

OTTAWA LETTER.

(Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

THE anxiety in lumber circles for a time regarding the possible outcome of the Quebec regulations discriminating against pulp-wood operators, who might export out of the province, has been set at rest by the withdrawal of the obnoxious clause by the local government. The order-in-Council, of course, was aimed at United States importers of pulp-wood as a retaliation against the duty imposed on pulp-wood, mechanically ground, or chemical, when imported into the United States from Canada. Some day this phase of the tariff will, no doubt, be fought out, as pulp manufacturers feel that it is a great injustice to them. However, this is neither here or there, so far as present matters are concerned with lumbermen.

The exodus of shantymen from the vicinity of Ottawa is still at its height, and large numbers of young men are being sent up the Gatineau and Ottawa valley to do work in the lumber camps this winter. It looks, and this opinion is entertained by many, as though the coming winter would extend beyond the average, but whether this will be the case it is hard yet to say. There may be a good deal of activity in the shanties in the early part of the season. Whether this will continue throughout the winter, will depend, no doubt, on developments later.

Large quantities of lumber are being sent out from here on the Canada Atlantic Railway, a result of the stimulus to trade through the change in the United States tariff.

Though practically out of the lumber business, everyone here is interested in the undertakings of E. B. Eddy, of Hull, and the preparations he is making for the extension of his paper manufacturing business are just now being watched with interest.

The last of the season's logs taken down by the Upper Ottawa sweep are now in Fort William boom. The towing season is said to have been the heaviest on record.

Two steamers have been chartered by the Export Lumber Co. to carry white pine to South America, each vessel having the capacity of 1,500,000 feet. The lumber is sent to Montreal for loading on the boats.

Thomas Murray, ex-M.P.P., of Pembroke, is having litigation with his former partner, John Loughrin, M.P.P., of Mattawa, regarding a timber limit on the Upper Ottawa. The query is, who owns the limit. In the meantime Mr. Murray has obtained an injunction against his old associate in business.

OTTAWA, CAN., Oct. 23, 1894.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

(Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

SOME concern exists here in lumber circles over the ruling of the collector of customs at Port Townsend, that cedar in the log, squared by sawing, is dutiable at 25 per cent. ad val., and that other cedar lumber is dutiable at the same rate as other manufactures not specially provided for. There can be no doubt that this is the result of an oversight by Congress, but whether it can be repaired now is something that we will need to wait and see. When the bill was reported to the Senate a change appears to have been made, the paragraph reading as follows: "Sawed boards, planks, deals and other lumber, rough or dressed, except boards, plank, deals and other lumber of cedar, lignum vitae, lancewood, ebony, box, granadilla, mahogany, rosewood, satin and other cabinet woods." It is the intention of British Columbia lumbermen to test the question by sending a carload of cedar east, and if it shall be declared at the port of export, an appeal to the treasury department will be made. At the same time they will likely petition the government at Ottawa to have the United States withdraw the impost.

COAST CHIEF.

The Brunette Saw Mills expect to make a shipment to a southern port.

The death is recorded of John White, proprietor of the Sidney saw mill.

The firm of Hamilton & McLeod, sash and door factory, Armstrong, has been dissolved.

Julius Berger, a lumber merchant of Valparaiso, South America, has been here making purchases.

Several booms of logs are being brought along from the Brunette Saw Mills, Royal City Mills and others.

A purchase of 1,000,000 feet of spruce from a British Columbia mill has been made by a San Francisco firm.

The first cargo of lumber from British Columbia for San Francisco is about to leave here per the American schooner Sadie.

The British Columbia Logging Co., Ltd., is a new corporation. Capital stock \$50,000. Trustees: J. S. Taylor, J. Cook and E. Evans.

A shipment of lumber from the Hastings mill has gone to Calais, France, being the first shipment from a British Columbia port to that country.

A development in free lumber is indicated by the fact that three British Columbia mills have already established agencies at San Francisco, Cal., intending to make a vigorous push for this trade. The shingle business is as unsatisfactory as ever, stocks being heavy and the demand light.

James McKim, one of the best known loggers of the Pacific coast and a resident of this province for about 9 years, coming here from Nova Scotia, met with his death a week ago while superintending the running of some logs at Howe Sound. He was struck by a heavy log bounding from the chute.

Lumber freights from ports here are quoted as follows: Valparaiso for orders, 35s.; Sidney, 37s. 6d.; United Kingdom calling at Cork for orders, 45s.; Melbourne, Adelaide or Port Pirie, 36s. 6d. to 37s. 6d.; Shanghai, 42s. 6d.; Tientsin, 55s.; nominal South Africa, 60s.; Noumea, 40s.; Calais, 63s. 6d.

Lumber for foreign points is being loaded as follows: At Hastings mill—Italian bark Cavour, 1,389 tons, for Callao; British ship Lismore, 1,598 tons, for Buenos Ayres; American bark Ingard, 628 tons, for Iquiqui; British bark Alexander, 1,297 tons, for Calais; American schr. Moodyville; British ship Ballachulish, 1,806 tons, for Valparaiso. Total, 6 vessels, 7,213 tons.

The Moodyville Saw Mill Co. have constructed a logging railroad at Grief Point. By this means some of the best timber limits in the province, yet untouched, will be opened out, among which is some fine Douglas fir, which it would be impossible to take out by the old method of ox teams. It is calculated that the limits cover about 8,000 acres, which will be represented by probably 300,000,000 feet of timber. The contract for logging the claim has been awarded to the Union Logging Co., of New Whatcom, Wash., at \$3.10 per 1000 ft. for ten years. Perhaps 200,000,000 feet of cedar and spruce will be found on the claim. The step is an important one for the province, and if successful will likely lead to the building of other logging railroads and prove an important means of expanding the lumber trade of the province.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., Oct. 18, 1894.

NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER.

(Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

A LUMBERMAN'S convention for the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia has been called to meet at Moncton, N. B., Nov. 20. This is a new move for lumber men here, as it will mark the first convention of the kind, perhaps, that has ever been held.

Alexander Gibson lost \$3,300 a fortnight ago, through his store at Marysville being burglarized.

The mills are practically at the end of their season's work. Some firms, including Snowball, Richard and Hickson, are still cutting, but this will not last any great length of time. It is anticipated, if navigation remains open pretty well along into the season, that there will be very little in the shape of stocks carried over.

Steps were taken at a conference of delegates of the different boards of trade held here during the month to secure special freight rates on lumber on the Intercolonial Railway from North Shore points to St. John's in winter. It is argued, if the rates are made favorable the trade here will be in a good position to compete with the United States for business in the West Indies and South America. The harbor of St. John's is always open to navigation.

As a sequel to the control secured by the Dominion Coal Co. in the Cape Breton coal mines, it is likely that the lumber interests of Nova Scotia will pass largely into the hands of the same capitalists. Offers, it is understood, have been made, and just so soon as parties concerned can arrive exactly at terms the transfer will take place.

The business of E. D. Davidson & Sons, of Nova Scotia, has been transferred to a joint stock company.

St. JOHN'S, N. B., Oct. 20, 1894.

MICHIGAN LETTER.

(Regular correspondence CANADA LUMBERMAN.)

LUMBERMEN here are not just sure where they stand as a result of the changes in the tariff. Speculation as to the ultimate outcome continues and the changes in conditions and individual experience as they develop from week to week are having their influence in shaping opinion. It is felt by some that Saginaw has seen its best days as a wholesale lumber centre, and the trade of the future will be done in the yards. Michigan is also feeling the effect of competition from the Duluth and Superior districts, where the stumpage rates are much

more favorable. It is stated that the average cost of stumpage of the lumber cut in the Saginaw district in the last ten years is about \$7.00, whereas \$3.00 would cover the Lake Superior stumpage. Lumbermen here are keeping up prices, and the fact, of course, is doing something to make trade slow, as lumber at other points is being sold at a lower figure. But our people here have confidence in the outcome of the trade, and are not disposed to break prices. The decision, it is recognized, is a wise one, if our people can hold on long enough.

HITS OF LUMBER.

W. C. McClure, who has been up in the Duluth section, is one authority for the statement that prices are lower there than at Saginaw.

Large numbers of shantymen have left this state for work in the Canadian woods, which is something of a turn-about in conditions in this respect.

Shipments from Bay City for the first two weeks in October were 10,766,000 feet of lumber and 735,000 shingles. Lumber freights are showing a downward tendency.

It is stated that the cut of cedar in Michigan the coming winter will be very small, as cedar is a drug on the market just now, and large quantities are being shipped into the American markets.

Lumber freights have advanced 25c. per 1000 all round, and are now as follows: Bay City to Tonawanda, \$1.50; Saginaw to Tonawanda, \$1.62½; Bay City to Ohio, \$1.25; Saginaw to Ohio, \$1.37½.

The Emory mill at Midland, Ont., that has been purchased by James Playfair & Co., of Sturgeon Bay, Ont., is to be stocked by Arthur Hill & Co., of Saginaw, for seven years. It will have a capacity of 25,000,000 feet.

A sale of 7,000,000 feet of lumber cut from Canadian logs by the Green, Ring & Co. mill here is recorded, and the lumber is piled on the docks. It is thought that the price has ranged about \$15 to \$15.50. The sale was made by Menzies, Ring & Co.

S. O. Fisher, of Bay City, will, together with the other concerns with which he is associated, put in about 50,000,000 feet of logs in the Georgian Bay waters the coming season. Mr. Fisher, who is a candidate for governor, is stumping the state just now.

Among several important sales of lumber made during the month the following are reported: Merrill, Ring & Co., 7,000,000 feet to Chicago parties, representing a total of over \$100,000; Geo. B. Jackson, of Bay City, 2,500,000 feet, amounting to about \$35,000; W. L. Churchill, of Alpena, 1,000,000 feet, at \$12.50 straight; S. M. Gates, of Bay City, about 2,000,000 feet, and F. B. Bradley, about 1,000,000 feet. So that some lumber is selling here.

Ben Boulette, of the Saginaw Bay Towing Association, who has rafted 150,000,000 feet of logs from Canada during the season just closed says: "If the Dominion government insists on imposing the duty on boom sticks, its effect would be to put a stop to the towing of logs from Canada, and that would mean the closing down of nearly every saw mill along the Saginaw river. If such a duty was collected only once during the season it would not materially affect the business, but the intention of the Canadian government, as I understand it, is to tax the towing companies every time they place a boom stick in Canadian waters. This would involve an enormous expenditure during the course of the season, and it would be impossible for the owners of the logs to pay it, for towing rates would increase accordingly. We have thirteen sets of boom sticks at Spanish river now, although the season has ended, and if this rule is carried out we will be compelled to pay duty on them when we bring them across to this side."

SAGINAW, MICH., Oct. 19, 1894.

DON'T.

DON'T wait till the grindstone only hits the tool three times in a revolution before you true it up again. Keep a piece of a half-inch gas-pipe handy and show the boy how to turn it off as soon as it begins to show a low spot. Turning off a sixteenth may make it true, but if you wait until to-morrow it may take a quarter of an inch. It is economy to turn "little and often." Machinery.

A THREE CENT STAMP DOES IT.

ON receipt of a three cent stamp we will mail free to any address a copy of our little hand-book entitled "Rules and Regulations for the inspection of pine and hardwood lumber," as adopted by the lumber section and sanctioned by the Council of the Board of Trade, of Toronto June 16, 1890. Address, CANADA LUMBERMAN, Toronto, Ont.