

# THE CANADA LUMBERMAN

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## BY THE WAY.

A DESPATCH from Saginaw, Mich., to the Detroit Free Press says: "Logs are coming in from Canada, several rafts having arrived. It is estimated that about 170,000,000 feet will come across the lake to Tawas and the Saginaw River this season. The Emery Lumber Co. will bring over 40,000,000 and the Saginaw Lumber & Salt Co. 20,000,000; J. W. Howry & Sons 22,000,000, and Sibley & Beringer 21,000,000 feet." We suppose that on the whole these figures come somewhat near what will show at the end of the season to be the actual facts. Mr. R. H. Roys, of the Saginaw Sash & Lumber Co., has said that his company and the Emery Lumber Co. together will raft 60,000,000 feet across, and this about agrees with one statement given above. In the Michigan letter of the LUMBERMAN last month McKean & Glover, of Bay City, who are interested in Canadian timber, placed the total at 130,000,000. Somewhere from 125,000,000 to 175,000,000 will likely turn out to be the correct export of Canadian logs for the year. It would help to a better understanding of the lumber situation if along with these export figures in logs there could also be furnished an estimate of the trade in sawn lumber between Canada and the States. Those without a knowledge of the whole situation must be expected to express regret that so large a quantity of the product of our forests is removed to a foreign country there to be manufactured by American workmen into lumber. They are not supposed to know possibly that the legislation, which permits of a trade deemed by some an injury to the country, at the same time creates an enlarged market for sawn lumber of a kind and quality hitherto a drug to the Canadian lumberman. The manufacture of the increased quantity of lumber needed to supply this demand has given an impetus to milling that would not otherwise exist. The rule is one that works two ways in this case.

The Ontario Government has recently brought out in pamphlet form, with illustrations, a comprehensive description of the soil, climate, products, agricultural capabilities and timber and mineral resources of the Rainy River district. The work embraces fifty-two pages, and is edited and compiled by Mr. Frank Yeighl, of the Crown Lands Department, who has done his work in creditable manner. The Rainy River territory abounds in valuable timber, embracing pine, poplar, birch, basswood, oak, elm and soft maple, balm of Gilead, spruce, cedar and tamarac. On the banks of the Seine and other rivers flowing into Rainy Lake there is a very-large growth of red and white pine. Seven large sawmills are located at Rat Portage, Norman and Keewatin, having a united capacity of 100,000,000 feet board measure a year. Besides these there are four other sawmills on Rainy River and Rainy Lake. It is estimated that there are two million dollars invested in these eleven mills, their combined annual product reaching four million dollars, and employment is furnished during the season to over two thousand men.

The Quebec Legislature is moving on the lines of the Lumberman's Lien Act of the Ontario Government, passed two sessions ago. Mr. Panneton has introduced a bill which provides that: "Every person engaging himself either by agreement in writing or otherwise to cut and manufacture timber, or to draw it out of the forest, or to float, raft or bring it down rivers and streams, has, for securing his wages or salary, in preference to all other creditors, a first privilege upon all other timber belonging to the person for whom he worked, and if he worked for a contractor, sub-contractor or foreman, upon all the timber belonging to the person in whose service

such contractor, sub-contractor or foreman were." The introduction of the measure provoked a long and lively debate, taking the thoughts of our lower province lawmakers for a time from the troubles of the State to the worries and difficulties that beset some of the lowliest of their people. Similar objections to those urged against the Ontario Bill were raised against Mr. Panneton's proposals. Mr. Cooke contended that it would prove prejudicial to the lumber industry, one of the most important in the province. The rights of the workmen were championed by Mr. Fitzpatrick, who made the point that the lumbermen were the only class of workmen who were not now protected by the law by a lien on the product of their labor. Legislation which may disturb important commercial interests needs to be touched with care, but it cannot be said that the experience in this province has as yet shown any of the ill effects on trade that were anticipated. Quebec will likely adopt the measure.

One of the most extensive lumber and sawmill transfers that has taken place in Canada for many years was completed at Ottawa a week ago. The contracting parties were the executors of the late James Maclaren and the firm of W. C. Edwards & Co. The latter purchased all the property owned by the late James Maclaren, at New Edinburgh, including the sawmill site, the island, the several piling grounds, the right of water power of the Rideau Falls and everything else pertaining to that property, with immediate possession. In addition to this the firm of W. C. Edwards & Co. purchased the whole of the Maclaren timber limits on the Gatineau, Lievre, Du Moines and Temiscamingue, comprising nearly 300 square miles of timber limits. On both the vendors' and the purchaser's sides the price is retained as an inviolable secret. It is understood that Messrs. Edwards & Co. will rebuild and run the New Edinburgh mills, using for this purpose the timber from the newly-acquired limits. The success that had always attended the lumber operations of the late James Maclaren is familiar to every LUMBERMAN reader. W. C. Edwards & Co. are successful lumbermen of Rockland, Que., who will doubtless carry on to yet greater successes the newly-acquired property.

## LUMBER IN THE NEWER PROVINCES.

THE annual report of the Department of the Interior, recently laid before parliament, contains much information of interest concerning the lumber industry in Manitoba, the Northwest and British Columbia. The total revenue from the Winnipeg office on account of timber, mineral and grazing lands amounted to \$34,855, being a decrease of \$3,200 as compared with the previous year. The price of lumber within the Winnipeg agency varies from \$9 to \$19 a thousand, board measure, according to the quality and kind of the lumber. There are twenty-two mills in operation within the agency cutting under government license. The revenue received from the British Columbia crown timber agency during the last year was \$45,994, an increase of \$509. Of the amount collected the sum of \$19,275 has been received for bonuses of berths put up to public competition. The total area acquired was about 205 square miles, averaging a bonus of \$94 a square mile. The total quantity of lumber manufactured for the year amounted to 30,597,439 feet, as compared with 13,546,943 feet for last year, and sold at the rate of \$9 to \$19 a thousand. There are fourteen mills within the agency cutting timber under license from the Dominion Government.

The total amount of dues collected with the Calgary agency during the year amounted to \$11,906, being an increase of \$3,693. The price of lumber at Calgary was from \$12 to \$18, at Cochrane, \$16, at Fort MacLeod,

\$17 to \$40, and at Cypress Hill, \$10. Ten sawmills were operating within this agency last year under government license, and several portable mills under permit. The total amount of dues collected within the Edmonton agency was \$6,567, being an increase of \$1,592, as compared with the previous year. The price of lumber at Edmonton during the year was \$10 to \$20 a thousand feet. The agent reports three sawmills in operation within his agency. The total amount of dues collected within the Prince Albert agency was \$6,124, being a decrease of \$1,237, as compared with the previous year. Lumber sold at Prince Albert from \$20 to \$42 a thousand. There is only one sawmill in this agency cutting timber under license, namely, the one at Prince Albert erected by Moore & MacDowall in 1876. There are, however, several sawmills at Prince Albert and Battlefield cutting timber under permit. Sawmill returns received at the head office give the following quantities of building material as having been manufactured and sold during the year within the five agencies:—

	Manufactured	Sold
Sawn lumber.....	52,530,530	50,749,240
Shingles.....	4,797,000	3,948,216
Lath.....	967,350	1,200,200

Ninety-two licenses to cut timber over a total area of 2,435,66 square miles were issued during this year. The area licensed in the province of Manitoba, the three provincial territorial districts, and on Dominion lands in the province of British Columbia are as follows:—Manitoba, 569 miles, Alberta, 1,435, Assiniboia, 59, Saskatchewan, 197, British Columbia, 172.

## SUBSTITUTES FOR LUMBER.

THERE is not nearly so much talked and written now about the various substitutes—paper, straw, sawdust, bark, etc.—for lumber as there were a few years ago. An enthusiastic inventor of some paper or straw composition once could get the ear of a newspaper reporter, get his ideas dressed up in choice language and embellished by the reporter's active, but untrained, imagination, and the article would go the rounds of the press, sometimes being copied into the trade press, and be accepted by a great many as an invention that would supercede lumber. Only a few years ago the most extravagant claims were made in regard to straw lumber. It could be sawed, planed, or worked any way just as lumber is. As a matter of fact it was manufactured and put on the market and sold. A few floors were laid of it but they proved utterly worthless in a short while. Wetting caused unsightly blisters which soon developed into uneven places and holes. Another genius proposed to make buggies of paper that would be lighter, stronger, cheaper, and in every way superior to those made of wood. But the paper buggy has not materialized yet, and if it ever does it will soon go to join the straw floor.

Many of these wild ideas about paper as a substitute for wood, and even iron, grew out of the success of what is called a paper car wheel, ignoring the fact that there is very little paper used in a paper car wheel, and what there is, acts only in a supplementary manner to support the iron and steel parts and afford a slight degree of elasticity. The so-called paper roofing furnishes only the ground or body for other water-proof materials.

For the uses to which lumber is usually applied no substitute except iron is likely to come into use to an extent to perceptibly affect the lumber trade. Lumber will still be used in increasing quantities and will probably never be lower in price than at present.

Owing to pressure of other matter the usual "Character Sketch" and portrait is omitted from this month's LUMBERMAN.