

BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

VANCOUVER, March 28th, 1904.—Conditions in all lines of the lumber industry in this province are at present firm, and there are ample indications that they will remain so. Last year was a disastrous one to loggers, several operators becoming bankrupt, and a large number of camps closing down. This, with the deep snow this winter, has caused a scarcity, and good merchantable logs sell from \$6 to \$7 per thousand. Even yet there are five feet of snow in the woods, and though one or two camps have resumed operations, it will be another month before the stringency is relieved.

Those writing insurance on logs have been heavy losers this winter. It is estimated by Mr. W. H. Higgins, President of the Loggers' Association, that over ten million logs have been lost in the storms which have been so prevalent in the Gulf of Georgia and off the British Columbia coast during past four months. There have been some busy sessions of

the British Columbia Lumber and Shingle Manufacturers' Association during the past week, and for a short time it looked as if there was going to be a cut in prices. A selling pool was talked of for the Association, a step further than the combine in prices which has before obtained, but this has been abandoned because the large firm of E. H. Heaps & Company refused to enter. The members of the Association met morning, noon and night for a week, and Mr. Heaps was interviewed at his house by some mill men prominent in the organization, and at last the announcement was officially made that no pool would be formed, and that everything would proceed as formerly.

Prices for rough lumber range in the neighborhood of \$13, while that for the finished article varies. This figure has been maintained for some time, and will likely remain so. The demand locally is exceptionally brisk, the building in Vancouver being twice as great as last year, which was considered the best since the city started. The supply for the Northwest will be larger than ever and the

manufacturers anticipate a busy season with good prices.

Ontario lumbermen are becoming largely interested in this Province. Mr. W. Irwin, of Peterboro, and Mr. G. McCormick, M.P. for Muskoka and Parry Sound, are large shareholders in the Pacific Coast Lumber Company, of Vancouver, which has the best and most modern plant on the coast, or perhaps in the world, and lately another large deal was put through. This latter was the purchase of the Kamloops saw mill and timber limits. Mr. Peter Ryan, of Toronto, who was interested in the sale of the limits, was out, as were also the others. Mr. G. W. Fowler, M.P. for King's county, N.B., is to act as manager of the company for a short while.

Conditions in the interior of the Province, where the manufacturers are joined into the Mountain Lumbermen's Association, are as good if not better than at the coast. They have the ever increasing market of the Territories at their very doors, and the most is being made of it. A large number of mills are going up, although this winter a few went to the

wall, the cause of starting with too small capital. These were some of the lesser concerns, and were soon absorbed.

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