

MUSKOKA.

Our correspondent, writing from Gravenhurst, the lumber capital of Muskoka, sends the following items:—

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

MAY 21.—To-day, the anniversary of the birth of our Most Gracious Sovereign, the Queen, is being loyally celebrated by the people of Gravenhurst. The saw mills are not all shut down, although several of the working men are absent on leave for the day—some of them on a grand excursion up the Muskoka Lakes on the steamer *Nipissing*, and others south by the Northern Railway to see the great lacrosse match and games there.

THE MUSKOKA SLIDE, DAM, AND BOOM CO. who have charge of the driving of logs, square timber, and shingle bolts this season, are getting ahead with the work remarkably well, notwithstanding the low water. The company was incorporated last winter for the purpose of acquiring, constructing and maintaining dams, slides, piers, booms, and all the other works necessary to facilitate the transmission of timber down rivers and streams in the district of Muskoka, and Parry Sound, and Nipissing, and in the County of Peterborough; and for the purpose of blasting rocks and otherwise improving the navigation of such rivers and streams, and to operate the same for TEN years.

\$50,000 CAPITAL STOCK.

The capital stock of the company, \$50,000, is taken up by H. H. Cook, Richard Power, J. M. Dollar, G. W. Taylor, A. P. Cockburn, A. McKenzie, Chas. Mickle, Robt. Dollar, and Isaac Cockburn. The rates charged on saw logs per 1,000 feet, board measure, including sorting at the mouth of Muskoka River and at Georgian Bay are, from Muskoka to Georgian Bay, fifty cents; to Gravenhurst, thirty cents. From Port Sydney to Georgian Bay, sixty cents; to Gravenhurst, thirty five cents. From Lake Vernon to Georgian Bay, fifty-five cents; to Gravenhurst, forty cents, and so on from other points, making a difference of from fifteen to twenty five cents in the cost of delivery per 1,000 feet, between Gravenhurst and Georgian Bay.

MOVE TO GEORGIAN BAY.

In view of the greater facilities for shipping, several of the mill owners around Gravenhurst are seriously contemplating removing their mills to the shore of the Georgian Bay. They think they could soon save as much in freight as would pay for the cost of removal. Complaints, loud and deep, are heard all around in reference to the exactions of the Northern Railway in rigidly adhering to the rule of 6,000 feet of green lumber and 7,500 feet of dry lumber for a car load. They complain of the great want of shipping accommodation and the present monopoly.

OUTLET BY KIRKFIELD.

There is a strong hope that a third rail will be laid on the Toronto and Nipissing Railway as far north as Kirkfield this summer, and that the road from that point will be extended to Gravenhurst forthwith, there to connect with the Ontario and Sault Ste. Marie Railway, about to be constructed. This would give a direct route from the North-West, either to Toronto or Port Hope; and to Peterborough and Belleville as well, when the "missing link" at Ononice is supplied. Should this very probable railway extension be carried out, there will be no necessity for Gravenhurst mill owners to pull up stakes for the Georgian Bay.

MUSKOKA AND NIPISSING NAVIGATION CO.

This season the Muskoka and Nipissing Navigation Co., of which A. P. Cockburn, Esq., M. P., is manager, expect to tow about eighty million feet of logs, square timber, and shingle bolts, equal to about twenty million feet. A large proportion of the stock comes to Gravenhurst, which shows the importance of this place as a lumbering centre.

SHIPBUILDING AND LAUNCHES.

Yesterday Mr. Cockburn launched the harbor tug *Lake Joseph*, a trim craft of about 20 horse power, fitted with upper cabin for passenger traffic. On the 7th of this month the same company launched the *Muskoka*, a powerful tug of 100 horse power. The engines are made by Mr. Doty, of Toronto, and work like a charm. A local paper says:—"The *Muskoka* is built in the most substantial manner, of the best white oak, and, it is thought, will be good for twenty years' actual service. Her proportions are: length over

all, 84 ft.; 18 ft. beam, with 7 feet hold. She has two powerful engines, 12x14 each, attached to two large screws, so it will be seen that her propelling power is immense. Her boiler weighs 11 tons, and is built to carry 100 pounds of steam constantly. She has nicely appointed cabins, both on deck and below, and is provided with all the latest improvements in the way of machinery, pumps, hose, etc." The new steamer *Inter-Ocean* was launched on Lake Nipissing last week, and is expected to be making regular trips early in June. So it is that this new country of ours is opening up, especially under the auspices of the lumbermen and their requirements.

WEST GRAVENHURST.

At West Gravenhurst, which is built on an arm of the bay enclosed by "The Narrows," several saw mills are built. The Woodstock Lumber Co. are adding to their former lumber, lath and shingle mill, a gang of saws, which commenced work to-day, the first in Muskoka. The gang is "the improved oscillating," and is expected to do excellent work. This company will cut six million feet this season. The bulk of their logs have reached Port Carling. The mill has capacity of 45,000 feet of lumber daily, 40,000 shingles, with proportions of lath, and 32 men are employed.

ANOTHER GANG.

Mr. W. G. Taylor is putting in a gang of saws in his mill, and is making considerable additions and improvements to overtake the summer's work. He has a large quantity of last season's stock on hand, not shipped, and will soon be crowded for piling room if it is not removed.

SHINGLE MILLS.

Mr. Bartholomew is leading the local business. His stock is in logs and bolts. Mr. Archie Brydon has a shingle mill near Mr. Taylor's saw mill. He is to try a new plan of cutting shingles with "the Excelsior Knife," (Goldie's patent) and will cut about six million. It is not certain yet how this will work. Mr. Brydon is manufacturing for Messrs. Thompson & Baker, of Hamilton, who supply the raw material. Mr. Hull is rigging up the mill lately occupied as a shingle mill by Thompson & Baker near the old steamboat wharf. He will cut lumber and shingles, and has another mill near Lethbridge, about four miles from Gravenhurst. Between the two mills he will cut about 5½ million feet of lumber this season.

WILLIAM TAIT'S MILL.

Mr. Wm. Tait, whose mill was burned down recently, has it rebuilt and nearly ready to commence sawing. He speaks highly of the promptitude shown by Mr. Hamilton, of Peterborough, and Mr. R. Branner, of Orillia, in supplying machinery ordered according to agreement, but has been greatly delayed with other foundry men who have not come up to time with their work. Mr. Tate has a stock to cut of five million feet.

ALMOST A CONFLAGRATION.

Mr. Chas. Meikle had a narrow escape of the destruction of his mill by fire yesterday. It originated near the boiler, but was promptly extinguished by the men and neighbors without much damage being done to the building. Mr. Meikle will cut five million feet this season. He has made various important changes in his mill this spring, viz.: Slab cutter, carriers, new friction feed works, etc. The season's cut will be about 4½ million feet. The logs were taken out from seven townships.

AT MUSKOKA WHARF.

Mr. Thos. Boom's gang of men are engaged in putting Burton Bros. square timber in shipping order, previous to being sent by rail to be rafted in Toronto and thence to Quebec. The men stand in the water and saw off the ends with cross-cut saws. The fragments of bark on waney sticks are carefully stripped of with draw-knives. Burton Bros. will have about 100,000 feet at this wharf when it all arrives—only about 25,000 feet have reached so far.

TASKER'S MILL.

This is an excellent country mill about five miles from Gravenhurst. Mr. Tasker will cut about three million feet this season. He has nearly a million of old stock on hand not drawn, but purchased by Christie, Kerr & Co., Toronto.

THE BRITISH LUMBER CO.

This extensive company have taken out about

22 million feet of logs in Muskoka this season, and have got them all in the stream, except a small quantity in Brunel.

IN LOW WATER.

The section of country north of Huntsville traversed by Little East River seems to be the driest in this northern region. The Georgian Bay Co. has one million feet on this river which will not likely be got out this season. Mr. H. Power and the Muskoka Lumber Co. have also about one million feet on this same river which will probably not be floated, and it is said that Messrs. Cook Bros. have abandoned 350 pieces of square timber on Fisher's Creek, north of Huntsville, and unless heavy rains come on they will also have to hang up one million feet of logs.

THE MIDLAND MILLS.

J. M. Dollar has on the way 150,000 feet of square timber and 4,000,000 feet of logs, all afloat. He has 2,000,000 feet left over from last season.

COCKBURN'S MILL.

Mr. Isaac Cockburn is running this mill again. The cut this forenoon was 16,000 feet.

ST. JOHN, N.B.

From Our Own Correspondent.

STREAM DRIVING.—Up to a recent date, much uneasiness was felt with reference to the prospect of bringing the logs out of the streams for want of sufficient water, owing to the protracted cold and dry weather, but during the last two weeks we have had a liberal rain fall, and the stream driving, in consequence, is reported from all quarters as being very good. The prospect now is that the bulk of the logs in the streams will be got to market in good season.

SHIPPING.—A large supply of tonnage is now in port, and, as is frequently the case in such circumstances, shippers are much annoyed and inconvenienced by the "strikes" among the laborers. The wages of ship-laborers have advanced to \$2.50 per day, and it is said they intend demanding \$3.00 after the present week. The following is a list of the ships in port, with their tonnage and destination:—

Belle O'Brien, 1,902, Liverpool.
Lady Dufferin, 989, Penarth Roads.
British Queen, 1,105, United Kingdom.
Harold, 189, East Coast of Ireland.
Minulo Burrell, 1,440, Liverpool.
Coronet, 869, Liverpool or Bristol Channel.
Herbert Beech, 1,061, Belfast.
Arcadia, 728, Liverpool.
Prince Oscar, 662, Great Britain or Continent.
Ailsa, 454, East Coast of Ireland.
Annie Burrell, 897, Dublin.
Anna P. Odell, 350, Dundalk.
Grace E. Cann, 688, Belfast.
Belstane, 1,071, Liverpool or Bristol Channel.
Riverside, 1,234, Liverpool.
St. Julien, 1,049, Belfast or W. C. England.
Vestollinden, 459, E. C. Ireland.
Hafosjord, 495, E. C. I. or B. Channel.
Prodromo, 477, Cork Quay.
Austria, 1,000, Liverpool or Bristol Channel.
E. Sutton, 545, Penarth Roads.
Equator, 1,272, Liverpool or B. Channel.
Johlington, S.S., 1,200, Liverpool or B. Channel.
Kate F. Troop, 1,100, Belfast or W. C. England.
Lizzie Burrell, 1,185, Liverpool.
David Anderson, 256 Jersey.
Maud Scammell, 597, E. C. Ireland.
Theobald, 981, Liverpool.
Deansfield, 1,072, Liverpool.
Sarah B. Cunn, 707, Bordeaux.
Berlin, 757, United Kingdom.
Whitburn, S.S., 810, Liverpool or B. Channel.

FRIGHTS.—There has been very little done in chartering since the date of our last report. Two steamers were taken for Liverpool at 55%.
SHIPMENTS.—The shipments of deals and other sawn lumber have been as follows:—
For Europe.....7,549,000 Sup. ft.
" United States.....2,121,000 "
" West Indies.....404,000 "
St. John, N.B., May 21st, 1881.

THE DRIVES SAFE.—The news from up the Ottawa indicates that all difficulties said to be in the way of this season's drive are at an end, and that the logs in all streams will come down without serious trouble. Even in localities where the outlook was the worst, the opinion now is that there will be abundance of water even if there should be no more rain for a time. The water in the Ottawa has been steadily rising for some days, and is now considerably higher than was expected a week ago.

MIDLAND.

From Our Own Correspondent.

The British Canadian Lumber and Timber Company's mill has been running for over three weeks and is doing good work, cutting about 130 M. in the twenty-four hours. They also have a mill at Old Fort, with a capacity of about 25 M. per day. With the two they expect to cut over twenty millions this season. Their tug has been busy towing since the opening of navigation, and is expected in to-night with a tow of 100 M. cubic feet of board pine from Shawinaga River, to be shipped over the Midland to Port Hope for Quebec, the property of J. M. Dollar, the first timber shipped from here this season. The Chew Bros. have moved and rebuilt their mill and have added much to its capacity. They had steam up yesterday and will start to cut to-morrow. They will cut out five million feet. Mr. William Chow was badly hurt the other day by falling with a scaffold from the mill. Chew & Weeks are also running their shingle mill. J. M. Dollar's mill has been running about two weeks, and is now running night and day, cutting 65 M. per twenty-four hours. He will cut out over six million feet. They all have plenty of logs on hand to keep the mills running until the drives come in. The weather has been very warm and dry here.

Midland, May 26th, 1881.

FORESTRY.

The Montreal Star publishes the following letter:

SIR,—The State of New York allows a certain sum of money to the owners of property who plant trees, in front of such property, on the public highway. This is something that the law makers of this Province or of the Dominion might condescend to consider. We all cry out that our forests are being denuded of timber, but our legislators look calmly on. In Ontario it is said that in the older settled counties there is only one acre of timber to every hundred that has been cleared, and how we stand in Quebec I do not know. In any case it is time to seriously consider the situation, for the best authorities in the country tell us that in a few years timber will be as valuable and as scarce here as it is in some countries in Europe. I have some experience in planting walnut, chestnut and sweet hickory, and in all cases they have yielded a profitable return. Apart from the shades and home like appearance of trees on a farm, we must not forget the important meteorological effect trees have upon the atmosphere. I can not give you a better illustration of this than what I have read lately about the town of Valencia in South America. The town is situated a mile and a-half from a lake. Years ago this lake was surrounded by a dense forest. The people cut down the forest, and the waters of the lake receded four miles and a-half in thirty years. This was because of less rain-fall in consequence of the loss of the trees. The people seeing this, planted new trees, and in twenty-two years the lake had assumed its original dimensions. And this was all owing to the fact of the loss trees the less rain, and vice versa. Now, as rain is just as necessary as sunshine to produce a good crop, it becomes a serious matter for the farmer to guard the forests and thus protect himself by securing a better chance of rainfall than could be the case if the land was bare of timber.

Encouraging Guarantee.

THE CANADA LUMBERMAN, a semi-monthly publication started recently by Mr. A. Rees, has passed into the hands of Toker & Co., of Peterborough, publishers of the Review. We have received their first number, a neatly printed paper of sixteen pages. The important interest to which it purposes to give special attention will find this publication well worthy of hearty support, and from the ability and experience of its publishers a valuable and interesting journal may be looked for. We wish them abundant success in their enterprise.—*Lindsay Post*.

MR. H. H. SMITH has made a contract with the owners of the prop. *Arox* and her consorts for the carrying of 8,000,000 feet of lumber from Lake Superior to Buffalo at \$3.15 per thousand delivered on the rail.