

BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

(Regular Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)
ANOTHER COMBINE.

A COMBINE is being formed to take the place of the Central Lumber Company, which went to pieces on the first of the year. The new organization will, however, only endeavor to control the foreign trade, and consequently we bespeak for it a better prosperity, the refusal of some of the smaller mills to join the former combine being really the cause of its failure. The mills which have already signified their intention of entering the new combine are the Tacoma Mill Co., Port Blakely Co., Puget Sound Lumber Co., of Port Gamble, Washington Mill Co., of Port Hadlock, British Columbia Mills, Lumber and Trading Co., Vancouver, Moodyville Land and Mill Co., the Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Co., the Brunette Saw Mill Co., of New Westminster, while it is believed that others will come in before the final organization. The St. Paul & Tacoma Lumber Company and the Bellingham Improvement Company are offering opposition to the combine, but on the other hand two British Columbia mills that are desirous of joining the Central Lumber Company are parties to the agreement. In the event of the organization being successfully accomplished operations will begin about April 1. It is the intention to have joint representation in all the foreign markets. The business will be equitably divided among the members and profits shared accordingly. R. P. Rithet, one of the directors of the Victoria Lumber & Manufacturing Co., states that he believes the new organization will prove a success. As far as he knew all the mills which are doing a large export business are ready to join. Rithet explained that the object of the organization was to force big prices, but rather to secure more uniformity of prices in the foreign markets and to extend the foreign trade in a systematic way.

VICTORIA LUMBER AND MANUFACTURING COMPANY.
The annual meeting of the Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Company was held last month, at which officers were elected as follows:—Messrs. J. A. Humbird, of St. Paul, president; R. P. Rithet, vice-president; E. J. Palmer, manager; and W. H. Phipps, secretary. These, with D. Humbird, form the board of directors. The mills of the company are running day and night to fill orders.

KOOTENAY LUMBER COMPANY.

The Kootenay Lumber Company, Ltd., composed of Messrs. S. Hewitt Bostock, Archer Martin and Ian Coltart, has been organized, with head office in Victoria. The object is to control the lumber business of the Kootenay Lumber Co. at Kamloops, where a new mill has been put in operation. The mill is driven by a Pelton wheel, the power being derived from the waters of the creek, which is dammed at a height of 20 feet above the mill, from whence the water is led through a 2-inch supply pipe; this narrows down to a 2-inch pipe, plays on the wheel, which is only three feet in diameter. The power is thus developed to drive all the machinery of the mill. Over 40 men are at present employed in and around the mill.

COAST CHIPS.

A shipment of railway ties has been made from Vancouver to Bombay, India. Royal City Mills are building a new dry kiln at New Westminster, 40 x 75 feet. Nelson Saw Mill Co.'s mill near Trail, which was recently, is being rebuilt on a larger scale.

R. Miller is building a saw and shingle mill six miles south of Rossland, with a daily capacity of 30,000 feet of lumber and 50,000 shingles.

The British government will, it is said, in future purchase whatever fir is required for government work in British Columbia, instead of on Puget Sound.

The shingle mill of the Pacific Coast Lumber Company, New Westminster, has recently been re-fitted with new and improved machinery, and is running twelve hours per day.

The suit of the Queen vs. Victoria Lumber Co. has been settled, the decision being against the latter, by which they will be compelled to pay taxes on certain lands amounting to about \$15,000 per year.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C., Feb. 18, 1897.

NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER.

(Regular Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

It is reported that Messrs. Watson & Todd, of Liverpool, will open an office here in the spring, their intention being to ship lumber from this port the year round. The past two winters they have shipped large quantities of deals by the Beaver line of steamers to Great Britain, and their trade from this port will, no doubt, assume larger proportions in the near future. Mr. Martin Power has charge of their business.

To the enterprise of Mr. G. J. Vaughan, of Chatham, will be due the operation of two mills on the Miramichi which have been closed for several years. Mr. Vaughan has lately secured control of the Black Brook mill at Loggieville and the Kerr mill above Douglastown, and is getting out a stock of logs for both. The former will cut about eight million feet, and the latter probably four million.

Donald Fraser & Sons will close down their Aberdeen mills next month for the purpose of adding some new machinery and making necessary repairs. A new boiler will be put in, and the two engines in use at present will be replaced by a larger one.

In the High Court of Justice, Dublin, recently an appeal was allowed in the case of Hannevig v. Dixon & Sons, Belfast. This was the case of the owners of the Norwegian bark Rolf, who brought an action for £500 for demurrage while the vessel was loading at the Miramichi. The lower court decided in favor of plaintiff and defendants appealed on the ground that six witnesses at least could be found in New Brunswick to testify that the time demurrage was claimed it was so stormy that timber could not be put on board.

BITS OF LUMBER.

It is rumored that Mr. Ross, of St. Stephen, will erect a saw mill at Fredericton.

Mr. John McLeod has completed the building of a new lumber mill at Black River.

Mr. Harding, of Coal Creek, intends building a steam saw and grist mill at Douglas Harbor.

Hale & Murchie intend building a new chimney at their mill at Fredericton in the spring.

Messrs. Walter J. Mills, of the firm of S. H. White & Co., Sussex, and Harley White, of Apple River, are at present on a trip to Bermuda and Trinidad.

The exports of forest products from St. John during the month of January were valued as follows: Deals, \$54,353; deal ends, \$221; laths, \$1,333; planks and boards, \$11,895; scantling, \$6,632.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Feb. 18, 1897.

MICHIGAN LETTER.

(Regular Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

ON the 26th of January last a meeting of Michigan manufacturers sawing Canadian logs was held to consider what steps should be taken regarding the proposed duty on lumber. Mr. F. W. Gilchrist, of Alpena, acted as chairman, and the following committee was appointed to formulate a plan and report: Joseph Turner, Bay City; A. T. Bliss, Saginaw; W. D. Churchill, Alpena; C. E. Mould, Chocoma; and Thos. Pitts, Detroit. This committee went to Washington the first week in February and presented a strong protest against the imposition of a \$2 duty.

Labor Commissioner Morse, in his annual report, has devoted considerable space to forestry in Michigan, giving some interesting figures of the amount of standing timber in each county. There are 6,166,977 acres of standing hardwood in the state, 775,208 acres of standing pine, and 1,468,166 acres of hemlock. There are eighteen counties without any pine whatever and 32 with less than 100 acres each. Nearly all the standing pine is in the upper peninsula.

The new mill of Smalley & Woodworth, Bay City, is nearing completion. The firm have several camps in operation, and will yard about 10,000,000 feet of Norway for next season's sawing.

A new development in Michigan lumbering furnishes a profitable market for the hitherto valueless slab piles. Several prominent salt manufacturers at Saginaw have entered into a deal with the Hamilton & Merryman Company, of Marinette, to put in special machinery for getting out salt barrel staves from pine slabs. If the move proves profitable other users of salt barrels will enter the market, and another article of mill waste will thus be provided for.

The Saginaw Courier estimates that the Michigan production of lumber and shingles in 1896 from Canadian logs was about 12 per cent. of the total quantity cut in Michigan, the figures being 253,759,846 feet.

The lumbermen are complaining of the lack of snow for logging purposes. In the northern section of the state there has been less than six inches in depth.

SAGINAW, Mich., Feb. 18, 1897.

It is said that castor oil will keep leather belts from slipping. The oil penetrates the leather, makes it soft and pliable, and leaves no sticky surface to collect the dust.

An innovation in the construction of floors is the use of a special preparation of paper pulp invented by Otto Kraner, of Chemnitz, Saxony. He calls the new material papyrolith. It comes in the shape of a dry powder, which is mixed with water, dries in a short time, and may be spread and planed down upon a foundation of either natural or artificial stone, cement or wood. The wearing quality of papyrolith is very remarkable, as are also its qualities of perfect solidity, of being a bad conductor of heat, and of deadening all noise. A further advantage is the considerable amount of elasticity which it possesses, and perfect safety from fire. Since the mass may be tinted with almost any color, it is possible to lay down several layers in different colors alongside of each other, or to lay a floor with a mosaic design. Parquets with varied colored borders can also be laid down, and the same material may be used for wainscoting and stucco work, as also for panels and other decorative and architectural purposes. Mr. Kraner has also recently succeeded in producing a material similar to Lincrusta Walton at only one-tenth the cost of that expensive material.

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