

THE OTTAWA VALLEY.

(Correspondence of the CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

Predictions have been borne out by facts in one particular at least. An Ottawa district lumberman has closed with an English buyer for his 1904 cut of deals at a slight advance on the quotations ruling for the cut for 1903. It is the usual thing to close contracts for the English market about the end of November, so that the early deal made this year is indicative of the brisk demand there is for Canadian lumber across the pond.

It is the general opinion that there will be an all round advance on lumber of from five to ten per cent., this having reference to next season's cut. Of course the wage question has much to do with it. In other years the question of the cost of supplies for man and beast and equipment of camps was taken into consideration, but this time the wage question overshadows everything else. The advance in provisions has been marked, in the case of beans, a staple, fully 100 per cent.

Discussing the situation to-day a member of an old established firm said that experienced men were holding out for \$40 a month and board. However, experienced men at \$40 a month are cheap compared with inexperienced men at \$35, \$32 or even \$30. According to this party his firm will curtail operations in the bush owing to the scarcity and high price of labor. He laid emphasis on the fact that prices of lumber will have to be advanced if the manufacturer is to get his own out of it.

No change in prices are reported by millmen or dealers. There is a slight weakening in some lines of cutting up lumber owing to the falling off in the demand from the American market. This is accounted for by the set-back given building operations by the strikes and the consequent slackness in business in the sash and door factories of the Eastern States.

The lath and shingle market is picking up, with the promise of an active fall trade. Prices, however, remain unchanged.

Fraser & Company's new mill at Deschenes above Ottawa is now running full time cutting 50,000 feet a day. This mill is considered by experts to be the best equipped in Canada if not in America. It ran without a hitch from the first day, a feature of mill operations not often met with.

The Hawkesbury Lumber Company's mill at Hawkesbury has been shut down for the season, and the men sent to the shanties. The season was a long one, thanks to the continued high water of the Ottawa, upon which the band mill depends for water power. Work is now under way on the deepening of the waterway. The rock will be blasted down for a further depth of five feet. When this work is completed the increased water power even

in times of low water will permit of the mill being run up till the snow flies. The cut at the Hawkesbury Company's mills this season ran between forty-five and fifty million feet.

Recent rains improved the situation on the tributaries of the Rouge river, and a portion of the logs that were "hung up" have been floated down. The Rior-dan Company, of Hawkesbury, had about 300,000 logs on the streams. The Morrison mill at L'Original had to be shut down for a while on account of scarcity of logs.

Perley & Company's mill at Calumet is cutting about 30,000,000 feet of lumber this season.

It is estimated that fully 300,000,000 feet of lumber was carried on the Ottawa Transportation Company's barges from points on the Ottawa river this season. It was the heaviest business done in years. From the mills at Ottawa, Hull, Rockland, Hawkesbury, Calumet, Montebello and Grenville shipments were made almost daily. Most of the lumber went to Montreal for export to England, but a goodly share was forwarded to New York. In the matter of values one barge load shipped from the Hawkesbury Lumber Company's mills at Hawkesbury took the cake. It contained about 270,000 feet of three inch first quality deals for the English market. It was valued at \$60 per thousand, making a total of almost \$17,000.

Reports received from the limits show that work is progressing well. Many foremen are devoting their time to road making, which is facilitated in the absence of snow, while more are busy logmaking. From general observation it seems likely there will be a falling off in the cut of waney and square timber this season, for the very good reason that, especially in the Kippewa region, it isn't to be had.

The suspension of operations at the Soo caused considerable discussion in Ottawa lumber circles. Agents lost no time in

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making their way to the Soo to engage men for the camps, but few were secured for the Ottawa firms. The majority of the men who did not remain idle waiting for the payment of their wages, hired with companies in the Georgian Bay district.

Ottawa district capital will be well represented at the big sale of limits to be held by the Ontario Government on December 9th. It is said that between fifteen and

twenty parties are out going over the promised land for the Ottawa and district mills.

The new planing and sash and door factories built by Davidson & Thackray in the west end of the city are completed. The work of installing the machinery, which has all been ordered, will shortly be proceeded with. The mill will be running before Christmas.

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