

BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN)

VANCOUVER, B. C. December 21st, 1904.—Conditions in British Columbia in connection with the lumber industry are regarded as worse than ever. It certainly is as far as the employees of the mills are concerned, for with the closing of so many establishments hundreds of men are deprived of wages at a season of the year when money is so essential. Over half the plants in Vancouver city are inactive, and the only mill doing a busy business to speak of is that of Messrs. E. H. Heaps & Company. In East Kootenay most of the mills close down anyway for the winter, but others which might run have been stopped until spring. On Vancouver island the Ladysmith Lumber Company's mill has suspended operations and 70 men have been thrown out of employment. In the latter instance the shingle mill was stopped but started again to fill some orders. The indefinite period for which these mills are shut down is supposed to be March or April, but before that time the cessation of the industry will be severely felt in British Columbia, and particularly in Vancouver, where the manufacture of lumber is one of the principal industries.

The result will in all probability be that the stocks of lumber will get small, and with increased demand the prices in the Territories will likely go up because of the lack of sufficient supply. A determined

effort is to be made to have the Government impose a duty such as has been asked for repeatedly for the last eight years.

The new schedule of prices which was being arranged by the British Columbia Lumber and Shingle Manufacturers' Association came into force yesterday. All of the members have agreed to abide by this, which will do away with the disastrous price-cutting that has been going on for two or three months. During that time the cuts were all the way from 25 to 40 per cent. off list price, and contractors especially were displeased, because they never knew when a competitor was not getting larger reductions from some other mill.

The new schedule contains a reduction of all kinds of lumber, except one. Ship-lap, previously scheduled at \$15 per M. is now selling for \$12. Rough lumber, formerly \$13, is now \$10. Shingles have been reduced from \$2.50 to \$1.90. Clear cedar, all round, from \$40 to \$35, and cedar ceiling, formerly quoted at \$35, is now \$32. Fir lath is reduced \$1. The only increase was on edged grain lumber. This is rather scarce and more or less subject to special call.

Mr. John Murray, timber ranger, returned this afternoon from the interior, and reports things in bad shape in the lumber industry. What mills are running are on very limited time, and many of the operators are taking out no logs this win-

ter. Collections were considerably more difficult than six months ago.

The trade with Mexico by means of the proposed steamship line subsidized by the Dominion and Mexican Governments was discussed at the last meeting of the Board of Trade, when Mr. R. H. Alexander and Mr. Beecher stated that there was little prospect of this province doing much business in the lumber line with that country. Only about 9,000,000 feet per year was imported, and this from the States. Mr. J. G. Scott thought it peculiar that the Government should give \$50,000 a year to assist in the securing of such a small trade, when by a mere stroke of the pen, and without the cost of one cent, a trade of double 9,000,000 feet per month could be secured in the Territories. Mr. Beecher advocated the opening of trade with North China, where there is a good market and where large quantities of lumber could be disposed of.

Revenue from timber sources in the province for the first six months of the present fiscal year total over \$200,000. The amount for the whole of last year was only \$250,000.

The sheriff is to preside at a sale of the mill at Sydney, Vancouver island, and at the sale of the assets of the Fernie Manufacturing Company. In the latter instance the upset price was \$16,000, but this was not offered. Creditors hope to receive 50 cents on the dollar.

The development of the "ready-made"

house business, which has been begun by the B. C. Mills, Timber & Trading Company, of this city, is indicated by the receipt of an order from the Provincial Government for a school house 24x36 feet, which will be sent north to Port Essington.

Mr. M. J. Henry, nurseryman, of Van-

(Continued on page 4)

L. Dean Holden, Pres. J. M. Diver, Gen'l. Mgr. A. P. Holden, Vice-Pres. E. C. Barre, Asst. Mgr

The Cleveland-Sarnia Saw Mills Co., Limited.

Manufacturers and Wholesale Dealers in

Timber, Lumber, Lath and White Pine Shingles

Special Bills Cut to Order in White Pine, Norway and Fir, any length from 10' to 60' long.

—SARNIA, ONT.

J. D. SHIER LUMBER CO., LIMITED
BRIDGEVILLE, ONT.

MANUFACTURERS OF LUMBER, LATH AND SHINGLES
Pine, Hardwood and Hemlock Floorings and Ceilings. Sash and Doors, Wood Turnings etc. All Dressed Lumber Kiln Dried if desired and Matched Flooring a Specialty.
GOOD PINE SIDINGS A SPECIALTY

ROBERT WATT
WILSON, ONT.

Manufacturer and Dealer in Hard and Soft Wood Lumber, Lath, Shingles, Cedar Posts and Ties.
SPECIAL: About 70 M feet of 1" Basewood, One car load of 3x4 Hardwood Hearts suitable for Car Stakes, One car each of 3" and 1/2x4 Cedar. Prices upon application.

THE KING AND BARTLES LUMBER CO.
PINE, POPLAR AND HARDWOODS

HEADQUARTERS HARDWOOD
Citizens' Building, Cleveland, O. Dist. Milling Yard
McMinnville, Tenn.
We buy and sell Pine in Car and Cargo Lots

J. B. Farwell & Son

CONTRACTORS AND DEALERS IN

Canadian Cedar Telegraph, Telephone and Electric Light Poles

Orillia, Ont., and Oswego, N.Y.

AT MIDLAND

100,000 feet 1 x 4 and 5 Mill Run
150,000 feet 1 x 6

Write for Prices, also for my 1905 CALENDAR. Both Good.



CHILLIWACK SHINGLE MFG. CO., LTD.

Head Office, Chilliwack, B. C. Mills at Harrison Bay.

British Columbia **Red Cedar Shingles**

A SPECIALTY
Nothing Else Manufactured

B.C. Perfections, Eureka's, Clears
Shingles made from bolts cut out of standing timber on our own Timber Limits.

Dunbar Machines. Saw Joints. Large Mills—Slow drying Process. Experienced and skilled white labor.

THE IMPERIAL LUMBER CO., LIMITED
RED AND WHITE PINE DEALS

R. H. ROYS, Pres.
RALPH LOVELAND, Vice-Pres.
C. A. KEET, Sec'y.
R. S. ABBOTT, Treas.
SAGINAW, MICH.

SAGINAW LUMBER & SALT CO.
MANUFACTURERS OF LUMBER AND SALT
Mills at Sandwich, Ont.

CACHE BAY LUMBER INDUSTRIES.

Geo. Gordon & Co.,
Manufacturers of RED and WHITE PINE
Band - Gang Circular LUMBER AND LATH
CACHE BAY, Ont. 25 miles West North Bay
C. P. R.

CACHE BAY PLANING MILL CO.

... MANUFACTURERS OF ...
MOULDINGS
GILING
FLOORING
WAINSCOTING
SHEETING
All kinds of Dressed and Pine Lumber.

THE CHARLEMAGNE & LAC OUBREAU LUMBER CO., LIMITED
404 Coristine Building, MONTREAL, P. C.
Mills at Charlemagne and Montcalm on Great Northern Railway.

SAWN AND DRESSED LUMBER
Clapboard, Shingles, Laths, Butter Boxes
Write us for quotations. Shipments by rail or water.