

BRITISH COLUMBIA LUMBER MATTERS.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C., Feb. 20, 1891.

Since my last the weather has continued fine. We experienced a colder snap during the last week, with a little snow. This in no way interfered with the mills, as no ice formed. In some cases logging camps have been at work all winter. A very lively season is expected, locally at least. The export trade has fallen off simply from the great scarcity of vessels. It is to be hoped this will not continue.

Several new saw mills are talked of, viz.: at Liverpool, opposite McLaren-Ross mill; at Hall's Prairie; one by Clarence Debeck, a late partner in the Brunette Saw Mill Co., on the north-west coast of the mainland, with a capacity of 100 M per day; one by N. Slaght & Co., late of Michigan, at Steveston, near mouth of Fraser River; one by C. L. Street & Co., at Chilliwack, now almost ready and making a specialty of box lumber.

Messrs. John Whyte & Hammill are advertising for limits and intend building, but I cannot say where.

I am indebted to the Royal City Planing Mills Co. for a photograph of the three sticks of timber shipped from their Hastings mill to the Harbor Commissioners of Montreal. They are 36x36x60 feet each, containing 6,480 feet B.M. each. The total weight was 60,000 lbs. Their mill here is now executing an order for timbers 34x36 to 40x40 square 40 to 50 feet long.

There are 41-saw mills now built or under construction in this province, 45 timber leases comprising 225,526 acres. The annual rental is \$15,614, and the revenue from timber royalty for 1890 was \$29,700.

During the month our city has been lit by electric light and is much improved thereby.

The Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Co., whose mill is at Chemainus, will begin cutting early in April, with a capacity of 200 M per day. The Brunette saw mill starts again this week, after completing some improvements and alterations. The McLaren-Ross mill is soon expected to open up full blast. Mr. Smith from the east is building a mill at Vernon. A fire in Muirhead & Mann's sash and door factory, in Victoria, caused \$1,000 damage. They were very fortunate in confining the fire to such a small amount.

The cut of the Moodyville mill for the year was: Lumber, 18,594,738 feet; 18,598 bundles laths; 81,108 feet pickets.

The certificate of incorporation is published of the Michigan Lumber Company with a capital of \$1,000,000 divided into 10,000 shares of \$100 each, with headquarters at Vancouver. The incorporators are Henry R. Morse, Henry R. Morse, jr., both of Vancouver, and Angus C. Boggs, of Alpena, State of Michigan.

The machinery has been purchased for a new saw and planing mill at Mission.

The tonnage of the vessels hailing from New Westminster engaged in the milling trade is 826.

The Idaho, of New Westminster, is making preparations to tow logs from Crawford Bay to the Davies-Sayward mill, her captain expecting her to make daily trips with a 50,000 feet tow.

An instance of the magnificent timber which can be furnished in British Columbia, 50 of the sticks in the swing bridge at Mission Station are from 78 to 97 feet in length, and were cut by the Hastings saw mill, Vancouver, and many of the piles used were 85 feet in length. The river is 60 feet deep during summer; now it is about 43 feet with a tide of about six feet.

The Hastings saw mill produced during 1890, 30,000,000 superficial feet of lumber, valued at \$1,750,000. Of the foregoing, 13,059,000 feet were rough lumber, 955,000 dressed, 107,000 pickets, and 20,180 laths. Shipped to foreign markets, 1,699,000 feet rough; 544,000 dressed, 107,000 pickets, and 17,020 laths. Rail shipments were 407,000 feet rough, 23,000 feet dressed. The local market consumed 1,953,000 feet rough, 388,000 feet dressed, and 3,180 bundles shingles.

The Mechanics saw mill, of New Westminster, has been running all winter. It is reported that additions will be made to it in the spring. Two large booms of logs arrived at the mill during the month.

Amongst the shipments of the Royal City Planing

mills were the last two sets of long timber for Dayton, Ohio, a carload of dressed lumber for Lethbridge, N. W.T., four carloads of assorted lumber and ties for the east and carload for Sherbrooke, Que. Their new steamer is expected to be finished this month. A rearrangement of the lumber piles in their large yard has been made.

W. P. Sayward, of Victoria, started a lumber camp in the Otter district.

The length of the large band saw in Jas. B. McLaren's mill is 46 feet.

The Fraser River Lumber Company, Ltd., has been incorporated with head office at New Westminster. The directors are: Messrs. M. G. Terhue, Grier Starrett and Joseph Saint.

The Brunette saw mill, at Sapperton, has been thoroughly overhauled and repaired, the large boiler purged of sediment and the foundations re-bricked. In addition to their logging camp at Mud Bay, started in January, they are operating with another at Clover Valley, the cut of which will be driven down the Nicome River to Mud Bay and towed from their to Sapperton.

After writing several times and waiting two months I can only give you the cut of the mills for 1890 who have responded to my request, several have not sent returns:

CUT OF 1890.

Victoria Lumber Manufacturing Co.	4,000,000 feet
A. McKinnon, Duncan's	500,000 "
Moodyville Saw Mill Co.	18,620,000 "
Royal City Planing Mills Co.	35,000,000 "
Hastings Saw Mill Co.	30,000,000 "
J. B. Tiffin	3,800,000 "
Brunette Saw Mill Co.	9,000,000 "
Nanaimo Saw Mills	6,000,000 "

In the foregoing the Brunette S. M. Co. cut 3,000,000 with their old mill and 6,000,000 with the new one. They lost considerable time in building and moving into the new mill. The cut of Hastings is also small, as the mill has been thoroughly repaired and was prevented cutting while the same were going on.

Moodyville Saw Mill Co. laths 22,509 bundles
Brunette Saw Mill Co., shingles, 3,000,000,
G. F. Slater, " 12,000,000.

H. G. R.

NOVA SCOTIA MATTERS.

BRIDGEWATER, Feb. 14th, 1891

We are having a steady winter in this district, and in the forest at the heads of the rivers have had the best hauling for a number of years. Loggers on the Victaux, Port Medway, Musha Muish, Liverpool and St. Margarets Bay, Gold River, and in fact all around the Lahave River, are putting in timber very freely from lands having long roads which have been impassable during the last three winters without snow.

Several of our smaller operators, having been tempted by the fine hauling, have started work on the Lahave, counting somewhat on the justice of their claim to work like their neighbors, and being about at the point of rebellion against any authority which attempts to stop them.

Petitions are now being, for the third time, circulated through the Lahave valley, asking that the river be exempted, the same as the neighboring rivers in Queen's County, and the people are signing them *en masse*.

Business in Bridgewater and vicinity is duller than known for many years, and the traders were afraid to stock up enough to supply provisions needed for the winter. The banks are endeavoring to keep their customers afloat, and so far very few failures have occurred.

The dull season among the fishermen on the banks last year has checked the building of so many new vessels, and labor has more trouble to find work near at home, so that many of our young men have gone to other districts for work.

The argument of the sawdust destroying the fisheries is again being refuted by the Salmon themselves schooling into the Port Medway river earlier than usual, in the face of three gang mills running night and day dropping sawdust into the river all last season. However, as they have faced the same kind of sawdust for the last hundred years nothing else was to be expected, and we would most respectfully suggest to Mr. Wilnot, or some of the Fishery Department, that the same

description would suit this river, and we could dispense with our most fastidious breed who are in the habit of turning back when they see our sawdust in ten feet of water, according to the theory of Captain Gordon of "Kannuck Navee"

But joking aside, our people need the lumber business re-established, and demand the same treatment as the rest of the Dominion, and having waited three years for the law to be put in force on other rivers say they must be allowed to work, as the government have no intention of enforcing the law generally, and they cannot prove one dollar's damage done on this river by allowing the sawdust to run as formerly. The question is beyond any politics with our people, and both parties unite in demanding their right.

Most of the members of the House of Commons for Nova Scotia contend for allowing the mills to saw, and the Fishery department will have to either enforce the law against all mills, or drop the prosecution of selected subjects.

We do not pretend to judge of the operation of the practice in the large alluvial rivers of the West, without any tidal changes, but the case has yet to be found where sawdust alone has done any damage to Fishery or navigation on the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia.

With the present fine winter the Lahave mills could have been stocked with 25 million ft of timber, yielding an increase to country and shipping of \$200,000 or \$300,000, which is all sacrificed to the theoretical ideas of the present managers of the Fishery Department.

FRANK DAVISON.

AN IMPORTANT ITEM.

IN planning and equipping a wood-working plant there is one very important matter which is often left out of consideration, and this is the providing of the necessary facilities for keeping the different machines in good working order, with the least possible delay and cost. One of the best investments that can be made in establishing a wood-working plant is in providing these facilities, and then having a man in charge who thoroughly understands his business. These facilities do not require a great outlay at the start, and will show a larger percentage of profit than any like sum put into any other part of the equipment. The repairs in and around the plant are an important item, and a proper provision for this is worth considering. You do not need a whole machine shop outfit, but you do need a few small tools, which should be carefully selected, taken care of, and always ready for use when needed. The delays caused by being obliged to depend upon some neighboring machine shop for all the little repairs are costly, to say nothing of damage to machinery resulting from neglect to keep it in proper repair, through a lack of the facilities at hand for doing so. A great deal of valuable and costly machinery is thus ruined every year, and too often the blame is laid to the manufacturer, and he is accused of using poor material or employing poor workmen.

TIMBER SUPPLY OF THE NORTH-WEST.

The question of the future lumber and timber supply of northwest territories is receiving the attention of the Dominion government just now, and it is probable that more stringent regulations will be adopted by parliament next session to insure the forests against reckless depletion and destruction. The logs of the Prince Albert district are cut on streams tributary to the Saskatchewan on the north side, principally on the Little Red, Sturgeon and Shell rivers. There is a vast timber belt immediately to the north of Prince Albert. Spruce is the principal variety of lumber cut. The logs run from one to three ft. in diameter, but logs have been cut which went over three feet. Some tamarac is also cut at the mills. It is harder than the spruce and is used for flooring, sills, etc. It runs from one to two feet in diameter. Birch is hardwood lumber and is used for finer class of work, inside finishing, cabinet work, etc., and it will make very good furniture. Poplar may be used for work where basswood is used in the east. The northern poplar lumber resembles basswood. This northern spruce is a splendid lumber, being much superior in quality to southern and eastern spruce. It is whiter in color, softer and finer texture, and much more free from knots. In fact it makes an excellent lumber, and quite as good as much of the white pine in the east.