

OTTAWA LETTER.

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

THE chief topic of conversation of late among the lumbermen of the Ottawa valley has been the financial embarrassment of Messrs. William Mason & Sons. This firm have been regarded as one of the most progressive in the district, and it is a matter of regret that arrangements could not be made to tide them over the present difficulty. The sale of their limits yesterday brought together a number of prominent lumbermen, including Messrs. Alexander Fraser, J. R. Booth, E. B. Eddy, R. H. Conroy, Alex. Lumsden, M.P.P., H. K. Egan, C. B. Powell, M.P.P., Hon. George Bryson, Alex. Barnett, J. B. Fraser, and others. The only purchaser was Mr. E. B. Eddy, who secured 100 square miles on Big Lake, River du Moine, and 245 miles on the River Coulonge, in the province of Quebec. Several other berths, as well as the sawmill at Bayswater, were withdrawn. The sale was held under the auspices of the Bank of Toronto.

The E. B. Eddy Company, of Hull, have adopted a unique system of continuous labor, the result being attained by a change concerning the dinner hour. The company give the employees a free dinner, served hot, and in the factory. Half the employees go to dinner say, at twelve o'clock, and the other half at half-past twelve, taking only half an hour for lunch. In consideration of this the employees are given a half holiday on Saturday. The company have recently added new machinery, which brings the output up to 30,000,000 matches per day. We understand that the machine recently completed by the Victoria Foundry Company for Merritt Brothers & Co., of St. John, N.B., had a capacity of 25,000,000 matches per day of ten hours.

The experiments with furnaces for the manufacture of calcium carbide, which are being carried on at the mills of W. C. Edwards & Company, continue to attract attention. Mr. J. G. Gardner, of Baltimore, Md., was in the city recently in connection with the scheme, and it is said that if the plant is not established here, he will offer Mr. V. L. Emerson special inducements for the establishment of such a manufactory on the American side.

The Ontario crown timber office, which for many years has been situated in the building at the corner of Kent and Queen streets, has been removed to the Sun Life building.

Mr. J. M. Portrais, representative of the Northern Pacific Lumber Company, Limited, is at present in British Columbia. His mission is understood to be in connection with the opening of the Ross-McLaren mills on the Fraser river, in that province. One drawback to the operation of these mills has been the report which gained currency that the Fraser river was not navigable for vessels of any size. This has now been contradicted by the investigation of the coast pilots, made during their recent visit to the Fraser river.

It has been the privilege of your correspondent to read the memorial which has been forwarded by the Ottawa valley lumbermen to the British commissioners at Washington. The document contains some strong arguments against the contentions of the United States lumbermen. At the outset, facts are given which show that the lumber shipped from Canada to the United States is of an average quality. Then follows some figures showing the imports from Canada by the United States, and vice versa. A denial is given to the statement that lumber is produced in Canada more cheaply than in the United States. The claim of the American lumbermen that dams, slides, booms, and river improvements generally for the purpose of lumbering operations, are constructed in Canada by the government, is met by the statement that in every case where improvements are made slidge dues are charged the lumbermen, sufficing to cover interest on cost of construction and maintenance, and in addition yielding a revenue, in some instances, as high as 15 per cent. Fully ninety per cent. of the improvements, however, are constructed by the lumbermen themselves, at their own cost. The amount of capital required for equivalent production in the two countries is next dealt with, the figures showing that the cost of producing white pine lumber in Canada is \$2 per M greater than in Michigan. The memorial concludes with some pointed arguments in favor of free lumber.

OTTAWA, December 1st, 1898.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

THE destruction by fire of the Hastings saw mill, owned by the British Columbia Mills, Timber and Trading Company, is regarded as a serious loss to this city, more especially as there is so a probability that the mill will not be rebuilt. The Hastings mill was the pioneer saw mill on the mainland, having been erected in the year 1862. Shortly after being built it passed into the possession of a firm named Dickson, DeWolf & Heatley, which firm for many years managed the establishment, San Francisco at that time being the principal market for its output. Mr. Heatley afterwards became almost sole owner, and some years ago sold the mill to the Hastings Saw Mill Co., Limited, which was afterwards merged with the British Columbia Mills, Timber and Trading Company, Limited, who are still the owners thereof. Nearly three hundred men were employed around the establishment, and the company's pay roll amounted to \$12,000 per month.

Mr. John Hendry, manager of the Hastings saw mill, returned last month from Australia, Mr. Sisson, who accompanied him, remaining there. While Mr. Hendry naturally feels indisposed to make public all the information gathered regarding trade prospects in Australia, we learn that he feels somewhat encouraged by his trip, and that an effort will be made to increase the business of his company in that colony.

A change has been made by the government in connection with its policy of disposing of public lands. A notice is gazetted to the effect that hereafter no lands or timber will be sold or disposed of by the government except under special circumstances. Persons desirous of purchasing lands must apply to the department, showing any special reason why they should be allowed to purchase, before any expense is incurred.

The Victoria-Yukon Company, whose mills at Lake Bennett, in the Yukon district, did a large trade last season, intend making extensive improvements in order to be better equipped for next season's business. The management believe that in future there will be a still greater demand for freight barges. There are also a number of steamers to be built, and no doubt quite a town will grow up around Bennett.

When the Beaver saw mills are completed they will be one of the finest in the province. W. G. Neilson, M.P.P., is manager of this establishment.

Mr. F. B. Waterous, of the Waterous Engine Works, Brantford, Ont., has recently been on the coast. He appointed Mr. H. B. Gilmour, formerly with the C.P.R., as agent for this province, and we have no doubt that Mr. Gilmour's extensive acquaintance, coupled with his sterling qualities, will secure a large business for the company.

The British Columbia Mills, Timber and Trading Company will probably open up one of the largest timber limits on the north coast. It is situated 135 miles up the coast, near Bear Island creek, and was recently prospected by Mr. J. St. Clair. Mr. St. Clair estimates that it will yield 80,000 feet of lumber to the acre. In connection with the logging operations, it will be necessary to construct a short line of railway from the coast in seven miles to the first of the chain of lakes that run from end to end of the limit. The logs will be floated down these lakes and loaded on trains, which will haul them to the shore line.

VANCOUVER, B.C., November 22, 1898.

THE OTTAWA SAW WORKS.

A SMALL fire occurred in the band-saw department on the second story of the Ottawa Saw Works, Ottawa, on the morning of Thanksgiving Day, causing damage to stock and building to extent of about \$2,000; fully insured. Fortunately the fire was not extensive enough to interfere with the running of the works or any of the departments, and the company inform us that they are in a position to fill orders as promptly as ever. They also purpose making some additions in their facilities for making saws before the end of the year, so as to be prepared for the usual rush of trade during winter and spring months.

The Knight Bros Co., of Burks Falls, Ont., who make a specialty of kiln-dried birch flooring and sheeting, are having their factory fitted throughout with steam heaters. They also contemplate putting in a large engine during the coming winter.

GOOD ADVICE TO BOILER ATTENDANTS

THE Manchester, Eng., Steam Users' Association has issued the following hints to boiler attendants:

WATER LEVEL.—Before lighting fires see that there is sufficient water in the boiler. Test the water gauges frequently and keep the water level steady.

BLOW-OFF COCKS.—Before lighting fires be sure that the blow-off cocks are closed and not leaking. Occasionally feel if the blow-off water pipes are hot. Blow off from bottom before starting the engine. Sediment has then settled in the elbow pipe. Blow off the scum before stopping the engines, but only when the water level is at the correct height. At such times most of the scum has collected in the troughs.

LIGHTING FIRES.—Sudden changes of temperature may produce fractures or start leakages. Therefore never raise steam hurriedly. The top and bottom of a boiler should grow warm together. If convenient, fill the boiler with warm water through the economizer. If the boiler water is cold, allow fully six hours for raising steam. If pressed for time, fill the boiler to the top of the water gauge, fire slowly, and keep the safety valve open until steam blows off freely. After closing the safety valve, blow out the bottom cold water till the working level is reached. The pressure may now be raised more quickly.

SMOKE PREVENTION.—Smoke and imperfect combustion are caused by an insufficient air supply or by premature cooling of the flames. Therefore after coaling, when the fires are black, admit air either at the door or through the split bridge. It is less wasteful to admit too much air than too little. With smoky boilers or when hard pressed, keep the fires thin and even. Fire steadily. Don't coal all furnaces at once. Coal each furnace on one side at a time.

EMPTYING BOILERS.—Do not empty boiler while steam is up.

OVERHAULING, CLEANING AND INSPECTION.—Clean the boiler monthly or oftener; remove the scale while soft, if possible while emptying the boiler. Sweep the soot off the boiler plates and clean the flues every three months, as well as on the occasion of the annual inspection. All leakages should be stopped, any cause of dampness in the setting should be removed, corrosion should be arrested. The fusible plugs should be cleaned on the fire side and water side once a month, and the fusible metal should be renewed once a year at the time of the annual inspection. All cocks should be kept oiled, and, unless asbestos-packed, they should be overhauled once every month. These cocks, the feed valves, steam stop valves, and all safety valves, should be overhauled annually on the occasion of the inspector's visit.

MANHOLES.—Before opening the man-holes, ease the safety valve so as to be quite sure that there is no pressure in the boiler. Before entering a boiler secure the steam valves and blow off cocks.

SAFETY VALVES AND LOW WATER ALARMS.—Never overload or tamper with safety valves or with low water alarms. Ease or test them regularly every day. Be sure that they are in working order. If they will not work properly, reduce the steam pressure and then report to the manager.