

# THE RED RIVER LUMBER COMPANY

CALIFORNIA SUGAR & WHITE PINE  
FIR & CEDAR  
LUMBER, LATH AND BOX SHOOKS.  
SASH AND DOOR STOCK.

ANNUAL CAPACITY  
200 000,000 FEET.

"PRODUCERS OF WHITE PINE FOR 45 YEARS"

WESTWOOD, CAL. May 4, 1916.

GENERAL OFFICES  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.  
SALES OFFICES  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.  
507 HENNEPIN AVENUE.  
CHICAGO, ILL.  
2221 SO. ASHLAND AVE.  
WESTWOOD, CAL.  
MONADNOCK BUILDING.  
SAN FRANCISCO.

MILLS AND BOX FACTORY  
AKELEY, MINN.  
MILLS BOX AND CUTTING-UP FACTORIES  
WESTWOOD, CAL.  
DISTRIBUTING YARD  
CHICAGO, ILL.  
R. F. PRAY, RESIDENT MANAGER  
WESTWOOD, CAL.

Hon. T. B. Walker,

Hotel Seville, New York, N. Y.

My dear Father:

As you are probably getting copy of our daily report you have in a general way the operation.

The woods work is under favorable conditions having kept together the best of the logging crew so that as the snow settled we were able to deliver logs at a reduced cost.

We have also been getting the track-laying of spurs and our main line 6 miles out surfaced and things trimmed up in a general way for the summer's operation, all of which will make the daily cost of the logging appear higher than it should, but as we wind up towards Fall it will result in the latter logs coming in still cheaper.

We are logging over 700,000 ft. per day, hauling about 500,000 and sawing a little over 400,000. As soon as the next band is in operation which should be in about three weeks we should be cutting over 500 M. and producing over 600 M. ft. of lumber. We will increase the log hauling as soon as we can construct 20 yard lumber standard gauge flats out of trucks which Willis purchased from the Southern Pacific at \$100.00 a car, which will relieve 20 of the cars that we purchased from the

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Diamond Match and put them into the log hauling service.

This should give us a capacity sufficient to accumulate some 200,000 ft. per day in the pond, so that by the time the bad weather in the Fall comes on we will be able to cut out logging and we will produce cheap lumber.

Work is progressing slowly with the installation of the two new boilers, we having been delayed by slow delivery of sand from Pyramid Lake by the S. P. they furnishing it to us at a lower rate than we can get it by crushing rock or hauling from the sand bars in Mountain Meadows. However, the work is going ahead now and we will be ready for the iron erectors as soon as the iron work arrives, which is due now any time. We need these boilers badly as we are short of steam in good weather and a rainy spell would require us to use more of the sawmill refuse and make it still worse.

Work on installing band mill is progressing nicely with the exception that the Diamond Iron Works have disappointed us about a month in time of shipment. We now are informed that the band mill will be shipped today and that the carriage will come in ten days so that in about three weeks from now we will have this mill running. We have sufficient timber opened up now so that we have discontinued cutting the White Fir in all of the camps but are pulling off of the shore with a small hoisting engine a bunch of White Fir as we have orders on the books for about two million and in addition to this it is necessary for us to use the White Fir for stickers for two reasons, first, that it is more economical to use White Fir than Pine, second,

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that the lumber will blue ff put on White Pine stickers, so it is necessary for us all the time to run some White Fir through, also in our own construction we use White Fir so that it is not practical to cut the White Fir out entirely.

There seems to be no limit to the amount of lumber that the market will take and so we are able to move practically all items as fast as they are gotten into shipping condition and with 34 Million in pile March 1st, which is principally green, this will soon be in shipping shape and will let us increase our output. We are also getting 250 to 300 M. through the kilns, so the shipments for this month should run up pretty well, and next month still better.

The point that is the most disagreeable about the plant is lack of houses to take care of families of the men who are working for us. The women folks not being able to see that a large family in a tent or in a one room woodshed are not considered sufficient to put them up a house where they can have sufficient accommodations to be comfortable. It costs us about \$500.00 counting lumber and labor to put up a 4 room house with bath and plumbing and ceiled in the inside. The same building without the plumbing or ceiling costs about \$200.00 less. To put the town in a reasonably comfortable condition would require 50 more houses and to get the families out of tents would require another 50, but every dozen houses that we build and get occupied gives us that many more of the most urgent cases and relieves the situation very materially, so as soon as we could see our way clear to do so, we should start building

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more houses. On an income basis we should consider the several factors, rent paid by the tenant, store, laundry, bakery, etc. in creased revenue and to have our men housed, for without any question a man spending his evenings and nights under cramped and unsatisfactory living conditions is not in as good condition to do a day's work as one who is contented, also that the men with families are steadier workers, more loyal and accomplish more than the single men and the far less liability of any labor troubles we have.

We have on the other hand the additional school expense and additional liability of the Workmen's Compensation. However, this Workmen's Compensation Act is working out where it is more satisfactory and less expense than to have it handled by an Accident Insurance Company or handling it direct through the Courts and notwithstanding the unfair and disagreeable rulings at times, as a whole, it is better than either of the other two ways that it is customary to handle it.

Mr. Hood of the Southern Pacific was in here last week and looked over the territory from Big Meadows to Greenville with reference to making connection to our Big Meadows line to serve Indian Valley. I talked to him about going to Engles Mine by Mountain Meadows and Moonlight Mts. but as this lands at Engles Mine, which is some 1500 ft. above the Valley, it did not interest him at all. It also seemed very doubtful in his mind whether the business of Indian Valley

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and the copper interests of Genesee Valley which is the first valley to the southwest of Indian Valley would warrant the construction and maintenance of a road.

He wanted to know why we did not encourage him some with building another mill in the Fall River District as they were ready to get good and busy and construct this road whenever we would say "go". It would be a reasonable expenditure it would seem to me on our part if we picked out a sawmill site on say the East side of the White Horse somewhere in the Egg Lake district or possibly nearer Lookout, surveyed it and got options on any land that it would be necessary for a milling operation to have. From the report of the Pitt River Basin Commission they show that this location is a very dry one there, being only about 20" in a year, which would be favorable for a year around operation. We could also spend a little money to good advantage locating a mill site on the Bear Creek group, surveying it out and getting options as a completed scheme of mill location, town location and railroad center would be of a great deal of value in interesting someone taking on some of these tracts of timber, whereas if we wait until the party shows up the very first thing we run into is a question of location and it takes a good share of a summer to pick one out and if it happens to be in the Winter season, wait until summer and then use up a summer.

If you could succeed in getting to Westwood in the next four months, we could take an automobile and outfit and in a very reasonable time pick out available spots and then

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run out, or if your coming here is a questionable feature, we could arrange to have the country looked over and selections made and the data on them sent to you.

Yours affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fletcher".

FLW/MA