

# NOTES FROM NOVA SCOTIA MILLS.

(Special Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

nearly all lines of commercial enterprise there is a period which is termed "between seasons," and the month of April is that period for the maritime province lumbermen, especially those in Nova Scotia and the northern part of New Brunswick, where winter sawing is tried on. The winter mills being mostly portable, the owners plan to finish their cut in the woods and get moved while the roads are passable, and set up in places where logs have been piled for summer sawing. The absence of the shrill shriek of the mill whistle and the "hum" of the rapidly revolving circular saw attests that the "between period" season is here.

The large stationary saw mills are undergoing the annual spring overhauling, so as to be in perfect order when the drives come in. The output of logs generally, owing to the very favorable winter and the stimulus given by an advance in prices in the English markets, has been such that the mills will be fully employed converting the logs into such specifications as the markets call for. This tends to inspire all lines of business into greater activity, as there is no business in the maritime provinces but causes the "circulating medium" to flow so freely and directly among all classes of the people as the lumber business.

The Rhodes, Curry Co., Ltd., Amherst, N. S., have one million feet of logs at their mill at Athol, some of which they saw into deals, but the greater part is for use in their building, house furnishing and car building trade. In their mill they have a circular saw, patent lath and shingle machine and planer. Mr. Clarence McCabe is the superintendent. The company also has a large quantity of sawn lumber outside, which is piled in their large factory at Amherst and shipped to all parts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, where they contract to build anything from a modest dwelling to a fully equipped railway station. They also build railway and street cars; a sample of the latter can be seen in Halifax in the new electric railway system. The City Hall, Halifax, Grand Hotel, Yarmouth, and the Intercolonial Railway station, St. John, N. B., besides others too numerous to mention, are monuments of their ability and enterprise as builders.

Curran Bros., Amherst, will saw about one and a half million feet of spruce into deals and building timber.

Kelley Bros., River Hebert, have three million feet of spruce for deals to drive to their steam mill.

Pugsley Bros. & Co. purchased the River Hebert mill and timber property of Young Bros. & Co., Ltd., last year, and are getting out three and a half million feet. Formerly the lumber from Kelley Bros. and Young Bros. mills was loaded into scows and floated about six miles to the vessels' side, but Messrs. Pugsley and Kelley have in view the project of building a water sluice and doing away with the scows.

Rufus F. Christie, West River Hebert, has thoroughly overhauled his mill during the past winter, having put in a large engine and new machinery. He will saw about one million feet of deals and boards, as well as some laths and shingles.

E. & R. A. Christie, River Hebert, put a large portable saw mill to work in their timber lands last fall, and have sawn and hauled to shipping point at Two Rivers one million feet of deals.

B. B. Barnhill, Two Rivers, lost his large steam saw mill by fire last fall. He then purchased a new portable mill and sawed through the winter, and about the first of March last had the misfortune to have it burned also. Not to be daunted, however, he began rebuilding at once, and is now sawing again.

Harkness & Sutherland, Maccan, have two portable mills, in which they will saw about two and a half million feet of deals during the winter and spring.

The Londonderry Iron Co., Ltd., Acadia Mines, have a large quantity of spruce on their lands, and have had several mills sawing during the winter. There will be in the vicinity of three million feet of spruce and hardwood deals shipped from their property.

C. B. Lindsay, Belmont, has two mills sawing on a long term contract, and is turning out deals rapidly. T. G. McMullen & Co., Truro, handle the cut.

Henry Hunter, Westchester, will ship one million feet of deals cut in his portable mill on Westchester Mountain.

The Nova Scotia Lumber Co., of Sherbrooke, will cut about eight million feet on the St. Mary river. Their property was formerly owned by James Miller & Co., St.

John. The new company are principally the members of the Shulee Lumber Company. They bought the Economy timber lands from James Miller & Co. as well, but are not lumbering it this year. Messrs. John Seaman and Gideon Prescott, members of the company, are in charge of the operations at Sherbrooke.

## NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER.

(Regular Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

THE St. John saw mills have about all started up, with one or two exceptions, and are just getting the men and machinery warmed up and tested with the logs that laid over winter in the booms, and when the new logs come in they will be ready to slaughter them in good shape. During the past year or two, since the advent of the band saw, the mill owners of St. John have been looking into the new devices for handling logs, and where they have met their views have adopted them, and when repairing and changing have put them in practice, with the result that all the mills now have some of the modern appliances that suit their conditions. Formerly the St. John mills were specially adapted for sawing deals. The price of deals until a few years ago was low, and they turned their attention to the American market, but gang saws were not so well adapted for American specifications as for deals, so some of them put in circular saws, and later the band saw came along, which filled the bill very well, with the result that most of the mills are now fitted up for sawing advantageously for either market.

Hilyard Bros. have put in a continuous log sluice, log kickers, etc., have one gang and shingle saw, with a capacity of 60,000 feet per day, besides laths, pickets and boxes. James Hamilton has one band saw complete, built by the Waterous Company, also lath machine and planer. Their capacity is 45,000 to 50,000 feet per day. J. R. Warner & Co. have one gang and circular, lath and box board machines, capacity 60,000 feet per day. They have also a slab slasher for making short wood. The equipment of Purves & Murchie, Carleton, consists of one gang and circular—the latter put in this winter. This mill was rebuilt last year, having been burned, and started up with gang only. It also has lath machines and planer, present capacity 75,000 feet per day. W. H. Murray has one gang and steam feed circular, lath and stave machinery, the capacity being 90,000 feet daily. A. Cushing & Co. have two band saws and Wilkins gang, with all the latest improvements. The capacity is 125,000 feet per day. Miller & Woodman have two gangs and Mulay saw, lath and shook making machines. They put in a continuous haul-up with modern bed during the winter, with steam jump up cutting-off saw, and now have a capacity of 125,000 feet per day. This firm also have a well equipped shingle mill running thirteen shingle machines. Stetson, Cutler & Co. have two mills, one being at Pleasant Point, of which L. H. Jordan is superintendent, having one band mill and six shingle machines, with lath, box and clapboard machines. Capacity of the band mill, 60,000 feet per day. At Indian town they have one gang and one band mill, also lath, box and barrel heading machines. Capacity 100,000 feet per day. Charles Miller has one band mill, eight shingle machines and lath machines and planer, daily capacity of band mill 60,000 feet. Mr. Miller also carries on lime burning, utilizing the refuse of the mill for fuel for the lime kilns. The band mill was put in new last year, and a considerable addition was made to the mill. George E. Barnhill has one gang, lath, stave and heading machine, daily capacity about 60,000 feet. William Rivers, superintendent. S. T. King & Sons have one gang and steam feed circular, with lath and shingle machines, capacity about 90,000 feet per day. Mr. Horace King is superintendent. Randolph & Baker have two gangs, with lath, box, stave and heading machines, capacity about 120,000 feet per day. This firm also have lime kilns. John Galey & Co., Carleton, have one circular, also box board machines. Box making is their principal business, large quantities of onion box slats being manufactured for Bermuda. The working mill hours in St. John are nine hours per day, which lowers the capacity of the mills considerably.

John Dewar & Son, St. George, will get two and a half million feet to their steam mill to be sawn into deals chiefly. They also run a large general store in St. George.

The lumber business at St. Stephen and Calais is very quiet this spring. Compared with other years only a small amount of lumber has been taken out. F. H. Todd & Sons are getting only three to four million feet, where

formerly they have had 30,000,000 feet in one season. H. F. Eaton & Sons have about the same quantity at St. Stephen, but have eight million feet to drive down the St. John river to St. John, taken from their lumber lands in Quebec.

Hale & Murchie, Fredericton, are getting out six million feet on the Tobique river. They are building a furnace to burn the refuse, which will be about 120 feet high and 20" inside diameter. Mr. A. H. Hale is the superintendent and Mr. James Rankin mill foreman. Donald Fraser & Sons are getting eight million feet to be sawn in their mill at Fredericton, and will also saw a considerable quantity at their River DeChute mill. They also saw clapboards and shingles at both mills. They have sold their season's cut to A. Gibson & Sons. Their logs come down the Tobique river. R. A. Estey will saw about three and a half million feet in his steam mill at the same place, which also come from the Tobique. Mr. Estey saws a lot of dimension lumber for local trade, and runs two shingle machines.

A. Gibson & Sons get their supply of logs for their Marysville mills up the Nashwaak river, and will have about forty million feet this year. They also saw about ten million feet at their Blackville mills, situated on the Canada Eastern Railway.

The Morrison mill at Fredericton, owned by James Murchie & Sons, Calais, is operated by John A. Morrison. They saw shingles exclusively. The mill is the largest of its kind, having about twenty shingle machines in operation. The cedar logs come from the head waters of the St. John river in the state of Maine. James Murchie & Sons operate mills at Deer Lake, Benton and Edmundston, in Canada, besides a large mill at Calais, making a total cut of eight to ten million feet, which they ship principally to the American markets. They also saw large quantities of shingles at their Edmundston mills, the logs coming down the Madawaska river, Mr. George A. Murchie having charge of the latter mill, and Mr. Theodore Murchie of the Deer Lake and Benton mills.

Fred Moore & Sons, Woodstock, have purchased the old Sawyer mill and equipped it with a first-class circular, in which they intend cutting about two and a half million feet, mostly for the American market. The logs come down the Meduxnekeag river. They are also putting in three shingle machines to saw the cedar into shingles. James Hayden & Son will saw about two million feet in their mill at Woodstock. They also make doors and sashes and other house materials, shingles and clapboards, and propose also going into the manufacture of pails, tubs, washboards and other lines of like nature. Mr. Albert Hayden is the manager of the business.

Robert McElroy, Grafton, saws about three quarters of a million feet, largely for the local trade. James T. Car has a nice circular mill on the Fredericton branch of the C. P. R., where he saws about one and a half million feet of spruce, birch and hemlock.

A. H. Sawyer, of Calais, Me., has a fine gang mill. Hartland, and has about five million feet ready to stream drive, some of which will be sawn into deals and rafted to Fredericton for the British market, the balance will be sawn into American specifications and shipped by C.P.R. to St. Stephen, thence by schooner to market.

George W. Upham, Perth, has a circular mill with lath mill, and intends sawing about three million feet of spruce, which he is now getting out from the Tobique river.

James McNair, Arthurette, has a saw mill in which he will saw one million feet. The lumber will be shipped on the Tobique Valley railroad, which is about being taken over by the C. P. R. Mr. McNair also logs extensively for some of the large mill owners in St. John, and has the contract for driving the corporation logs on the Tobique river to the St. John river.

James Burgess & Sons have a fine water power saw and shingle mill at Grand Falls, on Little river. The mill is only a few yards from the Grand Fall on the St. John river. They will saw about one million feet of logs and run four shingle machines, sawing cedar shingles besides.

The Stevens Lumber Co., Salmon River, have a finely equipped saw and shingle mill, circular saw, lath machines and ten shingle machines. Their lumber, lath and shingles are taken in scows down to the St. John river, about four miles, then hauled to Ortonville station, on the C. P. R., and shipped to market, nearly all going to the United States.

The prospect for getting the logs out of the brooks in time to reach the main river are good. There is from two to three feet of snow in the woods yet, which, with the rains pretty sure to come, ought to make very favorable river driving.