

# THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

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## WILLIAM RICHARDS & COMPANY.

One of the pioneers of the lumbering industry in the Maritime Provinces is Mr. Wm. Richards. He commenced operations over forty years ago, and since that time his success, under able management, has steadily increased, until now it is one of the largest of the kind in the country.

In 1899 Mr. Richards decided to form a stock company, admitting members of his family and relatives into the business, which is now conducted under the name of Wm. Richards & Company, Limited. The head office of the firm is at Boiestown, N. B., and in addition the mills at that place they also operate at Chatham and Campbellton, N. B.

The accompanying illustration shows the largest of the three mills, situated at Chatham, which is also the principal shipping point. The

equipment of this mill consists of gang and dry saws, patent lath machines, etc. The cutting capacity is 120,000 feet of lumber per day and six to seven thousand of lath. In connection with the mill there are lathes, and every equipment for a first-class machine shop, so that the repairing is done within the mill. There is also a first-class electric light system which permits operations being carried on night and day.

Mr. Richards has been fortunate in having associated with him men who would conscientiously labor in behalf of his interests. Mr. J. E. Rundle, his manager at Chatham, entered Mr. Richards' employ some ten years ago, and since that time has had practically the entire oversight of his lumbering operations. Mr. Richards' millwright has been in his employ some years. He is thoroughly acquainted with millwright work in this department and has proven his ability beyond a doubt in the construction of the mills. There are employed constantly between one hundred and twenty-five and one hundred and thirty men at the Chatham mill.

The company do an extensive trade and manufacture principally spruce and pine deals, laths, scantling, and ends, all of which is exported to the British market, the lath being manufactured for the United States trade.

Over two million cedar poles were used in the States for general electrical construction.

## SHINGLE CONDITIONS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

[Special Correspondence.]

The demand for B. C. shingles is heavy and the mills are all behind in getting out their orders. This is occasioned to a considerable extent by the great scarcity of labor, both in the woods for getting out the raw material and for millmen. This scarcity of labor applies to Chinamen and Japanese, as well as white men. In view of the constant agitation which has been going on here for a long time against the employment of Chinese and Japs, it seems a curious situation that not nearly enough of this kind of labor can be obtained either for the woods or for the mills, and I am sure that there is no shingle manufacturer who would not be very glad to get any kind of labor at the present time, regardless of the color or nationality.

business has in fact during the last few weeks developed into a kind of a boom.

So far as the present outlook for the shingle business is concerned here it largely depends on the prices in the United States. If they were to drop to such an extent that the B. C. mills could not get into that market and pay the duty, it would certainly mean the closing down of a great many of the mills in British Columbia for all or part of the time, for when the present mills in the course of construction are finished and have a full supply of timber, the output will be enormously in excess of the Canadian demand.

Thomas Kirkpatrick's mill in Vancouver was burned down a couple of weeks ago. He has sold his site to E. H. Heaps & Company and has bought the mill in New Westminster erected by A. R. Welsh.

Notwithstanding the increased cost of timber, prices on red cedar shingles are 15 cents a thousand lower in Ontario than they were last year.

The prohibition of the export of logs from this Province is giving eminent satisfaction among the millmen. S.H.



SAW MILL OF WM. RICHARDS & COMPANY, CHATHAM, N. B.

The scarcity of labor has already entailed a heavy loss upon most of the mills here, as a good deal of the business they otherwise would have got, especially for the New England states and Ontario, has been going to the manufacturers of pine and white cedar shingles.

At the present time there is no timber of any kind in the water on the B. C. Coast, neither in the form of logs or shingle bolts, and unless the labor market very materially improves in the near future, the rainy season will be upon us here again next fall and find all the mills without any stock of raw material on hand.

Another feature in connection with the shingle business here of late has been the speculation in staking off timber limits, under the special License Act. I understand that a great many loggers have quit work and have gone into the business of cruising for timber limits for speculators, who advertise them and procure a license, with the expectation of selling them to the mills at a large profit. This

able dissatisfaction was expressed with the manner in which the driving was done last season. A balance of \$2,600 was withheld from the contractors for the corporation drive, and it was agreed that this balance should be paid in full to Mr. Morrison, who has bought out the share in the contract held by the late Mr. Noble. It was decided to employ an inspector of driving this season, to be appointed by the directors. The company drove about 100,000,000 feet of logs last season, all of which was rafted at Fredericton and Springhill. The expense of driving was about \$15,000.

Officers and directors were elected as follows: President, A. H. F. Randolph; secretary-treasurer, J. F. Gregory; directors, F. H. Hale, E. H. Murchie, R. A. Estey, Donald Fraser, jr.

Mr. J. L. Richardson, who has been representing D. K. McLaren, of Montreal, in the province of Ontario, has accepted a position as salesman for The Durham Rubber Company, of Bowmanville.