

THE NEW BRUNSWICK LUMBER KING.

Every regular reader of *The Timber Trades Journal* is familiar with the name of Alexander Gibson, of Marysville, N.B., Canada.

The owner of thousands upon thousands of acres of fine timber lands, and the lessee of other large tracts; the owner of the Canada Eastern Railway, which runs through the heart of New Brunswick from Fredericton on the St. John River to Nelson Chatham, and Loggieville on the Miramichi; the owner of five lumber-mills and a large cotton-mill; the founder and practically the owner of the thriving little town of Marysville; and the shipper, annually, of nearly, if not altogether, a hundred million feet of lumber to different markets, chiefly in the British Islands, Mr. Gibson is not only a man of note in his own province, but widely known beyond its borders. He is the largest individual employer of labour in New Brunswick. Over a thousand persons are in his employ in summer, and his winter contracts for work in the woods swell the number either directly employed by him or by his contractors to more than two thousand persons. About six hundred men are employed stream driving in the spring, and about the same number of persons are steadily employed in the cotton-mill.

Mr. Gibson began without capital, and, literally, with his own way to hew out in life. What he possesses to-day is due entirely to the exercise of native ability and industry, and he has preserved through a long life of business success an untarnished reputation.

The engravings which accompany this article relate only to his lumbering operations. They do not give anything like a fair idea of Marysville, for only one side of the Nashwaak is shown. The huge cotton-mill, and the streets of large tenement houses, which, with cottages, churches, and other buildings, make up the larger portion of the town, are on the opposite side of the stream. The cotton-mill and tenement houses are built of brick, manufactured from a fine clay deposit within the town limits. A little over thirty years ago, when Mr. Gibson bought the property, there were only a tumble-down mill and a few old houses.

There is no other town like it in Canada. It never had a "boom," but has simply grown up steadily as the result of one man's enterprise. At seventy odd years of age he is still the master mind, always on the move, with a keen, personal oversight of every branch of his business. There are excellent public schools and five churches in the town, but there is not a liquor-store or beer-saloon within its borders.

Marysville is on the Nashwaak stream, three miles from where it empties into the St. John river, just opposite the city of Fredericton. The Canada Eastern Railway runs through the town, right beside the lumber-mills, and through its connection with other lines this railway affords access to the United States market as well as to all parts of Canada. It also connects Marysville with Blackville, which is on a tributary of the Miramichi river, and where Mr. Gibson has two saw-mills. He owns over 200,000 acres of timber lands on the Nashwaak, besides large blocks on other streams, and he has large tracks leased on the Miramichi waters. His lands are all accurately surveyed and mapped, so that when he lets his winter contracts for logging the contractors are shown on maps in his office the exact location, with all necessary information relative to the work. His work in the woods is all done by contract. The operations are carried on systematically from year to year, with due care for the conservation of his forest wealth, and it would be well for the province if equal care and foresight governed all operations in that line.

There are three mills at Marysville, one cutting long lumber, another shingles, and another laths. This winter the cut of logs will be 35,000,000 feet to be sawn at these mills. The spruce is cut into deals for the British market. They are floated down the Nashwaak to its mouth, at the village of Gibson, and there loaded at once on lighters or barges of large capacity, on which they are towed down the St. John river to the Harbour of St. John, to be loaded on ships and steamers for British ports. All the cedar logs are cut into shingles, the clears and extras for the United States market, the other grades for the provincial markets. The laths are shipped to the United States, and the hemlock is cut into boards for that market also. They are shipped partly direct by rail and partly by schooner from the wharf at Gibson.

At Blackville, as shown in our engravings, there are two mills, one run by steam and one by water power. The former cuts hemlock, and the latter spruce. Last year the cut was 5,000,000 feet of spruce and 5,000,000 feet of hemlock, with about 300,000 feet of cedar. The cut this year will be 12,000,000 feet. The hemlock and cedar products are shipped direct to the States. The spruce deals are carried over the Canada Eastern to Gibson and transferred with the Marysville deals by barges to St. John for shipment to the British market. The logs for the Blackville mills are cut on the Bartholomew river, a tributary of the Miramichi.

When Mr. Gibson bought the Nashwaak property he built a boom supported by a mile or more of piers,

constructed driving dams, and otherwise permanently improved the facilities, so that he can drive his logs fully five shillings per thousand cheaper than his predecessors. It must be a very exceptional season when any of his logs are "hung up" on the stream. The cost of portaging, hauling logs, and driving on the Bartholomew river is probably less than on any other tributary of the Miramichi, so that in all respects Mr. Gibson is exceptionally well situated for the profitable prosecution of the lumber industry. His mills are splendidly equipped, and their product a high-class lumber.

Besides the cut of his own mills, Mr. Gibson is a large buyer of lumber for shipment to the British market. While his own total cut of lumber is a round 40,000,000 feet per annum for all markets, he ships over 80,000,000 feet to the British market alone.

His English agents are the well-known firm of Farnworth & Jardine, of Liverpool. Since he began operations on the Nashwaak he has cut and marketed fully a thousand million (1,000,000,000) feet of lumber from his own mills there and at Blackville.

Mr. Gibson's two sons are with him, Alex Gibson, junior, being engaged in the oversight of work at the Marysville saw-mills, and James Gibson in the cotton-mill, in the offices of which are also C. H. Hatt and F. M. Merritt, sons-in-law of the proprietor. Alfred Rowley, bookkeeper in the head office of the lumber business, has been with Mr. Gibson nearly thirty years. His St. John office is in charge of W. E. Bowden. The founder of Marysville has the faculty of surrounding himself with capable men, and the vast business concerns of which he is the head are carried on with the utmost simplicity and accuracy of method. Not only as an example, but as a great factor in provincial development, his life and work have been of the greatest value to New Brunswick and its people.

The photographs from which the accompanying illustrations are made were nearly all taken on a day when the mills were not in operation, and two of them after the snow had come.



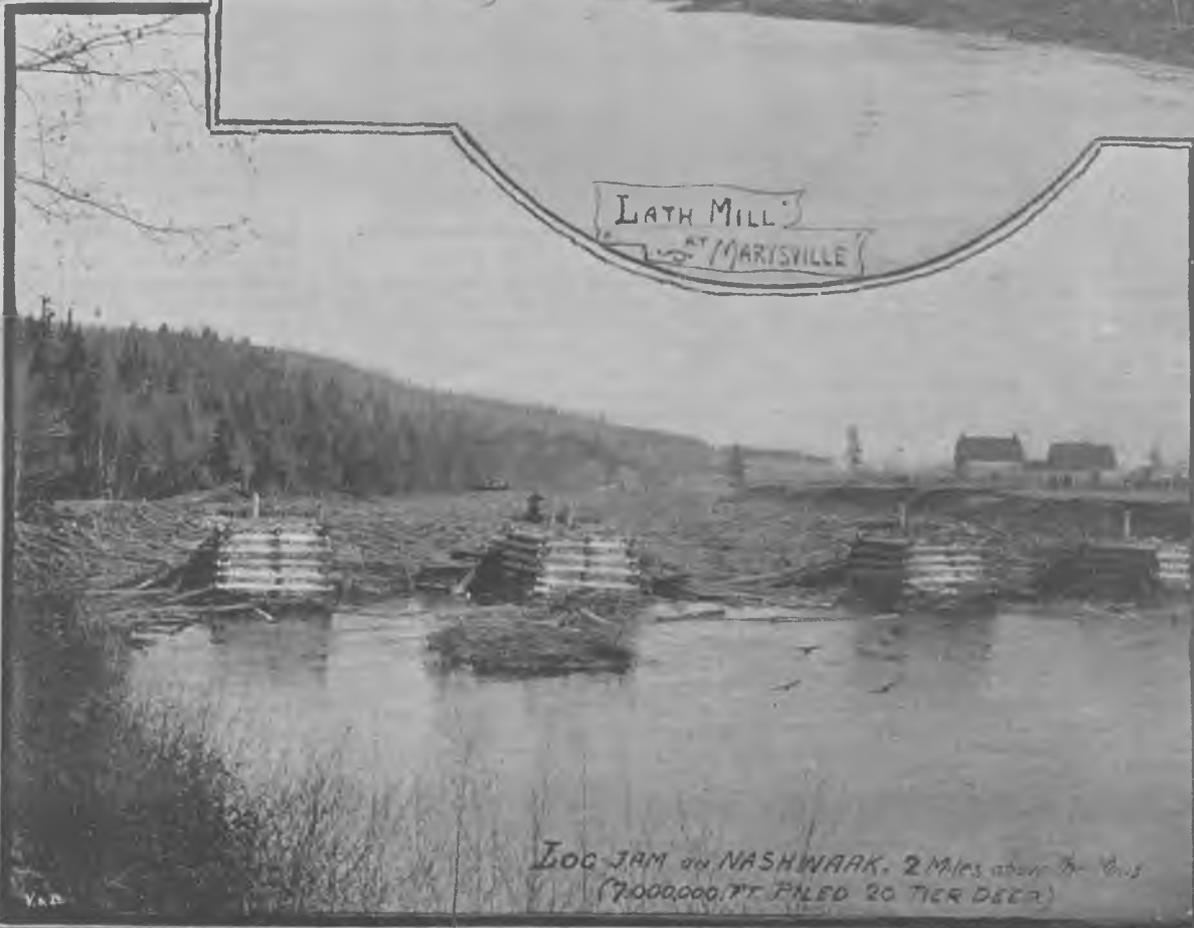
M^r ALEXANDER GIBSON'S MILLS NEW BRUNSWICK



SHINGLE
MILL
AT
MARYSVILLE



LATH MILL
AT MARYSVILLE



LOG JAM ON NASHWAUK, 2 Miles above the Falls
(7000000 FT PALED 20 TIER DEEP)

MR. ALEXANDER GIBSON'S MILLS NEW BRUNSWICK



SAW & GRIST MILLS at Marysville
Looking across the river



GRIST, SHINGLE & SAWMILLS at Marysville
Looking up the WASHWANA



SAWMILL & SHINGLE MILL at Marysville

MR ALEXANDER GIBSON'S MILLS
NEW BRUNSWICK



STEAM MILL AT BLACKVILLE

WATER MILL AT BLACKVILLE

