

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the Canada Lumberman.

Would you or some of your readers enlighten me regarding a question which is of considerable interest to owners of water-power saws mills and others? I have often heard my father say that he had often noticed the fact that a water mill would run much stronger at night with the same head of water than in the day. For many years he was an engineer in a paper mill when the same machinery was used continuously day and night to grind paper pulp. This would seem to me a fair and conclusive condition as not subject to the fluctuations and interruptions as in a saw mill. He said the mill ran more evenly, or steadily, stronger, and with more revolutions than in the day. He did not know the cause but attributed it to the atmosphere.

W. B. A.

[We shall be pleased to receive a solution of this problem from any of our readers, which will be given in the next issue of the LUMBERMAN.—ED.]

WHITEMOUTH, Man., Dec. 22nd, 1886.

To the Editor of the Canada Lumberman.

Below you will find a list of the quantities of the various kinds of timber to be cut in the woods about Whitemouth, this winter, on the C. P. R. east of Winnipeg:

G. W. Strovel, 300,000 ties; J. G. Dennison & Co., for C.P.R., 100,000 ties; William Skead & Co., for C.P.R., 100,000 ties; Mr. Ferguson, for C.P.R., 60,000 ties; McKisley & Co., for C.P.R., 20,000 ties; Gibbons & Livingstone, 20,000 ties; David Ross, 3,000,000 feet of logs; P. Enwright, wood king of Winnipeg, 4,000 to 8,000 cords; A. C. Smith, 3,000 cords wood; McKisley & Co., 3,000 cords wood; Mr. Hargrave, 2,000 cords wood; Mr. Goodenbue, 2,000 cords wood; besides many other small operations.

The above will show your readers that Manitoba is not yet dead. The wages in the log camps is from \$20 to \$45; in log camps, \$20 to \$26 and board. In wood camps workmen make from 30 cents to \$1 per cord for cutting, and pay \$4 per week for board.

Working men are in good spirits, as their pay is good, and the weather excellent for working.

LUMBERMAN.

MDAWASKA, N. B., Dec. 22nd, 1886.

To the Editor of the Canada Lumberman.

Lumbermen so far have had a beautiful season and the output will exceed that of last year, unless deep snow sets in, which seems to threaten now, as we already have two feet in the woods. The estimated cut is 7,000,000 feet from the mouth of Tobique to Victoria, up to Grand River, Madawaska, and from that point to St. Francis about 2,000,000 more.

On the American side, Messrs. Couliff, Connors, Stephens, Eatons, Dickley and others, are doing a heavy business, and owing to our export duty, not being enforced here in Madawaska, Americans are yearly manufacturing forty million shingles, besides other lumber taken out of our forests. In this case our National Policy is giving Americans a premium of the import duty, to slaughter our forests and allow our local mills to lie idle. Holmes & Hammond are now building shingle mills to increase the slaughter, so that in a few years our stocks will be nil.

Our enterprising townsman, Mr. G. V. Hammond, is doing a heavy business in spruce logs, sleepers and shingles, but our staple article is lumber, and so long as the Dominion Government pursues a policy to encourage American citizens to slaughter it, it is poor encouragement for a New Brunswicker to invest his money, and try to build up his country out of it.

P. O. BYBAM.

OTTAWA, Dec. 26th, 1886.

To the Editor of the Canada Lumberman.

While wishing you the compliments of the season, I must also congratulate you on the marked improvement you have already made in your paper—THE CANADA LUMBERMAN. So far as my knowledge goes, lumbermen in the past have been of the opinion that the paper was not up to the mark, and if you will pardon a plain expression, not worthy of the extensive industry it claimed to represent. Of late, however, I have heard many of our leading lumbermen speak very highly of the efforts you are making towards supplying the trade with a first-class journal, and I am safe in saying that one and all will give it a hearty support.

There is one important matter to which I desire to call attention, and that is the little interest manifested by the general reader in regard to correspondence. We, as lumbermen, like all other representative business men, have our grievances. Sometimes they are against the Government, sometimes against the railways, and sometimes against the general public, and unless these grievances are brought to light and discussed through the medium of the press, how can we ever expect to have our wrongs redressed? Now, Mr. Editor, I know that at the present time lumbermen have grievances of paramount importance, and through the existence of such, a very large amount of money is being annually lost to the trade. It is of

personal interest to every man to adopt some means to protect his business from loss, and my suggestion is that all matters of this nature should be discussed, *pro* and *con* through the columns of the LUMBERMAN.

In addition to this there are many other matters pertinent to the manufacture and sale of lumber, which might well be taken up in this way, and I hope that the many intelligent and thinking men who are engaged in this business, will devote an hour now and again to the work of putting their ideas on paper, and by so doing not only benefit themselves individually, but the trade in general.

I have written this, Mr. Editor, simply as an introduction, and will in a future issue endeavour to give you something calculated to stir up the dry bones, as it were, and bring forth discussion.

Hoping that the next issue of the LUMBERMAN may contain many letters of interest.

Yours truly,

CHIF.

GRAVENHURST, Dec. 10th, 1886.

To the Editor of the Canada Lumberman.

The mills here and in the vicinity have all shut down, mainly owing to the frost, but a considerable number of logs are held for spring operations. It may not be uninteresting to give you a short statement of the mills here.

G. W. Taylor & Co.'s gang mill, cut about seven million feet of lumber for the Ontario Lumber Co. Joseph Tuers single circular mill, cut bus and one-half million lumber and one million of shingles for Mr. J. Collins, of Bracebridge, and three million of shingles for Thomson & Baker of this place.

McBurney & Co. (one circular mill) cut about five million feet of lumber and two million of lath. Chas. Mickles three mills (each one circular) cut ten millions ft. lumber, five millions shingles, and about three millions laths. Isaac Cockburn's (two circular mill) cut about five millions feet lumber, five millions shingles, and two million of lath. J. H. Hull's shingle mill cut nine millions of shingles with 3 machines. Thomson & Baker (one circular mill) cut 4½ million lumber, 3½ million shingles and two million of lath. L. B. Hill's shingle mill cut about two millions of shingles. Thomas B. Tait's shingle mill (2 machines) cut nearly eight millions of shingles; and James King's (one circular mill) cut about one million ft. lumber and two millions of shingles. This I believe covers the mills in the town.

In the vicinity James Harvey's mill in Draper, cut about three millions lumber and three millions shingles. Tasker's mill at Reay, also in Draper, cut one and a-half millions lumber and one and a-half millions shingles. H. De Blaquen's mill, just nicely started, has cut about a million of shingles, and will run on bill stuff and shingles all winter. J. H. Hull's mill, (one circular) at Lethbridge, cut about two millions of lumber and one million shingles and lath. J. I. Clark's mill, also at Lethbridge, has cut three and a quarter millions shingles. At Bracebridge, Brown & Sheers mill cut about five millions shingles and half million lumber; and Leishman & Perry's mill about one million lumber and a lot of shingles. Besides the above there is shipped from here several millions of lumber and shingles, cut in mills round Lakes Muskoka, Joseph and Russell. The year has been a successful one. The stocks cut by the different mills are all sold, and about half shipped. No dry lumber can be got here next year if the shipping goes on all winter as briskly as now. No large stock of shingles except Mr. Thomas B. Tait's is held here.

All in the trade are hopeful for good demand and a small advance next year.

Large stocks are being got out in the woods and are all well on with the work.

Wages in the woods are ten per cent. higher than last year. The prices of logs on the river is twenty per cent. higher than last year, six dollars being freely paid now for extra logs.

The old De Blaquen mill will be run by Thos. Tait this year he having purchased same.

Thomson & Baker intend putting in a band saw in there mill here.

Sheers has purchased the interest of Mr. Brown, his partner in the Bracebridge South River mill, and Mr. Leishman has purchased the interest of his partner, Mr. Perry, in the north river mill.

I. J. McNeil has purchased a berth in Bethune from Mr. T. Maxwell, paying, we understand, \$16,000 for same.

Mr. Hugh Brown, of Utterton, has purchased the limits in the Township of Stephenson, from the Bank of Toronto, for \$2,000.

Several small transactions in timber lots at large prices are reported.

Mr. Waldie, the purchaser of the Victoria harbor limit from Mr. Power of Barrie, was up getting himself initiated into the mysteries of log cutting and shanty life. A little bush life won't do him any harm. He is putting in a band saw in the mill at Victoria Harbor. We wish him success.

A correspondent wishes to know if any one can give him a statement of the case of Dymont vs. Thomson and the principle involved of interest to the trade.

Yours truly,

FRANCIS BAKER.

FROM THE LUMBER REGIONS.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Dec. 1.—The saw-mills have closed down after having the shortest season on record, being one month to six weeks less than last year. As a result, 60,000,000 feet more lumber was sawed in 1885 than during the past season. This season the total cut of lumber was 262,636,019 feet; of shingles, 80,725,000 feet; of lath, 55,264,800 feet. In 1885 the cut of lumber was 313,998,166 feet; shingles, 101,857,750 feet; lath, 82,175,817 feet; the decrease is 51,362,147 feet of lumber. 20,932,760 feet of shingle, and 26,911,017 feet of lath. The Surveyor-General's scale shows that 237,891,540 feet of logs were turned through the boom during the year. This is 51,000,000 less than last year; and it is due to the delay in the beginning of the season. In 1885 79,503,520 feet had been turned through the boom up to July. In 1886 but 30,968,730 feet had been run through up to that time. There are now 12,000,000 feet of logs in the mill ponds and 10,000,000 feet in the booms. Above Sauk Rapids there are about 11,000,000 feet. It is not probable that the mills will be enabled to commence operations any earlier next season, but they will have plenty of logs when they start up, and the cut will be largely increased. It is estimated that the stocks in the lumber yards amount to 175,000,000 feet, against 264,500,000 in 1885.

EAST SAGINAW, Mich., Dec. 1.—For several months past lumber dealers and mill men of the Saginaw Valley have been busy arranging a scheme which promises to work a revolution in the lumber business of the West. The scheme is to make the Saginaw Valley the great central distributing point of assorted lumber. Since the infancy of the industry here the practice has been to pile on the docks the cut of the mills without sorting, thus giving a great profit to the middlemen. Sold in the rough it was finished in the planing-mills of the purchasers, who thus reaped a large profit that was lost to the capital and labor of the valley. This profit amounted to hundreds of thousands of dollars, and to keep this money in the valley has been an object long aimed at, and led to the establishment in the last five years of sorting yards and planing mills. The project has for its object the purchase of the entire cut of the valley; to be stored in and sold from the sorting yards here.

THE MANUFACTURE OF CANOES.

In Eastern Canada row boats are not in popular favor, the majority of people who paddle our rivers and small lakes either for pleasure or business, preferring the light canoe rather than the more burdensome article just mentioned. We had the pleasure a few days ago of visiting the works of the Ontario Canoe Co., situated in the village of Ashburnham, directly across the river from the town of Peterborough. We were kindly received by the managing director, Mr. J. Z. Rogers, and conducted through the different buildings belonging to this company. On enquiry we found that the main factory was 30x65 feet in size, four stories high, adjoining which is another building, two stories high, in which is contained the offices of the company and storage rooms for the product of the factory. Another building, larger than any of the others, is also utilized for a show room. Here we find almost every variety of canoe, with and without rigging, arranged conspicuously so as to represent them as they appear in the water.

The models used by this firm are noted for their beauty and speed. They carry good wide bearings, and carry them well forward, but not so as to interfere with their speed. All canoes undergo a practical test before leaving the works, and nothing but the best material which can be procured, is used in their construction. During our visit to the works we were shown an open cedar rib canoe, built last year, which weighs 12½ pounds, complete with decks and thwarts, capable of carrying 450 pounds. It is a beauty, and is an indication of what can be accomplished by Canadian boat builders. Nearly two hundred different kinds and sizes of canoes are built, enough surely to satisfy the tastes of the most scrupulous. This company were awarded a silver medal at the Antwerp exhibition, and at every other point where they were shown a prize was given. At the present time the works are running to their fullest capacity, filling orders, principally for the English market.

MEN OF 24,000 YEARS AGO.

If the claims of old descent were a justifiable source of pride, the human race would feel elated this morning on being assured by the wise men of the British Association that authentic proof had been discovered in some Welsh caves, that men, sufficiently developed from the ape to manufacture flint implements, existed on this planet 24,000 years ago. To us it is a melancholy reflection that we should have taken so prodigious a time to attain so small a result. Even when the duration of the race is limited to the six thousand years of history, the outcome can hardly be considered as satisfactory, and there is something profoundly depressing in the sudden addition of a series of ancestors who spent 234,000 years in marking time, indeed, but in making no other mark in the world.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

The Customs authorities have refused to grant the application made by Detroit residents to be allowed to tow pine logs in rafts to the Canadian side of the Detroit river, and remove them in such quantities as may from time to time be required.