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#### OTTAWA LUMBER TRADE.

The following, from a letter of the correspondent of the *London Times* who accompanied the British Association to Canada, shows how the Ottawa lumber manufactures are viewed by a stranger:—"Without touching on the applications in this way to their waterworks, it will be interesting to allude to the enormous lumber trade of Ottawa. One of the most interesting excursions of the association was to the capital of the Dominion, and an inspection of these works was a surprise to most of the members. From the heights of the Parliament House, hundreds of acres around the Chaudiere Falls are covered with vast stacks of lumber, which had been carried from the interior by the river. At the time of our visit 25 large barges were being loaded. Nothing but water power is used, and this is employed to the extent of several thousand horse power by means of turbines. The logs are drifted up to a sloping side along which an endless chain with hooks attached is continually running. Thus they are dragged up to the floor of the saw mill. They are then moved by water power to position and sawn by to-and-fro saws of from six to twenty in a machine, into planks. The waste sides of these planks are cut off in a separate machine. The ends are cut off and sent to the match factory. The waste sides are passed to another room to be sliced into laths for building, and thus every available piece of wood to the smallest size is used up, and only chips are thrown away. The small number of workmen employed on so huge a mass of material, which passes through the mill from the state of logs 3 ft. in diameter to the state of mathes and laths, was a matter of astonishment to our most distinguished engineers."

#### THE TIMBER ON MANITOULIN ISLAND.

A correspondent of the *Toronto Globe* has made a thorough tour of Manitoulin island, in the northern portion of Lake Huron, and was much impressed by its extent—90 miles long and 25 miles wide on an average—its bays, lakes, rivers of pure water, its rich agricultural lands, stock and dairying capabilities, healthy climate, and, especially, its timber. In reference to the latter he says:

"The timber on Manitoulin island is perhaps somewhat better than that of Muskoka or Parry sound. The trees are much the same size as in these districts. Unfortunately fire has ravaged the forests and destroyed much valuable timber; and this, together with the great quantities which have been taken away, render it much less abundant than it was a few years ago. Still there is a good deal of valuable timber remaining, and many saw, shingle and lath mills do flourishing business in reducing it to forms adapted to the use of mankind. Pine, cedar, spruce, maple, black birch, yellow birch,

white birch, white poplar, rough bark poplar and whitewood are to be found in considerable quantities, while white oak, hemlock, balsam, tamarac and basswood, though not so plentiful, are by no means scarce. Saw mills are situated at the following places, and many of them are doing a large business, while the remainder are doing very well: Michael's bay, on south shore of island, large mill, driven by waterpower; township of Sansfield, McDonald's mill, driven by water power; Providence bay, on south shore, water power; Manitowising, on the north shore of the island, steam power; Shequiandah, on the north shore, water power; Little Current, steam power; Kogawong, on north shore, water power; Gore bay, on north shore, two steam mills; township of Burpee, near south shore, steam power; Meldrum bay, western portion of island, steam power. In connection with most of these mills will be found lath and shingle mills, while Gore bay boasts of a separate shingle mill. The Manitowising, Black and Kagawong rivers afford excellent water power to drive the saw and grist mills to be found on their banks. The timber on Manitoulin is a great boon to the settlers; it renders building and fencing an easy task; the hardwood furnishes fuel; the pine gives the settler a fair revenue; the cedar affords employment to the industrious in getting it out for railway ties, telegraph poles, and preparing it to be cut into block for paving purposes; and the firwood yields quite an income to the settler, who lives near enough to a steamboat landing to profitably dispose of his wood to the steamers which are constantly calling there. It will be seen that the settler who casts his lot in this part of our province has many ways of earning a livelihood. If his crops fail he may turn to the many sources of employment to keep himself and his family, if he has one—from suffering and from hunger, and at any time, when his farm will permit, he may direct his attention to those different ways of bringing 'grist to the common mill,' and by industry and perseverance see his efforts rewarded by success, in a nice farm with good crops and the many comforts of home surrounding him. The last fall the steamer Silver Spray ran up to Manitoulin island, a married man with a family worked on the steamer for his passage to Mud bay. Here he obtained work at the saw mill, and kept his wife and family during the winter. He located on a lot, and being industrious, he improved his position day by day, until at present he is the owner of a fine farm back of Gore bay. This is only one instance—I might mention many."

#### THE CITY OF WOOD.

Ottawa might be appropriately called the "City of Wood." High stacks of planks cover acres of ground, barges full to the brim with lumber lie in the harbor, the very air is fragrant with the aroma of the pine, whilst above the

Falls the river is crowded with floating logs, soon to become planks and laths. There is a rapid transformation of the rough round log into the smooth straight plank. At one moment a pine tree's trunk is skillfully hooked by a man who dances about in the eddying water and never tumbles in; the next it is caught by the sharp teeth of an endless chain and drawn up into the mill, passing under the upright frame in which are fixed the saws, ten or twenty in number, according to the size of the log. Now the transformation is complete; at the other end eager hands carry away the pine log, now perhaps in a dozen long planks. And so this goes on from May to November, and 200,000 feet of lumber are sawn into planks in one day in one mill in Ottawa.—*London Echo*.

#### THE MINNEAPOLIS MILLS.

A special despatch from Minneapolis, Minn., to the *Chicago Tribune*, dated Oct. 16th, says: "A review made to-day of the season's work by the Minneapolis saw mills shows the heaviest lumber cut ever known for the corresponding time, although the total for the season will not vary much from that of 1882, as the mills will shut down earlier. The total cut of the mills at present is fully 2,000,000 feet per day, and this will be maintained until the mills shut down. The total cut for the season will be about 315,000,000 feet. The mills will shut down about November 1, which is fully two weeks earlier than usual. There will then be about 80,000,000 feet to be carried over in the boom and about 45,000,000 feet in the upper Mississippi and its tributaries, or 125,000,000 feet in all, a much larger amount than was carried over last year. The log cut in the woods next winter will not be as large as last year. Estimates made by good authorities place it from 50 to 60 per cent. of what it was last year, with 60 as an outside figure. Those firms which do their own cutting will not send in as many men as usual on account of the large amount of logs each will carry over, and it has been demonstrated that sometimes logs are not good property. This was the case with Wilson & Gillespie, who got \$4.25 per thousand, or about enough to pay the cost of putting them in, they losing the stumpage. The number of 1,000,000 and 2,000,000 operators will also be largely decreased, as the disastrous results of last winter's operations have floored them financially, and as to borrow money on the prospective success of a winter's logging business is just now a work in which banks are not engaged to any remarkable extent. Still there are many firms which at such times assume that, as the others are not cutting heavily, there will probably be a scarcity, and they will therefore cut an extra amount. It is not likely, however, that the cut will exceed 200,000,000.

The drives have been unusually successful during the season. The water has been low at

times, but the average has been very good. More lumber has been shipped out of Minneapolis this year than ever before, but that is not saying that the year has been most successful to the dealers. A good demand for lumber is coming from Iowa, and the majority of the shipments from this city are going there, but a number of the dealers state that they cannot send the stuff there at present prices, and accordingly they have withdrawn. Dakota, however, is receiving attention, and a good trade is being built up in that territory. A printed list is still sent out by the lumbermen, but they do not pretend to adhere to it, and there is more cutting than ever before. Discounts from 2 to 5 per cent. are made, and in some cases even more than that. Stocks are badly broken, particularly in dimension and pine lumber, and the different dealers are buying from each other as much as they ever did."

#### A MAINE OPERATION.

The *Milling and Industrial Journal*, of Bangor, Me., says that up in the northern wilderness of that state, near Mount Katahdin, is a wild little stream, called the Wassatquoik, which runs through a rocky valley, surrounded by rich timbered country. The timber has heretofore been almost inaccessible on account of the difficulty of driving the stream, but now preparations are being made for a large operation in that region. F. H. Todd & Sons, of Calais, and others, own tracts of spruce and pine in township 4, range 9, and have entered into contract with Tracy & Love, of St. Stephens, N. B., for hauling and driving into boom at Oldtown, on the Penobscot, 15,000,000 feet of logs this season, and 5,000,000 to 6,000,000 each of the next successive five seasons, the whole contract involving a cut of 40,000,000 feet of pine and spruce logs. The contractors now have 80 men at work on the stream, building dams and clearing the stream for driving. About \$90,000 will be expended in labor and supplies the coming winter. During the active logging season a force of 400 men and 100 horses will be employed.

#### The Lumber Trade.

A despatch from Ottawa dated Oct. 12, says: The lumber mills here will likely close down about the end of the month. One of the prominent lumbermen here states that for upper grade lumber the price is about the same as that of last year. The lower grades have fallen slightly, and lumbermen have been obliged to make some concessions to buyers in this respect. The trade in the Western States was very dull all summer. In some particulars it was a failure, and it is only a wonder that things have been so lively here. Lumbermen are not sending so many men to the shanties this winter, and the number of logs turned out will not be so long as during the past few years.