

**THE FIRE RECORD.**

The shingle and heading factory of Mr. D. Tennant, Hepworth, Ont., was destroyed by fire July 11. Loss, \$2,000.

The saw and shingle mill of Mr. J. S. Levericht, Sturgeon Lake, Ont., was destroyed by fire June 21st. Loss, about \$4,000.

McLellan's saw mill, in the twp. of Burpee, was destroyed by fire, together with a valuable horse, on the night of the 2nd July. The loss is estimated at \$5,000.

A large boat belonging to the Georgian Bay Lumber Co. was burned at Waubashene July 17th. A storehouse belonging to the same company was also consumed.

A warehouse owned by J. C. Schliehauf, at West Lorne, was destroyed by fire on July 8th, together with about 4,000 feet of lumber and the M. C. R. cattle schutes.

Lafrenciere's immense sawmills at Louisville, Que., were burned July 13th. A large number of logs were lost. The damage, it is expected, will reach \$100,000; partly insured.

Bush fires at Carron's siding, Midland railway, burnt the station, 6,000 telegraph poles, a large quantity of cedar posts, several thousand cords of wood and a steam saw mill. Loss \$15,000.

Callaghan Bros' shingle and saw mill at Emily creek, on the south shore of Sturgeon lake, were destroyed by fire recently. A Mr. Leveridge of Port Hope owned the buildings. Loss about \$5,000, with a slight insurance.

Mr. Geo. Thompson's steam sawmill, near Wingham, Ont., was destroyed by fire July 24th, together with about eight hundred cords of hard and soft wood slabs, sawn for firewood. Insurance on mill is said to be \$1,000. Loss about \$3,000.

A fire broke out in the engine house of Heap's cabinet factory at Oshawa on July 6th. Considerable damage was done as a good deal of lumber was being dried in the kiln at the time, but the loss is covered by insurance.

On June 27th the saw mill belonging to Kramer Bros. a few miles from Teeswater, Ont., was completely destroyed by fire. Loss on mill, logs, lumber, lath and shingles, about \$5,000; no insurance. An effort is being made to enable the late owners to rebuild.

A most disastrous fire occurred at Southampton, Ont., the first week of July, through which about four thousand ties, two cars belonging to the Grand Trunk railway, and about one hundred and fifty feet of the south landing piers, the property of the government, were burned.

The town of Gravenhurst had another very narrow escape from being destroyed by fire on July 10th. Sparks from extensive bush fires on the south-west side of the lumber yards of Messrs. Mickle, Dymont & Son, Isaac Cockburn and Thomson & Baker nearly proved disastrous not only to the extensive piles of lumber just mentioned but also to the town. By the prompt response, however, of the firemen no serious damage was done.

A most disastrous fire occurred at Milmay, Ont., July 26th, by which the large roller mill, saw mill and private residence of Messrs. Eidt & Schmidt were totally destroyed. In the roller mill were about two thousand bushels of wheat and a large quantity of lumber was also destroyed. Burning shingle were carried a great distance and were the cause of two or three small fires in the village, which were luckily extinguished before gaining any headway. The loss is estimated at \$20,000; insurance, \$5,000.

A dispatch from Montreal under date of July 6th, says. Terrible forest fires are raging on the line of the Canada & Atlantic Railway, between here and Ottawa. Eighteen miles of track have been destroyed and cars were burned at McCaullay's Landing; also three mills and many houses were destroyed, and many thousand feet of lumber were swept away. The settlers are clearing out. Wade's saw mill, 5,000 cords of wood, five freight cars, five houses, and thousands of cords of tan bark have been destroyed. The country on each side for some days has been utterly impassable.

On July 7th a very disastrous fire raged at Corson's siding on the Midland railway, destroying the station and everything in the vicinity of it. The property destroyed consisted of 4,000 telegraph poles, an immense quantity of cedar posts and ties, several thousand cords of wood, a large quantity of lumber, together with Decatur's steam sawmill and outbuildings; also Capt. Corson's coal house with a considerable quantity of coal. The loss is roughly estimated at \$10,000, and so far as can be learned the property was not insured. The fire was caused by a spark being carried by the wind from bush fires two miles distant.

During the early part of July, Mr. T.B. Tait's saw and shingle mill at Germania, together with the season's cut of lumber—about 500,000 feet, was totally destroyed by fire. It

is supposed to have been caused by sparks from the refuse burner which caught in the mill and spread from it to the lumber yard. The high wind which prevailed at the time rendered it impossible to do anything to check the fire. Very general sympathy is felt for Mr. Tait in his serious loss which will amount to about \$10,000, insurance only \$2,000. This is the second mill on this site that Mr. Tate has lost by fire, besides the boarding house at Germania two years ago, and his residence at Gravenhurst. It is understood that he will not re-build at Germania.

**CASUALTIES.**

Eli Michaux was drowned a few days ago at Eldy's boom in Hull.

A man named Joseph Morceau had his leg badly jambed by one of the log carriers in Booth's mill at Ottawa recently.

A man, whose name we have not learned, had his hand cut off in Day's shingle mill, Manitowaning, at few days ago, and died the following day.

A colored man named Chas. Johnston, engineer at A. Dallas' stove mill, Chatham, Ont., was instantly killed July 19th by being caught in the belting.

While hewing a stick of timber at Rodd's new saw and shingle mill, near Lindsay, Ont., J. P. Miller allowed the axe he was using to slip which cut in the nape severing an artery. He had a narrow call, but is now doing well.

A despatch from Minden, Ont., says that John Massales, a young man working on one of J. M. Irwin's drives, was drowned while breaking a jam in the rapids on Gull River, about four miles from Minden. His body was found about a quarter of a mile from where he fell in. His parents live near Haliburton.

Mr. Darwin Stevens, chief millwright at Hamilton Bro.'s mill, and one of the most respected citizens of Hawkesbury, Ont., was accidentally drowned there on July 23rd. He was walking on a boom at the edge of the Yule and slipped off into the rapids, the strong current sweeping him down quickly beyond help.

On July 20th Master Charles Kerr while attempting to put on a belt on a pulley in Messrs. Bick & Sons planing mill at Cannington, Ont., his right hand caught in the belt and was wound around the shaft till his arm was pulled clear from the body at the shoulder. The unfortunate lad is reported as doing well under his trying ordeal.

On Friday, July 13th, six men employed by the Eau Claire Lumber Co., Calgary, lost their lives in Kamanskis rapids on the Bow river, 45 miles west of Calgary, while driving logs. At that hour nine left the camp in a boat for the opposite shore to commence the day's work. The point at which they attempted to cross, though not considered dangerous, is only a short distance above a chute of some five or six feet. When the boat got within a few feet of the shore the hands attempted to snub her to a stump on land by throwing a line. In this they failed, the boat became unmanagable and swung around in the current, instantly acquiring such a momentum of speed that before anything could be done to stop her she shot over the fall like an arrow. In the leap over the first falls she only shipped a little water and she passed the second fall without shipping any more. Just after passing the third fall, however, she struck a rock and capsized. Three men managed to catch the upturned boat, but the other six were carried down stream and drowned. The three shortly afterwards were rescued.

**ITEMS OF INTEREST.**

A dozen trees planted each year may change the appearance of a farm greatly in a generation, and lead along to income, very satisfactory as well.

An exchange says it takes \$60 each year to provide a farmer with fuel in Dakota. The stumpage question does not bother the authorities out there.

The Dodge Wood Split Pulley Company, of Toronto, of which Mr. Samuel May is president, have purchased a site for their new works at West Toronto Junction, near that city, and will, during the present season, erect extensive buildings thereon.

A Pittsburg mechanical engineer, 52 years old, is said to have invented a novel movable dam, by which he claims a boating stage of water may be obtained in shallow rivers at all seasons of the year, and old river men have pronounced the invention practical.

It is most desirable that encouragement be given to the cultivation of trees, and in order to prove more effective, some other system than that of appointing an arbor day will doubtless have to be resorted to. The granting of prizes in each municipality, for the best ten acres or more of trees, might have a good effect.

Ebony can be imitated on wood by first painting with one

per cent. solution of sulphate of copper. When perfectly dry, the wood is painted over with a liquid consisting of equal weights of aniline hydrochloride and spirits of wine. The blue vitrol acts on the aniline, and forms nigrosin, a black which cannot be affected by acids or alkalies. A luster can be added by coating with simple copal varnish.

Log drivers are important personages at this time of year, and are being talked about by everyone. The Menominee (Mich.) Herald says they have a nomenclature of their own, containing words unintelligible to the uninitiated. We have heard a few, but cannot perhaps give the correct idea of their meaning. "Wing-jam" is said to be a collection of logs on the shore of a stream, while a "center" is a jam of logs on an island. "Breaking a center" is, of course, dislodging logs "hung up" on an island. "Tow head" is reported to be a small island, invisible at high water, but sticking up as the water recedes, just enough to catch logs floating down stream and stop them. A "sweeper" is an uprooted tree which has fallen into the stream, and oftentimes as a log or boat containing the men comes upon such an object unexpectedly the poor fellows are swept off into the flood.

**THE LATE STRIKES.**

Since the part of THE LUMBERMAN containing a report of the strike among lumbermen in the Georgian Bay and Ottawa districts went to press we learn that the difficulties in both places have been amicably settled. The men in the Georgian Bay district, it is stated, have succeeded in making a compromise with their employees which enables them to draw their wages fortnightly instead of monthly as heretofore. They will, however, work eleven hours per day as in the past, not having succeeded in getting the reduction asked for.

The men in the employ of J. R. Booth, of Ottawa who went out on strike for an increase of wages, have returned to work on the old terms on the understanding that if upon examination of the pay sheets of the business it is discovered that the employees of Mr. Booth are receiving less pay for the same work as is paid elsewhere that the deficiency, whatever it may happen to be, will be made up.

**GENERAL NEWS NOTES.**

—The British steamer, Alaska, recently arrived at Boston, Mass., from Chaleur Bay, N. B., had a cargo of 32,000 railway ties, which is said to be the largest cargo of the kind ever taken to Boston and the Alaska is the first steamer to engage in the business.

—A feature of the London (Eng.) Board of Trade timber returns is that affording us an insight into the enhanced value which importers have given for this year's purchases. The chief increase seems to have been on hewn descriptions, which represent intrinsically over £120,000 more value than pro rata they did June twelvemonth. The sawn wood exhibits an increase in cost of over £60,000. These values are estimated from the shipping documents, and therefore are fairly accurate.

The following is a comparative statement of Timber, Masts, Bowsprits, Spars, Staves, etc., measured and culled to July 18th at the Port of Quebec:

	1886.	1887.	1888.
Waney White Pine.....	1,007,646	604,648	586,948
White Pine.....	744,676	456,588	162,902
Red Pine.....	157,364	355,877	170,689
Oak.....	450,015	335,557	557,270
Elm.....	384,175	160,012	109,095
Ash.....	92,159	30,136	68,212
Basswood.....	218	64	.....
Butternut.....	192	55	419
Tamarac.....	3,285	3,047	1,257
Birch and Maple.....	153,742	114,228	124,995
Masts and Bowsprits.....	—pcs.	—pcs.	—pcs.
Spars.....	—pcs.	—pcs.	—pcs.
Std. Staves.....	36.1.3.1	38.3.2.2	18.9.2.27
W. I. Staves.....	8.1.2.17	65.9.1.26	168.8.2.5
Brl. Staves.....	.....	13.5.3.3	11.4.3.5

**Hardening Wood.**

"The recently invented process," says Iron, "by which wood is made to take on some of the special characteristics of metal, has been turned to practical account in Germany. By this process the surface becomes so hard and smooth as to be susceptible of the high polish, and may be treated with a burnisher of either glass or porcelain: the appearance of the wood being then in every respect that of polished metal, having, in fact, the semblance of a polished mirror, but with this peculiar and advantageous difference namely, that, unlike metal, it is unaffected by moisture. To reach this result the wood is steeped in a bath of caustic alkali for two or three days together, according to its degree of permeability, at a temperature of between 165 and 197 degrees Fahrenheit. It is then placed in a second bath of hydrosulphate of calcium, to which a concentrated solution of sulphur is added after some twenty-four or thirty-six hours. The third bath is one of acetate of lead, at a temperature of from 95 to 120 degrees Fahrenheit, and in this latter the wood is allowed to remain from thirty to fifty hours. After being subjected to a thorough drying, it is in a condition for being polished with lead, tin or zinc, as may be desired, finishing the process with a burnisher, when the wood apparently becomes a piece of shining polished metal.