

SAGINAW MEN IN ONTARIO.

The *Lumberman's Gazette*, of Bay City, Mich., in an article on the recent sale at Toronto of timber limits in the Muskoka and Parry Sound districts, says:—"A significant feature of this sale was the presence of Saginaw lumbermen. There has been an active demand for pine lands in Michigan during the last season, and some large transactions have been reported, in fact, about all the available pine in the state have been picked up by syndicates and capitalists, while prices have largely appreciated. The fact that Saginaw river lumbermen are going into Canada after lumber, however, is something of an innovation, and can be accounted for on the theory that pine timber on this side is getting scarce and that the future of prices warrants investment in Canada lands. Possibly some of the lumbermen are also looking ahead at the bare probability that the discussion of free trade may result in the lifting of the duty on lumber. The Saginaw parties who purchased berths at this sale were Mayor Hill, C. W. Wells, A. T. and L. W. Bliss. Their purchase included about 88 square miles, and it is heavily timbered."

CHICAGO DOING.

We make the following extracts from the *Tribune's* exhaustive review of the year's trade:—"The third interest in Chicago's great commercial trinity, the lumber trade, has made wonderful progress during the year just closed. True to its reputation of former years, it has continued to spread until very few portions of the country west of the Alleghenies where railroad communication is had with Chicago can be found where the products of the Michigan forests are not in greater or less measure utilized for the manifold purposes to which lumber is applied. The old trade barrier which has in the shape of an imaginary line divided the working field of the Chicago lumber merchants from that claimed by the lumbermen of the Mississippi Valley has been swept away during the active season of 1881, and thousands of car loads of pine lumber billed by Chicago merchants have invaded the Upper Mississippi country. This strong trade wind has made itself felt strongest, perhaps, in the South and Southwest. All through the season builders and railroad contractors in Missouri, Kansas, Texas, New Mexico, and even Mexico have chucked their extra baggage through to Chicago when they have started out for lumber, coming through St. Louis as if unconscious that that burg was the headquarters of the Upper Mississippi lumber trade, and on landing here finding what they wanted without the least trouble, seen one of the greatest feats of commercial enterprise, as shown by Chicago's resurrection from the ashes, and gone home completely satisfied."

Chicago lumber during the year just closed has traversed the entire breadth of the country from Maine to Oregon, several consignments having been made to the former region, where the pine supply is becoming exhausted and the spruce is not available for the needed purposes, and to the latter where, although the coniferous pine is abundant, there is little of the finer sort, and no facilities at present for utilizing the native growth.

The Lumberman's Exchange, which in years before had been simply a small underground room hired by the Lumberman's Association, where ill-attended meetings were held occasionally, and where the accounts of the association were kept by the simplest sort of single entry, became last year a guide as well as a source of power to the lumber merchant, and he has now come to believe in the value of statistical completeness as exemplified by the work of the present Secretary, Mr. George W. Hotchkiss, who has so systematized the labors of his office as to grasp and record even the minutest item of interest to the colossal trade, which in 1856-7 was represented only by a standing committee of the Board of Trade, and which now boasts of \$60,000,000 capital.

As compared with the receipts of 1880, the year of 1881 shows an excess in round numbers of 290,000,000 feet of lumber, and 136,000,000 shingles, together with a proportionate increase in lath, posts, and other coarser forest products.

The lumber interest of Chicago, which ten

years ago it was thought had reached its fullest proportions, has made an advance, so far as the bulk of trading is concerned, beyond any previous year of its history. Commencing on Jan. 1 last with a stock on hand of 497,840,673 feet of lumber and 188,720,000 shingles, receipts came in at an average of over 6,000,000 feet of lumber per day for the 300 working days of the year. During this entire time the receipts, enormous as they were, hardly kept pace with the demand, of which but a small proportion was for city use. During the entire season of navigation the average number of cars required daily for the filling of outside orders on the lumber market was over 600, and much delay and embarrassment was caused the greater part of the time during the summer on account of the inability of the railroads to meet the demands of this great interest.

Of the 1,853,040,000 feet received during the year, about 412,000,000 feet were absorbed by building operations in Chicago and its suburbs.

The current and gross value of forest products handled during the year may be stated as follows:—

	Bulk.	Value.
Lumber, ft.....	1,853,040,000	\$40,810,000
Shingles, ft.....	785,400,000	1,600,000
Lath, No. 1.....	104,000,000	208,000
Cedar Posts, No. 1.....	3,000,000	450,000
Railroad ties, No. 1.....	5,000,000	1,700,000
Cardboard, etc.....	40,000	280,000
Slabs, etc.....	25,000	100,000
Tankard, etc.....	30,000	300,000
Telegraph poles, No. 1.....	90,000	900,000
Total.....		\$45,048,000

The total receipts by lake during the season of navigation were 1,622,783,000 ft lumber and 718,633,000 shingles.

The lumber output in the Upper Mississippi region for the year 1881 was, in round numbers, 1,400,000,000, while that of Michigan was 3,500,000,000 ft.

The year now closing probably gave larger profits for the dealers than any year since the great fire. During the boom in July and August, when ordinary piece-stuff was selling at \$11.75@12.00, the large lumber firms were straining every nerve to meet the unprecedented demand for shipment, and, as has before been said, failed to keep up with the urgent call, or to fill promptly orders that came even from the territory naturally belonging to the upper Mississippi region.

During the latter part of the summer and almost up to the close of navigation much trouble was experienced from lack of dock-room, or rather from the inability of yard-owners, to pile and classify their stock as fast as it arrived. This cause of itself had a depressing influence on the cargo market for the time being, and tended to delay shipments by rail to some extent. Several of the largest lumber firms with mills at Monominee, Grand Haven, and elsewhere made preparations by the building of docks early in the season to pile largely at the mills during the summer, and thus save overcrowding at the yards in this city, and at the same time have a good assortment of lumber to draw from during the winter. This plan has hardly been carried out, for the reason that the demand for lumber throughout the season of navigation was so heavy and continuous that it could not be spared from the market. Several large firms owning mills across the lake had to buy largely of others near the close of navigation in order to keep up a well-assorted stock in their yards here.

One feature of the trade for several years past, the occasional shipments in deals, or three inch clear plank, for the English market, has been nursed the past season. This was accounted for by the extreme prices realized during the summer which would have rendered such shipments unprofitable, as lumber of that description commanded better prices in this market than was paid for it in Canada.

The following table shows the cargo prices of prominent descriptions of lumber at the periods named:—

	May 10.	July 31.	Nov. 30.
Piece stuff, ordinary length green.....	\$ 9.50@10.00	\$11.75@12.00	\$12.00@12.50
Dr. in. boards No. 2 legs.....	12.00@12.75	12.00@13.50	13.50@15.00
Boards & strips No. 2 legs.....	12.00@10.00	14.00@15.00	14.00@14.50
Norway strips and boards.....	11.50@12.00	11.25@11.75	12.00@13.50
Shingles, A... 2.60@ 2.65	2.80@ 2.95	2.70@ 2.85	
Shingles, std... 2.40@ 2.50	2.60@ 2.80	2.65@ 2.80	

The yard trade through the winter was good,

and long before the opening of navigation many classes of lumber were exhausted, dealers being obliged to resort to reciprocal exchanges in order to meet the wants of their customers. At the full opening of navigation, May 6, the stock on hand in the yards was 223,556,664 feet of lumber and timber, and 73,098,575 shingles, against 238,483,874 feet of lumber and timber and 115,116,000 shingles at the same date the year previous. Of the former quantities, 21,263,000 feet of lumber and 26,200,000 shingles had been brought in by vessels that had managed to evade the heavy ice which hugged the south shore of Lake Michigan up to nearly the first of May. Trade from this point on was remarkably good. At a meeting of the trade called at the instigation of the "bears," May 21, for the purpose of reducing rates on some portions of the yard list, the movers were defeated, and at a subsequent meeting on the 27th of May the price list adopted early in the month was reaffirmed. The month closed with a firmer feeling on all classes of stock.

Following were the official yard prices at the dates named:—

	Jan. 21.	June 27.	Nov. 26.
Dimension.....	\$11.50@13.50	\$13.00@15.00	\$14.50@17.00
Fencing.....	11.50@13.50	12.00@14.00	13.00@15.00
Com. boards.....	13.50@15.00	14.00@16.00	15.00@17.50
No. 2 boards.....	11.50	12.00	13.00
Flooring B.....	32.00	33.00	35.00
Third Clear.....	33.00	35.00	43.00
First Clear.....	43.00	44.00	47.00
Lath.....	2.25	2.25	2.75
Shingles, A.....	2.90	3.15	3.50
Shingles, std.....	2.65	3.05	3.10

The following figures bear on the condition of the stocks at the close of the year:—

	Lumber.	Shingles.
Stock in yards Dec. 1.....	525,908,223	203,362,174
Excess of shipments during the month.....	120,593,000	41,310,000
Estimated stock Jan. 1.....	525,908,223	203,362,174
Stock Jan. 1, 1881.....	497,840,673	188,722,000

The bulk of our hardwood lumber is received from the forests of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Indiana, but the finer qualities, such as black walnut, come from North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky, while the Southern pine is largely obtained from Alabama, or from Jefferson county in that State. Altogether the receipts of hardwood lumber have been over 250,000,000 feet, 60,000,000 feet of which has come from the South. The value of the Southern lumber received here footed up in the vicinity of \$3,000,000, while that from the more northern forests represented fully \$5,000,000. These latter receipts were made up of maple, ash, basswood, oak, etc., used for furniture and building purposes.

No data is known to exist by which a complete history of the receipts and shipments of lumber at Chicago can be traced to a date earlier than 1843, although it is stated by those engaged in the business that the trade had in 1843 acquired a volume not exceeding 12,000,000 feet, which was steadily increased until 1847, beginning with which year we may trace its increase to the present time, as follows:—

	Lumber.	Shingles.
1847.....	32,118,225	12,148,500
1850.....	109,364,770	55,423,750
1860.....	202,434,620	127,894,000
1870.....	1,018,038,085	652,091,000
1871.....	1,030,323,375	647,595,000
1872.....	1,183,059,280	610,824,420
1873.....	1,123,368,071	517,923,000
1874.....	1,000,083,700	619,278,030
1875.....	1,167,194,432	635,708,000
1876.....	1,039,735,265	568,978,000
1877.....	1,065,405,362	546,442,000
1878.....	2,179,094,710	692,544,750
1879.....	1,467,720,091	670,950,000
1880.....	1,504,533,113	650,922,500
1881.....	1,853,040,000	735,430,000

The usual flight of speculations regarding the forest outcome of next year has appeared more especially in journals devoted to the lumber interest. As to the reliability of these numerous predictions little can be said. The prospects, however, for next year may be summed up in the remarks of a prominent lumberman of this city, who asserts that the mills will probably increase their capacity, and will find material enough to keep them in operation throughout the working season.

An exchange, speaking of the destruction of our pine forests, says:—

It is asserted that during the season just closed more than six billions (6,279,950,000) of feet of lumber have been felled in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. The logging this summer will swell this amount to seven and a half billions (7,420,950,000) of feet. As the census agents report that the whole quantity of pine timber standing in these three States is but eighty-one

and a half billions (81,550,000,000) of feet, a simple sum in division will show that the supply will only last twelve years if the present rate of destruction is kept up, and there is no way of supplying the loss, since once the pine is cut off a growth of hard wood follows, which is not only slow of growth and of the scrub variety, but is practically useless for building purposes. The Maine pineries are also comparatively exhausted, lumbering operations now being confined to spruce. Michigan lumber has even been shipped to Bangor, indicating that the home supply there is giving out.

According to the journal of the Agricultural Society of France, the acreage of forest in Europe, north and south, is 100,000,000 to 150,000,000. Those, however, especially outside of Germany, are rapidly thinning out. In Germany great pains are taken to foster the growth of forest trees, and the labors of that Government have thus far been well rewarded.

MOUNTAIN RAPIDS.

The following letter appears in the *Ottawa Citizen*:—

DEAR SIR,—Some time ago I saw by the papers that the Government had sent engineers to examine the Mountain Rapids above Mattawa with the view of building a dam at that place. I have not as yet seen their report, but hope they found the scheme feasible. If a dam was also built at the natural outlet of Kippewa Lake, but so arranged as not to interfere with the driving of timber and logs through Messrs. T. and C. Smith's improvements; both dams would, in my opinion, be a great benefit to the lumbermen and farmers along the Ottawa River. The two extremes of high and low water would, no doubt, be a thing of the past, as the dams could be so arranged as not to allow too much water to pass in the spring and keep a large portion of the water for the months of August and September, when the water is most wanted for the timber trade. Square timber would be almost certain to reach the Quebec market every year that it reached the Ottawa River, and saw logs could be driven all summer without any fear of being stuck and could be driven cheaper than at present. The Government are having dams built at the head of the Calumet Rapids and in the Rocher Poudre Chenail, which, I think, may have the effect of drowning considerable land along the Calumet Chenail in the spring, and of course the proprietors of the land will look to the Government for damages, which they have a right to. Now, by building a dam at the Mountain, all trouble would be avoided with the land owners on the Calumet Chenail and environ. Sir Hector Langovin has always been favorable to improving the Ottawa River. I hope John Poupore, M.P., and Peter White, M.P., will see to this matter and urge and the Government on the necessity of building the dams. By giving this a place in the *Citizen* you will much oblige

AN OLD LUMBERMAN.

Umbrella and Pepper.

The umbrella trade grievously threatens the existence of the pimento plantations of Jamaica. An official estimate made in Kingston, last fall reckoned that more than half a million umbrella sticks were then awaiting export to England and the United States. These sticks were almost without exception pimento, and it is not surprising to be informed that owners and lessees of pimento walks are becoming alarmed at the growth of a trade which threatens to uproot, in a few years, all the young trees. The export returns for the past five years show an average of 2,000 bundles of sticks sent out of the island annually in the ordinary course of trade, and the returns for the first three-quarters of 1881 show an export of over 5,700 bundles, valued at \$15,000. When it is remembered that each bundle contains from five hundred sticks, each of which represents a young bearing pimento tree, the extent of the destruction may be realized.—*Scientific American*.

NO HOSPITAL NEEDED.—No palatial hospital needed for Hop Bitters patients, nor large salaried talented puffers to tell what Hop Bitters will do or cure, as they tell their own story by their certain and absolute cures at home.—*New York Independent*.