

## OTTAWA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THE movement in lumber along the Ottawa river at the present time is altogether quiet, and the prospects of a revival are not the most cheering. The fleet of Ottawa Transportation Co. barges on the Hull side of the river, beside Nepean Point, has been further increased by several other boats, which have been laid up for the remainder of the season, as business was so quiet.

It has been a rare occasion when the water of the Ottawa river has been as low at this season of the year as it is at the present time, and it is feared that navigation will be impeded at many points where saw-dust shoals have been growing. Reports from up river are to effect that the water continues high enough to allow the driving of logs on nearly all the larger tributaries.

The first raft of square timber from the Upper Ottawa this year is passing through the government side at the Chaudiere, and as usual a number of strangers are availing themselves of the opportunity to take the exciting run and final plunge, where the raft is being made up for towing down the Grenville. The timber belongs to William Mackay and is for the English market.

Barnett & Mackay have sent out their first gang of men for the season's cut on their limits on the Montreal river. Buell, Hurdman & Co. are sending a gang to Kippewa and Magnaw-ssippi. The David Moore Lumber Co. have also sent up their first shantymen and J. R. Booth has taken a gang from Gatineau Point. As far as learned shantying operations have not begun on the Upper Gatineau.

Messrs. Hill & Fowler, of the St. Anthony Lumber Co., and Mr. Quinn, have returned from an inspection of the Company's new mill at Long Lake up the Parry Sound road. Everything is now working satisfactorily and the Company expect to cut upwards of 60,000,000 feet a season. It is their intention to construct another mill in the course of another year. The capacity of the present mill for sawing will be about 250,000 feet per day, supplied by three band-saws and one gang saw, with edging, butting and trimming saws, sufficient for the requirements. Saw-dust belts carrying a continuous supply of saw-dust to the furnace will furnish necessary fuel, and the balance of the saw-dust and other waste material will be disposed of by means of a burner. This burner is constructed of iron plate  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch thick and lined inside with a brick 18 inches thick, the top being covered with a heavy netting.

OTTAWA, Can., Aug. 22, 1895.

## NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

AS you have had occasion to remark in the trade review in the weekly edition of the LUMBERMAN, the season here has been more than usually prosperous, and shipments from the province have run into large figures. This is due, in no small extent, to the impetus that has been given to trade with the United States.

Reports received here from Dublin, Ireland, tell of a large demand for St. John, Miramichi and Quebec spruce deals at steady prices.

Sawyer's mill at Harland, which was closed down for some weeks on account of no lumber being in the booms, has again commenced operations.

There is likely to be a new saw mill erected at Trocadie. Messrs. Hill & Standford, of Bangor, Me., are interested in the project, owning 10,000 acres of timber land in that district.

Edward Walker, of Bass River, has recently shipped two large vessels with spruce for Great Britain. He proposes to erect a new building and put in a planing and matching plant.

It is now definitely settled that the mills of W. C. Purvus and A. Cushing & Co., destroyed some time ago by fire, will be rebuilt, the asked-for assistance from the municipalities being granted.

Messrs. Goodwin, of New Horton, have removed their steam mill to Memel to saw A. H. McLane's logs, which they have purchased. Mr. McLane is offering for sale by public auction the large gang saw mill at this village, and all of the milling property on the Saw-Mill Creek purchased by him last year.

Large quantities of spool bars sawed at Richard's mill, Boiestown, N. B., have been shipped to Scotland this season. Steam power is being placed in the mill at Richard & Gunter's, and when completed it will enable them to saw more than 3,000,000 feet of lumber a year, besides spool bars. White birch is used principally for spool bars, there being large quantities of it in the Miramichi district.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Aug. 24, 1895.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

ALIVE to every interest that will facilitate lumbering on the Pacific Coast, electricity is being introduced into the forests here. A complete electric plant will be in operation in a very short time on the west coast of Vancouver Island and the logs will be hauled by electricity, supplied by portable motors. The motors will be easily movable from place to place as the timber is cut. There being abundance of water adjacent to the scene of operations, all the trouble and expense of building a railway for the use of locomotives will be avoided by the simple method of stringing a wire to convey the electricity to the spot it is required for use. A canal has been dug through a portion of these limits, so as to facilitate the transportation, and it will require the application of the electric power for only a few minutes to haul the logs from their place to the water. The limits are in the Euculet district and are owned by Mr. Wm. Sutton. Even in this province the success of lumbering depends on keeping down the cost of production and it is anticipated that the introduction of electricity will be a means of saving expenses, though it will represent a considerable investment of capital at the outset.

C. P. Burton has placed an order with the B.C. Iron Works, for machinery for a saw mill at Nawas Harbor.

Bush fires are raging along the lines of the Island Railway, and fanned by a strong wind threaten considerable damage to the settlements. Thousands of acres of valuable timber are said to have been burned.

Lumbermen here are not slow to realize the benefit that will come to them by the decision of the United States Circuit Court in again placing red cedar upon the free list. Red cedar shingle and bevel cedar have already obtained a high reputation and for interior finish it is gaining in popularity. There is an improved feeling in the lumber trade generally throughout the province.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., Aug. 23, 1895.

## MICHIGAN LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

THE rapidly accumulating stocks, with the sawing season in full swing, is giving rise to some concern by saw millers on these shores. Stock has just moved off slowly enough this season to cause the new cut to swell the stocks on the piling grounds too largely. It is more than likely that in some cases the mills will be closed down as a remedy for this difficulty. At Bay City the South End Lumber Co. has leased the McLean mill property, on which to pile lumber.

More lumber arrived at Saginaw by water during July than was shipped out by water.

The lumber shipments from Saginaw for the month of July were distressingly small, totalling only 2,125,000 feet.

The lumber operations of C. K. Eddy & Sons, in the Georgian Bay districts, the coming fall and winter will be on an extensive scale.

Greater activity in shipments of shingles has prevailed in Manistee during the past few weeks than at any other time in three months.

A log was sawn at the mill of the South End Lumber Co., Bay City, ten days ago, that scaled 1100 ft. It was Canada stock and was cut up into 4 inch plank.

In the lumber camp of the A. W. Wright Lumber Co., in Ross Common County, 3,000,000 feet of logs a month are being cut and sent by rail to the Company's mill at Saginaw.

The big steel steamship, Penobscot, was launched from Wheeler's yard, Bay City, a fortnight ago. It is said to be the largest freight steamer on the lakes and will cost complete \$200,000.

It is somewhat remarkable that despite the fact that the statistics of the past year or two have shown a great falling off in the vessel lumber trade, yet some of the shrewdest lumbermen in Michigan are making investments in vessel property.

No small amount of interest is manifested by lumbermen here over the dressed lumber case, and they will await with a measure of anxiety the result of the recent appeal here before the Board of General Appraisers. Whilst some manufacturers are wishing that dressed lumber should be taxed the 25 per cent. and thus exclude Canadian competition, this is not the case with everyone engaged in the lumber business in Michigan. Some of the largest holders of Canadian limits are Michigan lumbermen, and they have seen a prospective and satisfactory trade ahead in the manufacture of dressed lumber near to their limits in Canada, if it could be exported to the States free of customs trammels.

SAGINAW, Mich., Aug. 24, 1895.

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## PRACTICAL HINTS.

"JOB" IN LUMBER WORLD.

WOOD-WORKERS nowadays are fruitful in resources. There is hardly a mechanic in wood in the country who does not carry about in his head from one to a hundred valuable ideas pertaining to his work. Experience always suggests to the true mechanic improvements, novelties and originalities, and the worker who can should put his ideas into shape and patent them. Many a man is carrying matured ideas which, if put into form and machinery or processes, would enrich him. Don't let your ideas die unused. Bring them out. Dress them in iron and wood and set them to work for your good and for the good of the world.

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Workers in wood will be interested to learn that, in putting together quartered pine or any other kind of wood, greater strength and durability may be obtained by placing the grain of the wood at an angle of 60° than is obtained by crossing at 90°. The reason for this is that, as all wood expands and contracts more or less under the variations of moisture in the atmosphere, the pieces glued at an angle of 60° can expand and contract to a certain extent without tearing themselves apart, as is the case when glued at an angle of 90°. The 60° glue-joint simply pulls the object out of place a little and disturbs its shape, while the 90° glue-joint pulls things all to pieces in its effort to accommodate itself to climatic conditions.

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Wood-workers who have kept their senses at work know the value of the draw cut. The art of varying the angle of cut by varying the motion of the cutting tool is learned almost instinctively in actual practice. The small boy very quickly comes to understand that his knife will cut better if he gives the blade a drawing motion while cutting. This is due to two reasons: One, that the knife, even when it is sharp, is microscopically a saw, and the drawing motion gives the teeth a chance to act; and the other, that, as the drawing becomes more rapid, the cutting angle of the blade is made smaller and sharper, so that a rapid draw really gives a temporary sharpness to the instrument.

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Now here is something that is important, if true. An inventor, whose name I have not learned, is said to have invented a band-saw that possesses the power to saw during both the forward and backward courses of the log carriage. In this invention the saw is provided with two sets of teeth, facing in opposite directions, and is sustained by band-wheels, and the operation consists in a forward movement of the carriage, which brings the log in contact with the teeth facing one way, while the retreat of the carriage utilizes the teeth facing the other way, assuring a considerable economy of time and wear of the saw. Any difficulty in reversing the "lead" or angle of the saw face toward the log to accommodate the alternate motions of the carriage is overcome by the log-carriage performing the reversal movement. The upper band-wheel, which is movable, is connected with the carriage by means of a series of screw shafting, well geared; the carriage runs its course in one direction clear of all mechanism, and with the wheel face and saw resting thereupon, tilted at the angle required to saw a slab from the log, completing the course and reversing for the return, the carriage is instantaneously brought in contact with pawl-and-ratchet, which, working in conjunction with a rock-shaft and pitman, transmit, by means of the screw-shafting, a motion to the upper band-wheel, which throws the latter at an opposite angle and holds the saw in readiness for its work upon the log while the carriage retreats. At the end of the retreat the connection is again broken automatically, and the carriage again makes its clear run.

"I had to babbat a solid box some time ago. The shaft 1 11-16 inches; I turned the mandrel 1-64 inch small, and gave it a good coat of 'Dixon's pipe graphite'. The box came out just right side for the shaft. I did not let the mandrel stay any longer in the box than was necessary, as it would have 'stuck,' no doubt. It is a good plan to heat the mandrel first."—B. F. Odell in American Machinist.