

MARKET FOR WOODEN BLOCKS.

The Eastern Trading Company, of Shanghai, China, has written to the British Columbia Department of Agriculture in reference to obtaining a supply of wooden blocks. The particulars are given in the following extract from their letter:

"Our counsel have decided on laying down a system of tramways, and we hear privately that in the course of about two or three months tenders for wooden blocks 8 in. x 3 in. x 5 in. will be required, the wood to resemble "bilbon" as much as possible. This wood being so well known you will not require any explanation, but most of the supplies for this market now come from North Borneo.

"We are unable to give you any exact amount that will be wanted, but our informant told the writer that it would run into several shipments. Seeing that rails 26 miles in length will be laid, you will see that the contract will be worth securing.

"It will be advisable also to have quotations in bulk, because it is just possible that the company who have the contract will be able to cut blocks in this country owing to the cheapness of labour.

"We should like quotations c.i.f. Shanghai, either at per ton or per 1,000 blocks, at the same time if you quote per thousand it will be advisable to know the weight of 1,000 blocks.

Kindly give us full particulars as to the time that you can deliver the goods provided we can place the contract.

"We shall be required to give, say, from 30 to 60 days' credit to the contractors on this side, and if business results, we shall be prepared to accept your bills drawn upon us at 60 to 90 days sight. If necessary, we could arrange for you to draw upon the contractors direct, you to simply pay us a commission of say two and a half per cent. for the trouble; we should then act as your agents."

The saw mill of F. E. Sayre and J. W. Holly at St. John, N.B., was destroyed by

fire last week. The loss of \$4,000 is covered by insurance.

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