

**MANITOBA LUMBERING.**

The *Emerson International* of Feb. 17, says: R. J. Short, Esq., a prominent and well-known tie and timber contractor, was an agreeable caller at the *International* office to-day, and during his call, gave a reporter information in regard to his lumbering operations on the Lake of the Woods that may not be without interest to the general public.

Mr. Short has a contract for getting out 15,000,000 feet of logs and 150,000 railway ties, the latter for the C. P. R. Co. He gets his supply of timber from his timber limits on the Lake of Woods, and has eight camps. He employs 215 men and about 50 teams. Wages are as follows: choppers, \$30 per month and board; hewers, \$25 per month and board; teams and teamsters, \$2.75 per day and found. Mr. Short was too modest of course to say anything about the excellent board he provides his men, but we know from expressions of Emersonians who have worked in his camps that he provides first-class fare for his men. The rations include fresh fish, fresh and salt beef, fresh and salt pork, tea and coffee, fresh bread, etc. Mr. Short states that that he has about thirty-five men from Emerson at work in his camps, and quite a number of teams from this point. The object of his visit to Emerson this time was to purchase and hire a number of teams. He purchased two fine teams from Mr. Wm. Coutts, and will engage a sufficient number of horses to make up a carload. Mr. Short furnishes free transportation for men and teams to the camps. He has already shipped three carloads of horses from this point.

Mr. Short states that the eastern portion of Manitoba, or the "disputed territory" is far more valuable for its minerals and its timber than most people imagine. As an instance of the supply, Mr. Short relates that from eight acres his men cut 9,100 logs and 27,000 ties. The pine is of the red and white variety. The trees are straight, and frequently 114 feet high, while some four feet in diameter have been cut.

Mr. Short is erecting a large saw mill at Rat Portage, which promises to become the Minneapolis of the Canadian Northwest. He also has very ingenious machinery at Rat Portage, operated by steam, to facilitate the loading of ties on flat cars for shipment. Those members of the Press Excursion party that visited the Lake of the Woods last summer will remember with what interest the party watched the working of the contrivance which loads a car in incredibly short time.

**THE U. S. TARIFF.**

In the debate in Congress on the Lumber Tariff, Mr. Horr of Michigan, said: "Last year the State of Michigan alone manufactured 3,850,000 feet of pine lumber. The product of the forests in Michigan last year, including laths, shingles, staves, etc., amounted to the enormous sum of \$60,000,000. The lumber product of the United States as a whole was worth the sum of \$230,000,000. The value of the mills and lumber plants in Michigan alone is over \$40,000,000; in the entire United States \$180,000,000. The mills in Michigan employ 21,000 men at an average of \$2 per day, and the camps employ 35,000 men at an average of \$1.75 per day. It will thus be seen that in Michigan there is being paid out to laborers in this industry, over \$100,000 per day. Last year Michigan paid on its lumber industries \$17,500,000 for labour alone. The United States paid over \$80,000,000. There were at work in the United States in the lumber mills 90,000 men, and in the lumber camps 130,000 men. The lumber interests of the United States last year bought and consumed \$30,000,000 worth of products of the farm for food for man and beast. Last year Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin produced 7,500,000 feet of lumber. In the northwest were produced last year over 4,000,000,000 shingles. There is left in the United States to-day a large amount of standing pine. On the lower peninsula of Michigan there are 7,000,000,000 feet. There are of standing pine in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin 81,000,000,000 feet; in the Southern States the enormous amount of 230,000,000,000 feet; in Canada there are only about 75,000,000,000 feet of standing pine. That imported each year into this

country is less than 400,000,000 feet, the revenue from which amounts to about \$1,000,000." Mr. Horr said he had given those facts to show the enormous magnitude of this interest. "The question now is why should there be a duty upon this article. The commission recommended keeping the duty on lumber where it is. The stumpage on lumber in Michigan averages about \$4 per thousand. The bulk of lands in Michigan and Wisconsin were granted by the government to different corporations. In Michigan large grants were given to the canal company and four or five railroads running through the peninsular. Very little, if any, of the pine of Michigan now left in the hands of mill men was purchased at Government price. The lands from which the manufacturers get their supplies have to be bought at advance rates. The taxes in Michigan are ten times as large as they are in Canada. Wages are 30 per cent higher. The price of articles is higher in the United States than in Canada. All farm products are higher, horses are higher."

In regard to the question of preserving the forests in Michigan, Mr. Horr said they were compelled to lumber their lands or lose them altogether. "All through that state settlers are building up farms. Railroads have been run in every direction. This causes large fires. When the timber is burned it has to be lumbered within one year or it becomes worthless. A worm or grub attacks the tree as soon as it commences to die. The question is not so much how to preserve the forests as how to preserve the timber when the forests are burned. With the tariff on lumber which protects against the coarse lumber of Canada, they can lumber their lands much more closely than when lumber is low. It was stated that lumber was high, but, asked Mr. Horr, "is it true that a country is most prosperous when the prices of everything is low?" He held the contrary to be true. Mr. Horr said it had been his aim to stand by from the start all the industries of the country. He had tried to rise above the mercantile advantages. They had been living twenty-two years under the present tariff system and no other nation could show such general advancement. No class of men were more prosperous than the tillers of the soil. They find a ready market and a good price for all they can raise, and they fully understand that this state of things exists on account of the enormous industries that have grown up and become prosperous under the present tariff system.

**DISTRICT OF NIPISSING.**

**TOWNSHIP OF FIELD.**

The following is taken from the official report:

ST. MARY'S, ONTARIO.

December 31st, 1881.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that I have completed the survey of the township of Field, under instructions from your department, dated May 18th, 1881, and have to report thereon as follows:

Leaving Toronto on the 15th of June, I proceeded to the township, via Rosseau and Nipissing, crossing Lake Nipissing by the steamer Inter-ocean to Sturgeon Falls. I then proceeded by canoes up Sturgeon River to the northeast angle of the township of Springer, and having obtained on the 21st of June an observation of Polaris on east elongation commenced my survey by running the east boundary of Field on a course astronomically north, making the concessions one mile in depth, from one to six; the lots were laid out forty chains in width along the south boundary by retracing the northern boundary of the township of Springer from one to fourteen inclusive, and I found only twenty-seven chains, twenty-five links left for lot fifteen to the northwest angle of Springer, instead of thirty-seven chains as shown on sketch furnished me. From the post at the northwest angle of the township of Springer, the west boundary was drawn on a course north astronomically as per instructions. In carrying out the survey I ran the line between concession two and three from the east to the west boundary, on a course west astronomically making the lots forty chains in width to lot fifteen returning to side line between lots ten and eleven. I ran north astronomically to the north boundary. The western portion of the survey was

then completed in the manner set forth in instructions, and finally I worked east completing the work at the northeast corner of the township.

The latitude of south boundary I assumed as north 46° 27' 16". The variation of the needle was found to be west 6° 15'. Astronomical observations were taken frequently during the progress of the work, the details of which will be found among returns of survey.

I have to report about one-third of this township fit for settlement. The valley of the Sturgeon River, which traverses this township from southeast to northwest, is clay soil with an occasional vein of sand, which when cleared will make excellent farming land; while a fair portion of township may be described as sandy loam, the best land is along the Sturgeon River and northern or central portion of the township, the other portion being rocky and generally unfit for settlement.

Considerable white pine is scattered over the whole of the township, the southwest quarter is a very valuable limit of timber, the pine being of large growth and good quality, some very good pine was also found in the northwest quarter of the township, and the township generally is covered with a thick growth of white birch, balsam, spruce, cedar, tamarack, etc., here and there a few maples, some very good groves of cedar suitable for telegraph poles, and tamarack timber suitable for railway ties being met with.

As before stated the Sturgeon River traverses this township from northwest to southeast, eventually falling into Lake Nipissing. It is a stream about three chains in width and fifteen feet in depth, very suitable for driving purposes. The Tomiko River is the principal stream coming in from the northeast, and various creeks from other portions of the township—some of them being outlets of lakes—find their way into the Sturgeon River; a few lakes, as shown on my plan of the township, were met with.

The general character of the township is undulating, but not broken, here and there a cliff, but no very high hills are met with. The formation is granite and is but scantily covered with soil in many places, especially in the southwest, northwest, and northeast portions. I did not observe any traces of valuable minerals, and saw no rock but ordinary granite.

Access to this township is at present by Lake Nipissing and the Sturgeon River, but the Canadian Pacific Railway will doubtless afford the means of settlement at an early day.

There being no squatters in the township no Inspection Returns are necessary.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) H. R. McEvoy,  
Provincial Land Surveyor.

**RIGA GOODS.**

The *London Timber Trades Journal* says that a correspondent favors it with the following extract from a letter from Riga:—"The manufacture of wood goods at Riga will during the coming season be conducted on a considerably reduced scale. In the first instance it will be remembered that last winter was highly unsuit-

able for the felling or transporting of timber, in consequence of which circumstances a much smaller quantity of logs reached Riga than usually is the case, which again influenced the price to a degree preventing the millowners from buying anything like their usual stocks.

"But the great check to production will come from the Fire Insurance Companies throwing as they do serious difficulties in the way for the renewal of expired policies of sawn goods.

"It is hardly surprising that the companies should try to resort to extraordinary measures in view of the numerous and highly disastrous fires in timber yards, mills, &c. during the last years in Russia and Finland; but we find this stipulation quite prohibitory to trade, viz.—"that the insured is to take a quarter of the risk himself." The rate of insurance has recently been raised to 3 per cent. on these kinds of goods, and the stockholder has thus actually to pay 4 per cent. on the insured amount, of which 25 per cent. is not recoverable in case of accident.

"It is rumored that a firm of large mill-owners and shippers will give up the timber trade entirely, in order to engage in another branch of business on account of the above mentioned difficulty to insure their goods. Partly for the same reason, and partly from want of logs, two other saw-mills have stopped work, and one mill burnt last year has not been rebuilt. The above three mills turned out and shipped more than 30,000 standards. Thus this quantity will at least be less exported than last year, not counting that the rest of the mills will also have to restrict their production for reasons mentioned above."

**Old Timbers.**

The posts of a railing recently put up in the new office of the Sycamore Powder Company, on Market street, Nashville, are carved out of white oak timber cut about forty-five years ago, at Sycamore Mills, in Cheatham County, Tenn. The timber out of which these posts were made was used by the late Judge Samuel Watson in the construction of a mill-race, and lay immersed in the water over forty-two years, when they were taken out, and after being seasoned, Maj. Eugene Lewis, manager of the Powder Company, had them fashioned into their present shape. The wood is as sound as it was the day it was cut, and has become almost as hard as iron, and turned a very dark, almost black color.—*Southern Lumbermen.*

The *Lumberman's Gazette* of Bay City, Michigan, says:—"That the immense snowfall and other peculiarities of the weather have greatly interfered with logging operations all over the country, is undoubtedly true, and that a great shortage in the anticipated cut will result is also undoubtedly true. It may be said that the elements, by their late unpleasantness have been playing into the hands of the lumbermen, in interfering with the enormous output of logs which had been anticipated. In fact it may be stated with a great deal of truth, that the elements have conspired to prevent the average lumberman from committing business suicide.

**LIVERPOOL STOCKS.**

We take from the *Timber Trades Journal* the following Comparative Table showing Stock of Timber and Deals in Liverpool on Jan. 30th, 1882 and 1883, and also the Consumption for the month of Jan., 1881 and 1882:—

	Stock, Jan. 30th, 1882.	Stock, Jan. 30th, 1883.	Consumption for the month of Jan 1882.	Consumption for the month of Jan 1883.
Quebec Square Pine.....	284,000 ft.	256,000 ft.	02,000 ft.	04,000 ft.
" Waney Board.....	318,000 "	245,000 "	10,000 "	43,000 "
St. John Pine.....	16,000 "	8,000 "	2,000 "	19,000 "
Other Ports Pine.....	35,000 "	47,000 "	—	7,000 "
Red Pine.....	80,000 "	58,000 "	—	—
Pitch Pine, hewn.....	523,000 "	524,000 "	50,000 "	43,000 "
" Saw.....	324,000 "	522,000 "	113,000 "	67,000 "
Planks.....	74,000 "	84,000 "	8,000 "	8,000 "
Dantzic, &c., Fir.....	46,500 "	40,000 "	9,000 "	23,000 "
Sweden and Norway Fir.....	13,000 "	21,000 "	3,000 "	—
Oak, Canadian.....	537,000 "	304,000 "	10,000 "	31,000 "
" Planks.....	78,000 "	105,000 "	33,000 "	17,000 "
" Baltic.....	61,000 "	34,000 "	3,000 "	0,000 "
Elm.....	50,000 "	43,000 "	3,000 "	8,000 "
Ash.....	17,000 "	9,000 "	1,000 "	5,000 "
Birch.....	104,000 "	68,000 "	21,000 "	34,000 "
East India Teak.....	13,000 "	13,000 "	1,000 "	—
Greenheart.....	34,000 "	128,000 "	11,000 "	4,000 "
N. B. & N. S. Spruce Deals.....	16,803 stds.	20,122 stds.	1,000 stds.	4,462 stds.
" Pine.....	934 "	1,500 "	—	—
Quebec Pine & Spruce Deals.....	7,233 "	8,035 "	570 "	447 "
Baltic Deals.....	3,025 "	4,848 "	95 "	164 "
" Boards.....	145 "	361 "	53 "	89 "
" Boards Flooring.....	1,766 "	3,395 "	137 "	544 "