

OTTAWA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

EVERYTHING connected with lumber has been exceedingly slow throughout January. The belief is that trade will open out encouragingly shortly, but there has been little for the lumber news gatherer to secure, so far, this month.

The St. Anthony Lumber Co. are pushing ahead with work on their new steam saw mill at Long Lake on the Ottawa, Arnprior and Parry Sound Railway. The machinery is now being put in position, and the mill will be ready to start operations in the early spring.

No information has yet been given out regarding the burning of sawdust and mill refuse. Lumbermen are anxious about the matter, as the change in the law, if insisted upon, for May 1st, will give rise to serious trouble with many of the mills.

OTTAWA, Can., Jan. 23, 1895.

NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

IN certain sections of New Brunswick in particular lumbermen are anxious of the outcome of the sawdust difficulty. If, despite the protests that have gone up from the trade, the law is brought into force in May, it may be resented in practical shape by lumbermen on the St. Croix River, between New Brunswick and Maine. They say that it would force the transferring of sawing operations from the Canadian side to the American side where most of these same men have mills. The loss in this case would come directly upon the province itself. It appears almost certain that whatever may be the merits of the law on general principles that it will have to be amended to provide for exceptional cases like this now cited.

Knight Bros., and the Musquash Lumber Co., will get out 2,500,000 feet and 1,000,000 feet respectively.

Alex. Gibson will cut about 25,000,000 feet on the Nashwaak this winter, and the cut on the Tobique will be 20,000,000. In Queen's and St. John's counties the cut is expected to be quite heavy.

At Markhamville, King's County, a portable steam mill has been erected by John Lynch, who will cut in the vicinity probably 700,000 feet of lumber. Robt. Mill will put in about 400,000 feet in the same section.

Weather conditions, on the whole, are favorable to logging, though complaint is made of the heavy crust in the woods in some sections consequent upon heavy rains. A considerable quantity of snow has fallen at most all points.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Jan. 22, 1895.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

WITH the expectation that business will revive in the near future many of the mills have been undergoing repairs. Though not what might be wished for enquiries from foreign ports are improving, and it is expected that a more profitable trade will be done this year than in 1894. A fair trade continues to be done with California since the change in duty, and there is no reason why B. C. lumbermen should not ship with profit to that country.

The band mill is likely to be introduced into one or more of our mills the coming spring and the experiment will be watched with interest by lumbermen.

H. H. Spicer & Co., expect to do a profitable trade this spring throughout the New England States. Mr. Spicer has lately been on a visit to these states and formed, it is believed, some useful business connections.

Leamy & Kyle and George Cassidy & Co., operating mills on False Creek, Vancouver, have formed a business combination under the name of George Cassidy & Co., Ltd. In addition to the plants owned by the concern they have also about 10,000 acres of timber limits. The capital of the new company is placed at \$40,000.

The shingle situation does not improve. What the spring will bring forth it is hard to say. Mr. J. G. Scott, of the Pacific Coast Lumber Co., has recently expressed the view that there is no man in the trade in the province that is not of the opinion that a 16-in. six to two shingles made properly should bring at least \$1.50 net at the mills.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C., Jan. 18, 1895.

MICHIGAN LETTER.

[Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.]

REPORTS from different parts of the state would indicate that loggers are in good heart, as recent heavy falls of snow have helped matters materially in the woods. It looks now as though there would be a good cut, and that everything would come along in fine shape in a short time.

No large amount of business has been done in this district during January. The proverbial dullness of the first month of the year has hung around here in all its completeness. A good feeling, however, exists and though the lumber business in Michigan is not what it used to be in the past, it is by no means at an end yet, and the amount of lumber likely to be handled during the

year 1895 will run into large figures. Bay City is the point that, more than any other, seems to be the active distributing center for lumber, and is a favorite point for buyers to visit.

BITS OF LUMBER.

The new Hardwood Lumber Co., at South Bay City, is likely to be an important industry for that locality.

The firm of Ring, Merrill & Tillotson, of Saginaw, has been dissolved and the company has gone out of business.

It is predicted at Saginaw that the business of Tittabawassee Boom Co. will be of insignificant proportions in 1895.

Geo. W. Hotchkiss, of Chicago, is gathering material in Michigan for a history of the lumber business of that state.

Six inches of snow fell at Menominee a few days ago and large numbers of woodsmen, who had left the logging woods, have started back.

The Central Lumber Co. has selected the following officers for the new year: A. T. Bliss, president; John Quinn, vice-president; A. J. Linton, treasurer, and A. F. Cook, secretary. The company expects to put in from 12,000,000 to 15,000,000 feet of logs.

Wm. Peter, of Bay City, who is well known as an active saw mill man in Canada, will test the question whether salt can be produced with a profit with coal as a fuel. What the influences are that have suggested this possible change to Mr. Peter I do not know, but on the face of it it would look as though wood was becoming scarce in this great pine state when coal is to take its place in salt manufacturing.

SAGINAW, MICH., Jan. 25, 1895.

WHAT SHALL IT BE CALLED.

WHEN timber is so placed on the carriage that it is cut across the annular layers of growth, thus making the edges of these grains, rather than the surface of them, show on the surface of the board, the lumber thus produced is variously called quarter-sawed, rift-sawed, vertical-grained, straight-grained and edge-grained. What is the use of this diverse nomenclature, asks the Timberman, and why would it not be good sense and good policy to settle down to some term that is as accurately descriptive as may be, and abandon the rest of them? We presume that a great many of our readers would cast their vote in favor of the term "quarter-sawed," for it has the warrant of long use and is derived from the method by which such lumber was originally produced.

Quarter-sawed lumber was made by cutting a log into four right-angled segments, longitudinally, thus making quarters of it; then placing the round side of each quarter down on the carriage and cutting the pieces up into lumber.

Theoretically but one, or possibly two, pieces from each quarter would be exactly quarter-sawed, yet for all practical purposes the larger part of the product will pass as quarter-sawed lumber: that is, the grain will be substantially perpendicular to the surface of the board.

By another method the board is cut into eight longitudinal sections. This is a more perfect way of accomplishing the desired result, but no one has as yet thought of adopting the expression "octagonal-sawed" lumber. The same result is obtained oftentimes by taking off cants each side of the heart and sawing them up into strips or boards perpendicular to the first line of cutting. In yellow pine much of the quarter-sawed stock (or whatever it may be called) is not cut with reference thereto at all, but the ordinary method of four-sided manufacture is used. In the vast majority of cases, therefore, the term "quarter-sawed" does not express the method used.

The term "rift-sawed" is also largely meaningless. The three other terms are used particularly in yellow pine manufacture, though expressing the same idea as to the character of the product.

"Vertical-grained" flooring is a term which appears in many price-lists, particularly in the eastern part of the yellow pine field, but not one per cent of the flooring is what may be strictly called "vertical-grained," for the line of the grain runs at all angles to the surface of the board from ninety to forty-five degrees; in fact, it has been necessary to make a definition which says in regard to quarter-sawed, rift-sawed, vertical-edge or straight-grained flooring, that the angle of the grain with the face of the board shall not be less than forty-five degrees.

The term "vertical," therefore, does not apply to it. The term "straight-grained" refers to the appearance of the surface of the board in which the lines of the grain appear approximately straight on the surface in contra-

distinction to the appearance of the pieces that are bastard or flat-sawed, where curved and returning lines abound.

The term "edge-grained" remains apparently the most accurate and descriptive of any. It does not refer to any particular manipulation of the timber in manufacture; it does not by implication limit the angle of the grain to ninety degrees; it does not, also by implication, require that the timber should necessarily be of absolutely straight growth and that the lines of the grain should run parallel to the piece; it simply means that the edge of the grain shall show on the surface of the board. This, with the customary limitations as to the angle of the grain seems to be all that is required in a universally applicable term.

We fancy that the hardwood branch of trade, particularly in regard to oak, would insist on the term "quarter-sawed," and yet quarter-sawed oak is not quarter-sawed in a majority of cases, and, moreover, when you have said quarter-sawed, you have still left it necessary to say "figured stock," because it is only in a comparatively few pieces that the surface runs directly at right angles to the annular rings of the tree.

We do not put forward this term "edge-grained" in any decisive way, but simply as the opinion of some well-posted lumbermen, who think that the customs of the trade in this respect should be unified, and who believe that this term best expresses what is intended by the various ones now in use.

DEATH OF TWO CANADIAN LUMBERMEN.

HON. DAVID McLELLAN, NEW BRUNSWICK.

During the month of January death claimed the Hon. David McLellan, formerly provincial secretary of New Brunswick. Mr. McLellan was born in the city of Portland on January 20th, 1839 and was therefore in his 56th year. His early undertakings in business were as a surveyor and dealer in lumber and afterwards he entered into partnership with the Hon. J. Holly. This firm carried on an extensive lumber business for years handling over 60,000 superficial feet of logs annually. In 1878 Mr. McLellan was elected to the provincial legislature. He was elected again in 1882 and in 1883 he became a member of the Executive Council and was appointed provincial secretary. At the general election in 1892 deceased was again returned. After the last general election he retired from politics and at the death of Mr. Drury accepted the position of registrar of deeds and wills.

MR. A. R. CHRISTIE, TORONTO.

Some years ago few men were better known in the lumber trade in Ontario than Mr. Alexander R. Christie, who died suddenly of heart disease at his residence, Toronto, a fortnight ago, aged 79 years. Mr. Christie was born in Perth, Scotland, in 1816 and in 1831 came to Montreal, where he engaged in the grocery business, under his uncle, Mr. Wm. Christie. In 1839 he came to Niagara-on-the-Lake and a little later purchased a large saw mill at the mouth of the Severn river. His partner in this enterprise was Mr. Andrew Heron. The mill was twice burned to the ground entailing heavy losses.

The mill later was rebuilt and enlarged, and in 1872 the property was sold to the Georgian Bay Lumber Co. The deceased about this time took up his residence in Toronto, and obtained a partnership in the firm of S. C. Kennedy & Co., lumbermen. Later a new partnership was formed under the name of Christie, Kerr & Co. This firm carried on an extensive lumber business, owning mills at Collingwood, Severn Bridge, Bradford and Michaels Bay. Their annual turnover in lumber amounted to over 50,000,000. Mr. Christie was also, for many years, president of the Michaels Bay Lumber Co. Some years ago the firm met with reverses and went out of business. Since then Mr. Christie has devoted his attention largely to marine matters, having the management of the steam barges, Africa and Severn, which he owned. Prominent among those who attended the funeral were many well-known lumbermen, including John Bertram, James Tennant, W. F. Tennant, W. N. Tennant, and H. Lovering, of Coldwater.

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