

Frank Buell, One of Michigan's Lumber Kings

Frank Buell, the well-known Gaylord lumberman, who for the past 19 years has been operating in Otsego County on his own account, and who has recently extended his field of operation by purchasing a large mill at Bay City, is a hustling business man to whom we can point with pride. By his own exertions, push and force of character he has risen from obscurity to state-wide prominence. Frank was wise and sagacious in his day, and foresaw the future growth and development of the lumbering business. His keen foresight saw success where others saw disaster and failure. He hung on in the face of trials and discouragements that caused other men to hesitate and halt and by sheer force of will and energy has emerged triumphant and achieved signal success, and is deserving the credit of the business world and the full heed of praise that his hand and head have wrought out.

After the big fire at Haakwood that destroyed the mill and put that firm out of commission, Frank was quick to note a fine business opportunity, and invested heavily in timber land, buying 27,000 acres of that Company including all its remaining buildings and houses and stores. In order to do this capital to the extent of nearly half a million was required, and he sought out and took in as business partners J. T. Wylie & Co. of Saginaw, men of ample means and wide experience.

Prior to going to Bay City he built and operated a big mill at Gaylord for seven years. This property is idle at present, but there is a good prospect of its going into commission again as a heading mill in the near future. The mill at Bay City gives employment to seventy-five men and has a daily capacity of 100,000 feet of lumber. The firm has enough timber in sight, hardwood and hemlock, to stock the mill for fully 15 years.

The advantage in operating at Bay City is obvious; - therefore the refuse of the logs can be utilized for fuel and considerable revenue derived there from which otherwise would have to be burned up to get rid of, and that city is also an excellent market for the product of the mill.

The timber holdings of the firm aggregate 50,000 acres in this surrounding region, and eight lumber camps with large crews of men are kept constantly employed in getting out the timber which is shipped by rail. The firm also supplies vast quantities of timber to other mills in addition to their own. After the land has been lumbered over, it is good for farming, being highly productive, and readily sells for from \$4 to \$15 per acre, owing to location and surrounding conditions.

Politically Mr. Buell is an ardent Republican and in days of yore agone has done yeoman service and is a hustling campaigner, and the party recognizing his worth, elected him a member of the State Republican committee.

Mr. Buell has an interesting family, - wife and four children, - two sons and two daughters, the eldest daughter, Miss Lulu, is at present ably serving her father as chief accountant and stenographer at the Bay City office. She is a most winsome girl and Frank is naturally very proud of her. Taken altogether, Mr. Buell is a very prominent and useful citizen in our community.