

A Stir in Northwest Lumber.

The Winnipeg Times of a late date says:—There is every prospect of a very lively summer in the lumber business, says the Progress. There are greater chances of the water being higher than last year, owing to the fact that the ice has never settled all winter. The Rainy Lake, Winnipeg and Keewatin lumbering companies will all operate on an extensive scale next summer. If the water remains high a great number of logs, which have been lying on the banks for the past year, will be towed down to Rat Portage. Nearly seventeen million feet of logs are lying on the American side of Rainy river, awaiting transport. Major Camp, of Minneapolis, says he has an interest in 100,000,000 feet of timber which is tributary to the Lake of the Woods, and must eventually find a market at Rat Portage, but does not expect that it will be touched for some time yet.

Clearing a Log Jam of 25 Years Ago.

About 25 years ago a man named Eastbrook was running 1,000,000 feet of logs from the mouth of the Shiawassee river, Michigan, to Saginaw, when the logs stuck in the narrows about seven miles from Chessaning, Mich., and the jam could not be broken. The logs made a dam in the river, and year by year the river formed a new channel until the old channel gradually filled up. A sand bar formed for two miles back of the dam, and there is now a growth of oak and elm trees two feet through on the bar formed by the jam of more than a quarter of a century ago. At every flood the land for several miles in that vicinity is overflowed, and the roads are rendered impassable. Six years ago efforts were commenced to have the construction cleared away, and the contract has recently been let to H. C. Thayer, of Chessaning, for \$4,000.

Reducing Lumber Rates.

The executive committee of the Southwestern Railway Association decided at its last meeting to reduce the rates on lumber from Chicago to western points—Kansas City, St. Joseph, Atchison, Council Bluffs and Leavenworth—from 15 cents to 10 cents per hundred, and Commissioner Midgley ordered the reduction to go into effect on Wednesday, February 6, so that the lower rates are now in force. At the same time, rates from the Mississippi river between St. Louis and Rock Island to the same western points were reduced to a uniform rate of eight cents. This reduction was made on account of complaints of rate cutting on the part of the Burlington, and in order to equalize the rates and give all the roads in the association an equal chance at the business.

Minneapolis Lumber Mills.

The Minneapolis Minn., lumber mills cut 272,792,222 feet of lumber in 1883, as compared with 314,363,168 feet in 1882, a decrease of 41,569,944 feet. The total cut in 1881 was 233,500,074 feet. The number of shingles in 1883 was 90,146,200, against 133,546,000 in 1882, and 89,818,500 in 1881. The decrease in 1883 as compared with 1882 is 47,399,000. The production of lath in 1883 was 60,170,260, against 61,518,380 in 1882, a loss of 1,102,120 and against 49,253,700 in 1881. The figures show a falling off in the receipts of lumber at Minneapolis amounting to 1,545,000 and of 8,143,000 in the shipments. The steady falling off in the shipments during the last four years is the marked feature of the exhibit, however.

The Forestry Exhibition.

The Executive Committee of the coming Forestry Exhibition to be held at Edinburgh have obtained a site in every way suitable for their purpose, in the grounds of one of the large hospitals which form a conspicuous feature in the suburbs of the northern capital of the kingdom. The building itself will be erected in the park in front of Donaldson's hospital, while the outdoor exhibits will be displayed in the grounds immediately adjoining, which belong to the Governors of Heriot's hospital. The tramway line from Edinburgh to the favorite district of Murrayfield runs directly in front of this ground, and there are two railway stations within a short five minutes' walk.—London Times.

Chips.

RAILROAD ties and telegraph poles are in great demand throughout Michigan.

RAILROAD men report that lumber is beginning to move more freely by rail.

DAILY, HEIMBACK & Co. have put a planing mill into their saw mill at Duluth.

WITHIN three years the number of saw mills in Arkansas has increased from 349 to over 1,200.

MR. STRACHAN's planing mill at Pittsburgh, Ont., was obliged to shut down on account of the heavy snowfall.

LARGE quantities of poplar fiber wood are being shipped from Essex county, N. Y., to a mill at Mechanicville.

A portable saw mill has been set up near Bethel, Me., to saw a large tract of timber that was blown down last fall.

MORE woodmen have gone into the woods from Bay City, Mich., within the past few days than during any month since October.

A GENTLEMAN who has a great deal to do with booming logs recently stated that as logs usually laid in still water 1,000,000 feet required four acres.

SHARPLES & Co., lumber merchants at Quebec, who failed last November, have just completed a settlement with their creditors on a basis of 80 cents on the dollar.

A NUMBER of teamsters in the Ontario woods quit work during the recent very heavy snowfalls, the lumbermen refusing to pay for the extra work entailed by the snow.

THE new match factory at Gainesville, Ga., is turning out 300 gross of matches per day; everything from Georgia material except the chemicals, and part of them are Georgia production.

It is estimated that about a million feet of logs, belonging to Snoqualmie, Washington territory, loggers went out to sea in a late freshet. The loss amounts to about six thousand dollars.

JOHN E. PORTER, of Detroit, has sold to Canada parties 72,000 acres of Michigan timber lands, situated in the counties of Otsego, Crawford, Montmorency, Roscommon, Ogemaw, Iosco, Oscoda and Alcona.

IN 1880 there were seven establishments in Maine with an aggregate capital of \$439,000, and employing 2,200 people, engaged in the manufacture of wood pulp. Since that time the business is said to have increased fourfold.

A. BACKUS & Co., at Detroit, Michigan, have completed a warehouse for storing lumber, situated on Fort William street, near Tenth. It is 200 feet in extent on Fort street, and reaches back to the alley, 140 feet. It was 18 feet high, and has two stories in which lumber is stored. Four wide wagon ways extend through the length of the building. Its capacity is 4,000,000 feet of lumber.

A DREDGE is now being built at Lockport, N. Y., to be taken to Winnipeg for the purpose of dredging out Red river between that city and Lake Winnipeg. There are only about 1,000 yards of shallow water to be improved by dredging, and the construction of a dam and lock at St. Andrews, when vessels can pass from Winnipeg into the lake, and open up 350 miles of water route northward.

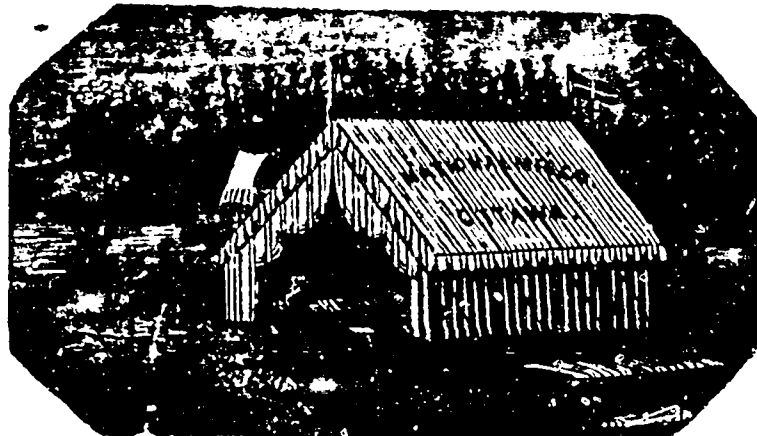
THE Duluth, North Shore & Southern Railroad Company is an enterprise for constructing a railroad from Duluth southwest into Nebraska. It is said to be backed by English capital, as the design is to ultimately build the road from Port Arthur to Duluth, along the Northern Shore of Lake Superior. Such a road would bring a large amount of grain to Duluth, and carry out large quantities of lumber.

MR. THOMAS PRAY, Jr., until recently managing editor of Cotton, Wool and Iron, of Boston, has accepted the same position on the Manufacturers' Gazette which will hereafter be run in the interest of the cotton industry. Mr. Pray left the first named paper to follow the business of consulting mechanical engineer, and while he is an expert in this line, he is also an expert trade journalist, and such being the case, it is better that somebody else should run around the country looking after bally engines.

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