



Mr. James Hardie, of Owen Sound, gave up farming a few years ago to engage in lumbering. In order to add to his success in that line he recently became a subscriber to THE CANADA LUMBERMAN, so that he might know what the other fellows in the trade were doing. Mr. Hardie was born in Owen Sound more than half a century ago, and has lived there continuously ever since. He has had the pleasure of seeing the town grow from a hamlet of three or four buildings to the dimensions and importance of a small city. It is now one of the most important shipping ports on the great lakes, the river entrance to the harbor, nearly a mile long, being at present lined as thickly as possible on both sides with iron vessels engaged in the lake trade in grain, lumber, ores, etc. In view of the great industries now being established at Sault Ste. Marie and other points in New Ontario, and the rapid development of the resources of this territory as well as of the Northwest, Mr. Hardie foresees a great future before his native town. THE LUMBERMAN hopes that he may live another half century or so and witness even greater developments than he has yet seen.

I learned from Mr. R. Cook, of South River, when in Toronto before Christmas, that he expects to bank the usual quantity of logs this winter, in the vicinity of 6,000,000 feet. Weather conditions, he says, were favorable for logging operations until about the first week in December, when snow fell until it reached two and one-half feet in depth, and the cutting and skidding of logs had to be abandoned about one week earlier than usual. Mr. Cook reports labor to be quite plentiful at present, which is in contrast to the conditions prevailing previous to the middle of November, at which time nearly all the mills had closed down for the season. Before then woodsmen were very scarce, and it was difficult to keep the camps in operation, as many of the men, after working a short time, would lay off work or leave, knowing that they could easily secure employment elsewhere. The extent of this trouble may be judged from the fact that when Mr. Cook visited the camps on a certain Thursday he was told by the foreman that he was well supplied with men, but two days later he received a letter asking that ten be sent immediately, that number having absented themselves in the meantime. At another time he had one gang in the woods, another on the way out, and a third going into work. These difficulties, however, have now been overcome.

I notice in a late issue of the American Lumberman a character sketch of Jacob Cummer, who was born in Canada in 1823, and whose father, John Henry Cummer, was the first white child born in Toronto. The date of his father's birth was 1797. The parents of John Henry Cummer moved from Pennsylvania to Canada at an early date. He was a lumberman in a small way, and his son Jacob was

scarcely out of his boyhood when he succeeded to his father's business. Operating chiefly in Michigan white pine, he built up a large trade and was eminently successful in timber investments. In later years he acquired timber holdings in Florida and built a magnificent saw mill at Jacksonville. Mr. Hollister, manager of the Old National Bank, of Grand Rapids, Mich., relates an incident which contributed to Mr. Cummer's success in business. Mr. Cummer had a balance of a few thousand dollars in the bank. He went to Mr. Hollister one day with the statement that he wished quite a sum of money to take back with him to Canada to pay a bill. He explained that it was not a debt he owed, but a matter that he regarded as one of honor and he wanted to pay it. Mr. Hollister provided the money and Mr. Cummer made his trip to Canada. The impression this incident made on the minds of the bank manager and his associates served Mr. Cummer in good stead some years after when the panic of the early seventies appeared. He was loaded down with lumber and had to borrow a considerable amount or sacrifice his stock at ruinous prices. It required only a suggestion on his part to obtain all the funds necessary from the First National Bank to carry him through that difficult financial period.

A writer in the Mississippi Valley Lumberman commends the policy of the Ontario Government in handling timber lands. He says: The government is certainly entitled to a great deal of credit for the efficient and business-like way in which they have handled their timber lands. Every inducement has been offered to responsible parties to encourage them in building up the lumber industry across the border, yet any attempt at fraud has been dealt with very summarily. This policy is in direct contrast with the way in which a great deal of the public of the United States has been gobbled up by a lot of shrewd schemers and politicians. Apparently it has not been very difficult to get through Congress or one of the departments some enactment which permitted individuals, companies or railroad corporations to acquire possession of a lot of the very choicest holdings of the government. There are many cases of where parties have been permitted to relinquish absolutely worthless lands and take in exchange much of our wonderful resources. The Canadian government would long ago have been bankrupt if it had not been for the way in which they administered their public lands. I remember years ago I was connected with the company that had an extensive business across the border. We had leased a number of timber berths from the proper authorities, but our manager thought that there was an opportunity to take advantage of the generosity of the government to still further increase our holdings without a very large outlay. By an enactment bona fide settlers were permitted to come in and take up a very large tract of land, agreeing to pay something like \$3 an acre. They were, however, permitted to pay this in installments running three years without interest. The manager got together all the men in their employ that he could possibly spare and even induced a few outsiders to come in for a small consideration and had them file on certain of the very choicest timber lands. Of course the company, paid the first installment of 50 cents and immediately had the different men sign over their rights to the company, the plan being that as soon as they were properly passed upon, considerable of the timber could be cut without much delay. However, the proper authorities turned down every one of those applications and confiscated the 50 cents an acre which had been paid. In rendering their decision, they intimated that they were perfectly willing to go into other

deals on the same basis. Of course, our company had to stand the loss, because we would not have been difficult to get that we were attempting to do. The great advantage which the border have always had is that they do not hesitate to make a decision. I then the den of proof is upon the individuals. It be said, however, to their that mine few cases have been found where innocent persons were unjustly or harshly treated, they certainly do not waste time or money on law breakers."

The annual feast of the Saginaw Lumber Dealers' Association is one of the landmarks of that society. For the twelfth time members gathered in the East Saginaw on December 10th last. The speeches were mostly of a reminiscent character, and it was said that has a tinge of interest for Canadian lumbermen. John Estabrook gave a recital of the rise and decline of the white pine industry of the State of Michigan. He said that when he remembered the rise of the lumber industry of the Saginaw river to over a billion feet produced in 1882, and that one mill is now devoted solely to the manufacture of white pine, it made him feel as if his friends, the saw mills, had deserted him. In 1860 he bought lumber at \$2.50, \$5, \$12 and \$18 that would be worth to-day more than \$100 straight, if it could be found. R. H. Hoy, of the Saginaw Lumber & Salt Company, who is known to many Ontario lumbermen, contrasted the old conditions with the new, pointing out that lumbermen are obliged to follow the operations to Ontario. The men, he said, who first learned to lumber on the Coldwater, on the Salt, and on the Cedar rivers, and contended with low banks, shallow flats and sand bars in the spring drive, were up against a different proposition amid the rocks and hills of the Georgian Bay country. The shanty men, too, who in former time gathered in the little hotels ready to go up the Michigan Central or the Flint and Pere Marquette Railroads to the lumbering camps, had become a thing of the past. Now the Georgian Bay lumbermen send an agent clear down the Ottawa river to Ottawa itself, hundreds of miles, and when he comes up with the crew men are scarce that the foreman reports that the company saved near half the railroad fares by having the younger fellows sit on the old man's laps, working them through on half fare. After viewing one motley collection of grizzled beards and whiskerless faces, in disgust he ejaculated, "Great Scott! We rob the cradle and the grave." Coming to the subject of white pine stumpage, Mr. Hoy said that little over a decade ago the lumbermen would go out and buy stumpage on the Spanish tributary streams for one dollar a thousand, and frequently pieces were snapped up at less than that price. In contrast, notice the prices obtained by the Ontario Government in September last, when portions of townships back of the "Canadian Soo" brought ten dollars a thousand for stumpage, according to the reports of some of the timber cruisers. One man whom he saw to make an examination reported good timber but thought it would have to be lumbered by balloon, the hills were so high, the creeks so small, and the timber so scattered. "One singular thing about this rocky territory," said Mr. Hoy, "is that fires must have swept for centuries, for on a winter night we were making some years ago the woods an wither kicked out of the mossy ground fragments of charcoal, and looking at the pine trees evidently over one hundred years old that were cutting on the same ground," said the country must have been swept by fires long before our day."