machine into their sawmill on the Portauquique river. The mill cuts about 1,000,000 feet of lumber, and 600,000 lath per year.

The first cargo of lumber for South America ever sent from Mirimachi river is leaving here by the Cormorant, being loaded by Wm. Richards. A number of vessels are loading for the United Kingdom.

It has been anticipated that the cut next winter will be very much less than that of a year ago. Wm. H. Murray gives it as his opinion that the cut on the St. John river will probably not be better than one-third of last year. On the American side of the river, where 115,000,000 feet was cut only 21,000,000, possibly 23,000,000, will be cut this year.

The following is given as an estimate of last year's logs still hung up: Stetson, Cutler & Co., 10,000,000; A. Cushing & Co., 5,000,000; G. R. Warner & Co., 9,000,000; W. C. Purves, 1,000,000; W. H. Murray, 10,000,000. The Fredericton Boom Company expect before the season closes to have all the corporation logs in and rafted, a total of between 130,000,000 and 140,000,000 feet. The total cut on the St. John and its tributaries, accepting the above estimate of what is hung up, is about 200,000,000. This is exclusive of Alexander Gibson's of 30,000,000 on the Nashwaak.

St. JOHN, N.B., Sept. 21, 1893.

## MICHIGAN LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

CONDITIONS of trade have improved within the month. The depression is by no means entirely removed, but a more hopeful feeling prevails. Banks have relaxed their purse strings and it is easier to secure discounts than it was a month ago. Lumber and shingles are in larger demand, and though it is too late in the season for business to recover itself, it is expected, that there will be a fair call for lumber this fall. Prices still keep firm. It is hardly safe, however, to say more than this. The old boom is by no means on again, and Congress is still in session. Not only is there the silver problem to solve, but there is also tariff reform to be taken in hands. Commerce at the best is sufficiently uncertain to remain sensitive to almost any change.

## JOBS OF LUMBER.

Mershon & Co. are purchasers of several million feet of Canadian lumber.

The Arthur Hill Company say that they will not cut a stick of their Canadian holdings this winter.

Bay City suffers a serious loss in the destruction by fire of Eddy, Avery & Eddy's mill plant, which had a capacity of 28,000,000 feet annually. About 150 men are thrown out of employment.

Since the recent large fire of Eddy, Avery & Eddy's sawmill, at Bay city, a number of insurance companies have instructed their local agents to withdraw their lumber and sawmill business.

The Tittabawassee Boom Company has closed its work for the season. It is estimated that the concern has handled 110,000,000 feet. The charter of this Company expires very shortly and will not be renewed.

A fire at Bay City on 13th inst. destroyed 2,500,000 feet of lumber. Salling, Anson & Co., of Grayling, and Fisher & Co., of Bay City, were the owners. The fire was of an incendiary origin. The loss is \$100,000.

Shipments of lumber by lake from the Saginaw river are rapidly declining. For August they touched bed rock being the smallest since the early days of lumbering in this state. They were less than one-third of the shipments for August of last year.

Colonel Owen Bowers, of intelligence office fame, says that there is very little demand for help of any kind. The very highest wages offered for woodsmen is \$20, against \$28 a year ago, and one hundred men were wanted last year against ten at present.

Michigan lumbermen will be losers by the recent failure of Bell, Cartright & Co., of Cleveland, Ohio. Among these are: Wylie Bros., of this city, and Eddy, Avery & Eddy, of Bay City, aggregating about \$15,000. C. K. Eddy & Sons have sold large quantities of lumber to Bell, Cartright & Co., but say that every claim had been paid in full.

Michigan mill men, who hold limits in Canada, are making preparations for the winter's work. A gang of 40 men has left Alpena for the Georgian bay district, and the statement is made that Col. A. T. Bliss has five camps running and will put in 15,000,000 feet of logs, which will be brought to the mills here. C. K. Eddy & Sons, who have likewise an interest in Canadian timber, have started camps, and they expect in future to rest largely on Canada for their supplies.

F. W. Gilchrist, of Alpena, intends to erect a shingle mill near his lumber mill the coming winter. He claims that many of the logs brought from Canada have defects which make them useless for lumber, but a considerable portion of them can be used for shingle timber. At present such logs have to be cast adrift, as most of the shingle mills running are above the dam, and the shingle logs cannot be manufactured at them. The new mill will be available in manufacturing what at present is almost worthless timber.

"The largest deal here this season" is reported from Muskegon, in which Gow & Campbell sold to W. B. Hutchinson, of Michigan City, Ind., 3,000,000 feet of lumber. Speaking of the lumber trade to-day, Mr. James Gow said: "We consider this an important deal just at this time. A short time ago we sold a million feet to another Michigan City man. If the Boom Company delivers all our logs this fall we will not be able to cut them before it freezes up. About half our stock has been cut. If they will give us the logs I can sell the lumber and get the cash for it too."

SAGINAW, Mich., Sept. 27, 1893.

## CANADA AND THE WOOD PULP TAX.

THE Gazette, of Niagara Falls, N.Y., is authority for the statement, that there is a movement on foot along the border "hereabouts," among paper and pulp manufacturers, to agitate for the removal of the duty on wood pulp on the part of the United States Government.

A letter in circular form has been sent to a large number of pulp manufacturers in Canada and papermakers in the United States asking for a small contribution, say \$25 a firm, to establish a fund to defray all expenses of such a campaign at Washington. "It is doubtful," says the Gazette, "if manufacturers on this side will make such a move which has its inception in Canada unless certain concessions are granted on the part of the Canadians. In the first place, regarding most of the wood pulp which comes into Canada, the mills are controlled by American capital, and, strange as it may seem on the face of it, the Americans are not eager to have the duty removed."

A well-known pulp manufacturer, who resides not very far away and has a mill in Canada, said: "It is immaterial to us whether the United States Government takes off the duty or not. As far as I am concerned, I would just as soon go on paying duty, for I fear if it was removed the effect would be to demoralize the wood pulp market and the prices would not be maintained. Canadians would then rush over and try to dispose of their surplus stock in our market."

## SAVING THE REFUSE.

A wood concrete is now being made in Germany from wood waste—chips, shavings and sawdust—mixed with casein, calcined limestone, glycerine, sodium silicate and linseed oil. The composition is pressed in molds and left to harden. When dry, it is hard and solid, and can be sawed, planed and polished. Plain or fancy woods may be taken and, if desired, stained before use.