

hardly to be taken as an indication that the industry is thoroughly prosperous, according to the expression of one of the prominent operators. He points out that 97 of the licenses were issued for the interior where there is activity in timber just now. Of the twenty-seven issued to people on the coast, all were renewals except one, showing that the holders of limits are only saving their investments, and waiting for better times.

Still, one or two new enterprises are talked of, besides the reopening of the Ross-McLaren mills at New Westminster by a company composed of San Francisco capitalists. Ontario people, represented by Mr. Cook of Algoma, have secured large limits in the interior, and are talking of starting a mill near Ymir, while a company dealing in cedar, and which has mills at Ballard, Wa., is purchasing limits on the west coast of Vancouver island, to manufacture cedar for export. Thomas McNaught, of Toronto, has also been in the province lately, and is very favorably impressed with the prospects. He has not expressed himself as to whether or not he will erect a mill, but it is not improbable as so many people from Ontario have become interested in British Columbia during the last year or two. Nearly all of the big lumbermen in the interior are either from Ontario or the Maritime

Provinces, with a few from Minnesota and Michigan.

Lumbermen from Winnipeg west to the coast have organized under the Manufacturers Lumber Company, with a capital of \$500,000 under the provisions of the Manitoba Joint Stock Companies Act. The membership includes all of the prominent operators, and principally those of the Kootenays and the interior, with a few from the coast. There are already two Associations in British Columbia, many members of which have joined the company recently organized. It is understood that the B.C. Lumber & Shingle Manufacturers Association, of this city, and the Mountain Manufacturers Association, of the interior, still retain their integrity, though the new company places all under one management.

Bush fires on the coast have subsided since the rain, though the warm weather which has again followed will likely restart them. The most destructive of them all was that which burnt \$200,000 worth of logs, the whole season's cut of the Elk River Lumber Company, and seriously threatened the town of Fernie, a week ago. This company is composed of Minnesota people. Two or three of the mills on the coast have also had narrow escapes from fire. Lumber in the yards of Mr. McLaren's mill at Barnet

was discovered to be on fire the other night, but was extinguished with a loss of \$700. Galbraith's sash and door factory, New Westminster, was also on fire, but was saved.

The loggers, who are praying for the removal of the export duty on logs saw the premier last week, but he asked them to wait until a full meeting of the executive was present. From the present attitude of the government, the loggers will remain bankrupt.

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