Stocks are slowly multiplying, but it is an assured fact that sufficient will go forward during November to cover at least what will be manufactured between now and the time for closing down. In that case, taking into consideration the sales which are certain to be made during the winter months to go forward by the winter port steamers, the 1st of March will in all probability find the local wharvesentirely cleaned up so far as English deals are concerned.

The improvement in conditions in the English market has taken place so late in the year that it will probably have little effect on manufacturers' prices or on the volume of shipments during the balance of 1904, but it is confidently expected that when the time comes to resume operations, conditions will be much more fax-

BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN)

VANCOUVER, B.C., October 24th, 1904. -It does not require any person particularly gifted with the powers of observation to see that the lumber industry of British Columbia, from the eastern boundary of the Kootenay to the Pacific Coast, is in a very depressed condition, yet Mr. Robert Kerr, passenger traffic manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway, who has just returned to the east after a trip to the west, has declared that it is flourishing. In Winnipeg, Montreal and other papers

have appeared interviews with him, and all state that the hunber industry was never better. British Columbia lumber men do not know what particular reason Mr. Kerr may have for thus misrepresent ing conditions, for if he kept his eyes shut altogether while in the west he would have heard sufficient to make him aware that the lumber industry is in bad shat In fact, some disasters may result. If so, he will no doubt affect considerable surprise. The industry could very easily be put in a flourishing condition, for at the present time about 12,000,000 feet of lumber per month comes in from Washington state. The argument has been advanced that if a duty vereput on the price of lunber would be increased, but, if so, the government has the remedy in its own hands, and may repeal the duty. On the other hand, the millmen claim the price will be reduced, for with a greater volume of business lesser process would be satis

factory.
Fernie is to have another large mill, which will be erected by those already interested in the Elk Lumber and Manufacturing Company, which has one targe mill there now. O. A. Robeitson, of St. Paul, F. B. Lynch and O. L. Boynter, of the same city, and G. F. Ditbinner, of Minneapolis, are at Fernie this week looking after the commencement of the construction. They state the machinery will be the finest obtainable, and the capacity will be 100,000 feet in ten hours, with a cost of at least \$75,000. These people are reported to have exceedingly large capital behind them, and the enterprises in which they have engaged in the west lead to the belief that this is correct.

Besides the Elk Lumber and Manufac turing Company, which is a large con-cern, they have established a very midern mill on Red Deer Lake, in the Saskatche-wan district, establishing the town of

Local conditions are unchanged. I um ber in still chapter than usual, remaining almost at the figure to which it was brought by the rate war, and it is expected that it will be low all winter Many who had building operations in prospect are taking advantage of the opportunity, which means considerable in the construction of a dwelling. Lumbermen and mill owners at Edmon-

ton and Strathcona, have arranged a new scale of prices which is much below that

which has hitherto prevailed.

The Canadian Timber & Sawmils, Limited, whose property at Trout Lake has been in possession of the sheriff, has been reorganized, with three directors in Revelstoke and two in London. W. Cowan, of Revelstoke, who is heavily

ment for timber, is the new manager.

G. B. Campbell, of Glencoe, Ont., J. McGregor, Enderby, B.C., P. D. McKellar and H. Healey, of Bellingham, Wash, are cruising about the headwaters of the Tulameen river, in the Similkameen district, looking for timber suitable for ties.

TIMBER SALE.

The State of Minnesota had a timber sale in St. Paul October 21. The sale was successful as far as it went, but only 28 racts out of 114 offered for sale were tak. On the other tracts the lumbermen declared that the appraised price was too high and declined to bid. The timber wold was nearly all good pine. In all about 40,000,000 feet were sold, at prices

ranging from \$1.50 to \$6 per thousand. but for the most part ranging from \$7 to

The Cloquet Lumber Company was the The Cloquet Lumber. Company was the heaviest buyer and took 8,500,000 feet in one block at a bid of \$8.50 a thousand. The highest price paid, \$9 a thousand, was by the Shevini-Carpenter Lumber. Company, of Minneapolis, who are also operating in the Lake-of the Woods district in Ontario.

L. Dean Holden, Pres. J. M. Diver, Gen'l.-Mgr. A.F. Holden, Vice-Pres. R.C. Barre, Am't Mgr-

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