

are satisfactory. There has been a rapid growth in the local demand consequent upon the stimulus given to all departments of trade by mining development. There has also been a growing demand from the European, Australian and other foreign markets. The cedar shingle industry has recently been conducted on a more profitable basis. The extensive demand for red pine shingles has resulted in a rise in prices, and the red cedar shingle has also benefited thereby. The shingle manufacturers in Washington territory, with whom manufacturers in this province have been obliged to compete in price, have recently organized themselves into county and state associations, with the object of maintaining prices, regulating weights, and guaranteeing the quality of their product. This step should prove beneficial to the manufacturers of shingles in British Columbia, regardless of whether they connect themselves with the American organization or not.

UNITED STATES.

The reports from all the principal markets throughout the United States agree in stating that the demand for most classes of lumber is exceptionally active at the present time; in fact, there has not been seen for many years such an active condition of the market for almost all kinds of stock. In the case of hardwoods there is the greatest uncertainty regarding prices, owing to the difficulty of obtaining the required stock, and this uncertainty is said to be interfering to some extent with the developments of trade. The manufacturers in the north-western States are advancing prices, and the statement is made that considerably higher figures are being asked by some of these manufacturers than old stock is being sold for by the Albany dealers. The unusual prosperity now prevailing in all departments of industry throughout the country has greatly increased the demand for unskilled labor. Owing to this circumstance, higher wages are being demanded by the workmen at the mills. To this, coupled with the extraordinary firmness of the demand, is probably due the demand of the manufacturers for higher prices. Hemlock has advanced 75 cents, and is now selling at the highest price ever known, viz., an average of \$13.25. Quartered oak sells readily in the Boston market at \$70 to \$75 per thousand for the highest grades. The peculiar fact is noticed in connection with this class of stock that the price, which was formerly below that of plain sawn oak, is now considerably higher, and constantly advancing. Reports from Baltimore state that there is a good demand for white pine, and that prices are advancing. The rafting of logs cut in the Georgian Bay district by Michigan land holders and mill owners prior to the enactment of the Ontario prohibitory law is about to commence. The quantity of such logs to be brought over this season is estimated at 75,000,000 feet. The interesting statement is published that, according to statistics compiled and presented at a recent meeting of prominent lumber manufacturers of Georgia, the timber supply of that state will become exhausted in six years if the present rate of manufacturing be continued.

FOREIGN.

The return of "Derby" week, as usual, demoralized trade conditions to a considerable extent. Reports from London state that the importations have thus far been much lighter than usual. If the average season's standard is reached, there must shortly be a rush, with consequent confusion on the docks, and delays in delivery to buyers. Freights from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have advanced from 40s to 45 and 46s, and it is not improbable that they may go still higher. What effect this will have on the volume of imports cannot be definitely stated as yet, but in view of the activity of the demand in this market for many kinds of lumber, the increased carrying charges are not likely to severely check shipments. The Bristol Timber

Importers' Association have memorialized the Town Council protesting against the increased dock rates imposed by the Dock Committee on wood goods consigned to the port of Avonmouth. At an auction of wood goods by Messrs. Churchill & Sim, London, there was but a small attendance of bidders, owing to the counter attraction of the "Derby" already referred to. Low prices were obtained for small lots of common spruce, and best bright prime short ends flooring and matching realized fair values. More than usual activity prevails at Liverpool, and spruce deals, notwithstanding heavy imports, are finding ready sale. For the month ending June 1st the stocks at this port were as follows: Quebec pine, 46,000 cu. ft., as compared with 86,000 cu. ft. for the same month last year; waney pine, 63,000 cu. ft., as against 168,000 in 1898. Quebec pine deals are slightly in excess, and spruce deals at the same as last year. At Glasgow, hardwoods are exceptionally scarce, particularly elm, ash and birch. Stocks of British Columbia and Oregon pine are small, and fresh arrivals should find a good market.

THE BRITISH MARKET.

Messrs. Farnworth & Jardine, of Liverpool, in their monthly review of the market, dated the 1st inst., say regarding Canadian woods:

For WANAY PINE there is a fair demand, stocks are high and values steady. SQUARE. — The demand is limited and stocks are sufficient. RED PINE. — There is little enquiry, but stocks are now small. ST. JOHN. — A parcel of very prime quality has just arrived. OAK. — There has been no arrivals; the deliveries have been small, and the demand continues very dull; stocks are sufficient, but there is little change in value to report. ELM. — There has been more enquiry, and Prime Fresh Wood is wanted; the stock is light and values have improved. ASH. — There is little enquiry; but stocks are getting bare. PINE DEALS. — The arrivals have been large, the deliveries unsatisfactory, and there is no improvement in value to report; stocks are much too heavy. RED PINE DEALS are in steady request, and prices rule firm. The arrivals of NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA SPRUCE AND PINE DEALS have been very heavy, amounting to about 11,600 standards, against 1,726 standards same month last year; with a steady demand there has been a good consumption, and stocks, although increased, are not excessive. There is little change in value to report, but shippers are asking higher rates to meet the advance in freights. PINE DEALS are dull of sale. ST. JOHN BIRCH has been imported more freely, and the deliveries have been satisfactory; values are firm, and the stock is moderate. PLANKS have not met with so ready sale, and prices have declined slightly; stocks are heavy.

The circular issued by Messrs. Allison, Causland & Co., of Glasgow, says: There is no special feature of interest to report during the past month. Prices have improved in most cases, but the larger buyers had so many opportunities of purchasing at such very low prices that they will not yet give the advance asked for, preferring to hang off for the present and watch how the market may turn. Several shipments per liners have arrived, the bulk of which is on contract for local merchants. Shipbuilding and housebuilding trades continue brisk, and the wood booked is ample for a considerable time. Hardwoods are exceptionally scarce at present, the supply not being equal to the demand. Provided imports are moderate a satisfactory business should be done, but the result of such heavy consignments during the last two years have still a depressing effect on the market. Regarding stocks and prices of various Canadian woods in the Glasgow market this circular says:

YELLOW PINE. — Waney. — The stock of prime wood is now small, and prices are firm. There is very little demand for inferior wood, the stock of which is very heavy. Quotations—1st Class, 19 to 20 inches average, 25 6d to 25 9d. 2nd Class, 15d to 2s per c. ft. Square. — The stock of prime wood is of very small average, for which there is only a very limited demand. RED PINE. Seldom enquired for, except for large girthy wood. ELM. — Demand moderate, and prices keep very firm. 1st Class, 45 to 50 feet average is quoted at 2s 2d to 2s 4d. 2nd Class, 22d to 2s per c. ft. OAK. — Demand very limited, and little business reported. ASH. — In good request, prices firm, at 22d. to 2s per c. ft. for 15 to 16 inches wood. BIRCH. — Stock very limited. Several parcels sold ex quay at satisfactory prices. Quotations. — 15d to 19d for 15 to 16 inch average. PINE. Firsts. — The demand for

broad deals has been good, and prices are much improved. Undersized, if of long average, are wanted. Short undersized are heavy in stock, and are little asked for. Quotations—broad, £24 1s 3d to £24 15s. Undersized, £17 3s 9d to £19 5s per St. Pet. Sid. Seconds. — The enquiry is very light, and few sales are reported. Broad are quoted at £16 10s to £19 5s. Undersized, £13 1s 3d to £13 15s per St. Pet. Sid. Thirds. — The demand has been moderate, and principally for regulars, which are not heavy in stock. Undersized are very slow to move, except at very low prices. Quotations.—Regulars, £9 5s 7d to £10 6s 3d. Undersized, £7 4s 4d to £8 5s 0d. per St. Pet. Sid. Fourth. — Although prices have improved, business is very slow. Regulars are quoted at £6 17s 6d to £7 11s 3d. Undersized £6 3s 9d to £6 10s 7d per St. Pet. Sid. RED PINE. — There is no stock in first hands. Early shipments will meet with a ready sale. SPRUCE. — Some recent shipments are reported sold ex quay at fair prices. Quotations.—£6 3s 9d to £7 11s 3d per St. Pet. Sid. BIRCH. — There has been a good business done both in logs and planks at satisfactory prices. Logs are quoted at 14d to 15d for 16 inch average. Planks, 10d to 11d per cubic foot. DEALS, BATTENS, AND BOARDS. — Prices still keep very low, and the demand has been practically for narrow deals. Quotations.—£6 3s 9d to £7 11s 3d per St. Pet. Sid. SPRUCE. — The demand keeps good and a satisfactory business has been done. Quotations.—£5 10s 10d to £8 5s per St. Pet. Sid.

THE AUSTRALIAN MARKET.

Concerning the Australian lumber market, Messrs. Fraser & Co., of Melbourne, say:

Stocks on hand have not been dealt in to any material extent, no improvement in this direction having been shown within the past month, though as landings at the wharf and supplies to arrive are not of importance there has been a desire to secure better rates, and in several descriptions of timber slightly higher prices are now being asked, and must ultimately be obtained, not only in the smaller but also in the larger operations which may be concluded in the near future. Although the trade, as a whole, are now in possession of fairly good stocks, we are inclined to the belief that an increased enquiry will be experienced ere long for present holdings, and more especially when it is recognized that existing quotations for mostly all the leading lines are below those at which these could now be laid down at. The irregularity of values among the distributing mills has of late in a great measure prevented prices for importations being fixed upon a fair and proper basis, but we understand that more unanimity is now being shown, which should help to at least some extent in improving the position of those interested here and abroad in cargo operations which are made to this market from time to time.

SPRUCE AND BALD WHITE DEALS. — Imports: 892,946 feet super. Arrival: Osberga, from St. John's N.B. A little further business has been done from stocks in the yard. A small portion of the above shipment has also been placed. Prices range from 25 6d to 25 6d per foot of 9 x 3 for an average specification.

OREGON PINE. — Imports, Nil. Stocks in the yards of importers have not been in much demand, but in sales concluded prices paid show no alteration upon late rates, viz., £5 15s for sizes 11 x 6 and down, and £5 5s for 12 x 6 and up, or an average of £5 10s per 1,000 feet super. Some business "to arrive" has been done upon this basis. Holders are, however, firm, and it is probable that a slight increase will shortly be required.

The extensive saw mill of Alfred Dickie at Lower Stewiacke, N. S., was totally consumed by fire on Wednesday, May 31st. The fire originated from a spark from a passing engine and consumed the mill, several million feet of lumber ready for shipment, dwelling

houses, barn and cook house. Two vessels were loading lumber at the port, and a thrip was discharging ballast preparatory to loading. The loss is heavy.

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