

OTTAWA LETTER.

(Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

WINTER dullness has not yet settled down on the lumber district of the Ottawa. In fact there has been a good deal of stir throughout the month, and shipments have been going forward with fair alacrity. There is an improvement in the South American markets and one firm has been busily engaged shipping a cargo of 12-inch stock, about 1,250,000 feet, to Buenos Ayres. The freight will run something under \$9.00 a thousand. Shipments for a good part of the month have averaged 2,000,000 feet a day. Many of the mills are still running, though there is a general desire on the part of the men to get off for the woods. For road cutters, from \$14 to \$16 a month was offered, according to the men; for teamsters \$16 and \$18, and choppers from \$18 to \$22.

INDIFFERENT LENGTHS.

Senor Achilles Chiesa, lumber dealer of Rosario, in the Republic of Argentina, South America, has been visiting in Ottawa, and believes there is good opportunity to develop the lumber export trade with his country.

It is estimated that about 500 barges have carried lumber cargoes from here this summer, which will represent in the vicinity of 250,000,000 feet that has gone forward by water, while about 100,000,000 feet so far has gone forward by rail.

The depositing of mill refuse in the Ottawa will give rise to further litigation in the case of J. Ratte, who claims that his business as boatman has been seriously interfered with from this cause. He is suing the Chaudiere mill men for \$50,000, which he claims is the damages his business has sustained. In a previous suit Ratte recovered \$5,500. The result of this suit is looked forward to with considerable interest all over Canada where mills are located on navigable rivers, as it will establish a precedent as to the right of mill men to deposit their sawdust and mill refuse in these rivers and streams.

The logs which broke loose from the Deschenes boom in the gales of last spring and went over the Chaudiere falls, have all been picked up and towed to land. Some one thousand and five hundred belonging to Buell, Hurdman & Co. have been stacked opposite Nepean point in large piles ready to be drawn up to the mill pond this winter. There are also about five hundred in the boom at Duck Island which will be drawn up this winter by the same firm. The other logs which went over the falls, some thousand in number, belonged to a firm down the river, and have long ago been delivered to their respective ponds.

OTTAWA, Can., Nov. 27, 1893.

NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER.

(Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

RAILWAY ties are being bought in the province for the New York Central railway. George Hubbel, representing the railway company, and George Keefer for a New York lumber firm, are here in connection with the business.

A saw and shingle mill is being erected at Andover by Thos. Godline.

F. W. Sweeney, sawmill, Nappan, N.B., has assigned. The estate is a small one.

Amos Oxley, of River Phillip, N.S., intends putting up a lumbering mill on the Sugar Loaf.

Elias S. Weere, for many years a leading lumber operator in Kings Co., having a mill at Penobscot, is dead.

There has been shipped to St. Pierre island, near Newfoundland, 235,205 feet of boards, by Miller & Woodman.

It is very generally conceded that this year's cut on the Miramichi will not reach one-half the cut of last year.

Clarke, Skilling & Co., of Glasgow and Boston, have purchased a site near Newcastle, on the Miramichi, and purpose erecting a mill to cut spool wood. The mill will run summer and winter.

Considerable shipments are being made to the United Kingdom. Three cargoes have been shipped within the past week by Alex. Gibson, and one each by W. M. Mackay and George McKean.

On the 16th inst. a fire broke out in rear of Humphrey & Trites' sawmill, at Petitcodiac, and in very short time

the mill, together with large piles of different kinds of lumber, was totally destroyed. Cause of fire supposed to have been hot box. Loss probably in the vicinity of \$15,000.

Richards & Hickson's mill at Newcastle, is to be fitted up next year for sawing long lumber, the manufacture of shingles to be curtailed. It is believed by some that the production of shingles in the province has been overdone.

It is not thought that much encouragement will be found in lumbering this winter. Hundreds of men, it is anticipated, will not be able to get work at all, and good choppers would be glad to get \$13 per month. The average wages are \$17 as against \$20 last winter.

The official report of the Fredericton Boom Company shows the following amount of lumber rafted last season:

Hemlock	139,301
Pine	7,375,103
Cedar	21,628,720
Spruce	109,411,160
Total	138,553,284

St. JOHN, N.B., Nov. 24, 1893.

MICHIGAN LETTER.

(Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

TWO conditions are paramount in lumber in the Saginaw district: (a) decided dullness in trade, (b) unquestioned stability and firmness in prices. These are not usually concomitant conditions. When business sags, prices, ordinarily, show a sympathetic depreciation. Why this is not so in Saginaw is a question that is giving rise to various opinions among lumbermen here. Mr. Mershon says that probably 50,000,000 feet of lumber have been brought from Duluth and Canada by Saginaw yard, planing mill and box factory men for the simple reason that they could lay the lumber down at their mills cheaper than they could buy sounder stock at home. This condition gives ground for the contention that Saginaw prices are abnormally high considering the state of trade. The contention of those who hold the lumber is that there is nothing in the present depression to warrant a break in lumber prices; that an anticipated revival of business in the spring will prove this, and, fortunately, the men who own the lumber are strong financially, and can afford to hold on. Less sanguine men are predicting not simply that there will be no boom in the spring, but that there will be a further decline. Business will not recover as speedily as some may think from the present depression. Time will show who is correct. One thing is quite certain, that logging operations will be less brisk than a year ago. This is shown in the overstocked condition of the labor market, in a shrinkage of wages, and a depreciation in charges for supplies. Lumbermen will reap the gain in a reduction in the cost of logging operations for the winter.

A CUTE LOG STEAL.

The story is being told of a slick log stealing job on the Saginaw. About two weeks ago a raft of 1,800 logs from Georgian Bay was towed at night to the mill boom of James Patterson of this city. The raft was the property of Hitchcock & Bialy, of Bay City, and contained approximately 200,000 feet. A man representing himself as L. E. Smith, of Bay City, went to S. W. Tyler & Son, Saginaw lumbermen, to whom he stated that he was the agent of the firm who owned the logs, and that they had been sold to James Patterson, who found himself unable to pay for them as agreed, and, therefore, he desired to sell them to Tyler. The story was given an air of plausibility by the fact that one end of the raft rested on Patterson's boom, and so Mr. Tyler told Smith that he would take the logs, and advanced a small sum of money for towing purposes. S. W. Tyler & Son arranged with the Michigan Lumber Company to saw the logs, and they were taken to that mill and work was at once begun on cutting them. In the meantime a man engaged in the log towing business happened to be in Hitchcock & Bialy's office at Bay City one day and mentioned that he had lately been to Saginaw and had there seen some logs with the firm's mark on them. Of course Hitchcock & Bialy had not sent any logs to Saginaw as they had needed all they had purchased and were in the market for more. They at once went to Saginaw, and after some search found their logs at the Michigan Lumber Company's mill. Ninety thousand feet of logs had already been converted into lumber, and both lumber and logs were seized on a writ of replevin. A warrant is out for the thief, but at last accounts he had not been apprehended. The robbery is regarded as one of the most impudent and bold of any ever attempted in the lumber business of this section.

BITS OF LUMBER.

A light output of cedar is anticipated in Northern Michigan this winter.

Colonel Bliss, of Saginaw, has closed up the mill run by him at Carrollton.

Not a few mills along the Saginaw are still in operation.

Sibley & Bearinger, of Saginaw, will harvest about 2,000,000 feet of logs adjacent to Duluth this winter.

The largest shipment of lumber by one concern this season to November 1 is that of 70,000,000 feet from the Kirby Carpenter mills.

Turner & Fisher, of Bay City, will stock their new mill, known as the South End Lumber Company, with 20,000,000 feet of Georgian Bay pine.

Wylie Bros., who have been large manufacturers of shingles for a score of years, will convert their shingle mill into a band saw mill. They say there is no money in shingles.

Where the Michigan Central, Mackinaw division, and the Flint & Pere Marquette, handled 311,000,000 feet of logs last winter, the work this season will, it is expected, be comparatively light.

There is very little sale for hardwood lands in Northern Michigan just now. A party who owns 23,000 acres in Missaukee county alone, and large tracts in other localities, states that there is practically no demand.

Flatt Bros., a Canadian firm, have a large force near Port Huron getting out square timber for shipment to England. Over 1,500,000 feet have been skidded. They also have several camps on the Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic road in Ontonagon county.

The larger part of the logs brought over to these shores from Canada by J. W. Howry & Sons have been manufactured at the mill of Green, King & Company. This firm count on banking in Canada the coming winter about 20,000,000 feet, which will be about the same output as last winter.

H. G. Emery, one of the well-known lumbermen of West Bay City, has been stricken with paralysis at Mobile, Ala. Some years ago Mr. Emery invested in southern pine with Mr. H. W. Sage, and considerable of his time has been given to operations in that part of the Union. Hopes are entertained of his recovery.

A number of disastrous fires have occurred with Michigan lumbermen lately. On 5th inst., a large quantity of lumber on the dock of Melchers & Nerretter, on Crow Island, was destroyed. Loss about \$16,000; insurance, \$8,000. The sawmill of S. M. Lear & Co., one of the largest lumber plants of the Saginaw river, was also completely wiped out by fire.

The shipments of lumber and other forest product from this port by water during the month just passed amounted to more than that of any other month this season. Of lumber there were 12,000,000 feet; 700,000 shingles; 400 cords of sawdust; \$55 cords of slabs and 15 tons of barrel staves. The shipments of lumber during the season have reached a total of about forty-five million feet, which is a very small figure for the lumber business in this city.

The lake shipments from the port of Menominee the present season to the first of November, according to the custom house record, were 180,000,000 feet, and from the port of Marinette 215,000,000 feet, making a total of 395,000,000 feet. The Kirby-Carpenter Company has, in addition to its lake shipments, sent out upward of 30,000,000 by rail, which added to other rail shipments by other mill companies brings the total shipments of lumber from the Menominee river to November 1 up to not less than 500,000,000 feet. Judging from present appearances and the extensive fleets of lumber carriers that are arriving, the total shipments at the close of navigation will reach at least 600,000,000 feet.

SAGINAW, Mich., Nov. 25, 1893.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

(Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

THE shingle manufacturers and dealers of the Puget Sound district have, I understand, formed an organization, which they hope may be worth more to them than some previous efforts in a similar direction. All must put up a forfeit, dealers and manufacturers, and this factor in the combine is expected to keep possible refractory members in the traces. A canvas is to be made of the whole trade in Washington and Oregon so that there may be perfect unanimity in the step. Conditions of the agreement are to go in force at the first of the year when prices for 1894 will be adopted. Shingle men of British Columbia will watch with some interest the outcome of this combine. Prices here have been anything but satisfactory, but there has been nothing approaching the demoralization that has existed among the cedar shinglemen of Uncle Sam's domain. A strengthening of conditions there will no doubt be helpful to conditions here if they can be made to prevail.