in higher prices, when this fact becomes more generally known.

#### UNITED STATES.

Building operations in the United States are making some headway, work having been resumed in New York. While the demand for lumber for this purpose is not brisk, it shows some improvement over the business of the previous weeks. As the production of white pine lumber is likely to show a pronounced reduction as compared with that of last year, manufacturers are inclined to hold out for very firm prices and consequently no slaughter prices are heard of, as is sometimes the case at this season of the year. Eastern dealers are not carrying heavy stocks and are therefore in a position to take advantage of any slight inducements that are offered by sellers. The statistical position of white pine is so strong that there is not likely to be any pressure of stock, while on the other hand, if the spring and summer trade should consume more lumber than is anticipated, the result will no doubt be an advance in some grades at least. The requirements of the box trade have not yet been satisfied, that grade of lumber being sought for almost as eagerly as at any time this year. The middle grades are perhaps called for to a smaller extent than mill culls, box lumber and nopers.

The percentage of dry hardwood lumber that remains in piles is exceptionally small and the demand is improving. The standard hardwoods, such as maple, ash, elm, and birch, are very firm at the advanced prices recently quoted. Basswood, quartered oak and poplar, while displaying no particular weakness, are not as firm as two weeks ago. Maple flooring continues a weak feature in the market.

#### GREAT BRITAIN.

It cannot be expected that the British timber trade will throw off its lethergy and become active within a week. recovery must of necessity be of slow growth. As soon as signs of an improvement are visible, however, there is certain to be considerable contracting for stock for future delivery, as buyers will then appreciate to a greater extent the low prices which are now ruling. Many small dealers have allowed their stocks to become too low and are now showing a disposition to purchase at favorable opportunities. Whether this will prove to be the foreronner of a more liberal demand is a question of much doubt. While-prices of Canadian pine continue comparatively

firm, it has been impossible to maintain spruce prices. Third quality Quebec spruce, 3x9 inch and 13 feet long, recently sold at a public sale at £8 15s. per standard, whereas for similar goods to arrive £9 2s. 6d. c.i.f. is asked. These figures reflect the difficulty of closing contracts on the basis of shippers' ideas, their quotations being so much lower than the prices asked for lumber in stock. As far as can be ascertained, the more important firms are still abstaining from placing contracts for stock, but it seems extremely doubtful that they will be able to adhere to this position much ionger.

Swedish battens have recently declined in price fully 10s. per standard, and it is reported that stock offered at 4,6 128. 6d. met with no response from buyers. For square timber there is a fair demand, good stocks of rock elm, for instance, being wanted at 3s. 6d. per cubic foot.

#### STOCKS AND PRICES.

J. P. Mosher expects to ship 700,000 feet of lumber from St. Martins, N. B., this season.

Of the 500,000,000 feet of logs taken out in the State of Maine during the past winter, it is estimated that half the quantity is destined for the pulp mills.

G. C. Gladman, of Parry Sound, has his drive of logs, consisting of 258,000 pieces, in the Georgian Bay, ready to be towed to his mill as soon as the ice is out.

The Edward Hines Lumber Company last week sold about 16,000,000 feet of lumber to go east after the opening of navigation. This will make about 60,000,000 feet sold by this firm for movement by boat.

The R. Laidlaw Lumber Company ex pect to handle a large quantity of pine lumber at their Buffalo yard this season. They have taken the adjoining yard lakeward on the Ohio Basin, which will add considerably to their facilities.

A settlement has been reached in the suit affecting the hankrupt sale of logs belonging to J. R. McConnell, which took place at Quebec recently. The workmen get 65 per cent. of their wages, and Laforest, counsel for the lumbermen, gets 10 per cent. on wages collected.

Saginaw River dealers will take in by boat about 125,000,000 feet of lumber this season, mostly from Ontario. Foss & Co. have bought the steamer Ogemaw, of 500,-000 feet capacity, and will place her in the lumber trade, the firm handling a

large quantity of lumber from Georgian Bay.

Holland, Graves, Mambert & George, of Buffalo, have just purchased from the Edward Hines Lumber Company, of Chicago, the entire season's product to October 1 of what is known as the Bigelow mill at Washburn, Wis. This is the first purchase of pine lumber the Buffalo concern has made on Lake Superior.

The Inglewood Pulp Company, of Musquash, N.B., will have about 10,000,000 feet of logs for sawing this season, the necessity of cutting all logs damaged by fire being responsible for increased operations. There is at Musquash a cargo of deals owned by J. & L. B. Knight, which will be shipped to England early in May: in addition to this cargo a couple of vessels are under charter to load here, one for the United Kingdom, and the other for Buenos Ayres.

The following prices are quoted by Farnworth & Jardines London, Eng.:

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Messra, S. P. Musson, Son & Company submit the following report of the Barba-:does\_market: "A cargo of 166,000 feet of white pine; from Liverpool, N. S., was placed at \$25 for shippers and \$20 for second quality, and we think that a similar cargo would bring about same prices from dealers who did not secure this lot. Spruce and hemlock are still in full supply and stocks are not being reduced as quickly as is usual at this season. The "Oringes" brought down 96,000 Long Gaspe shingles, which were placed at \$6.07. This class of shingles along with Dimension are badly wanted and will bring good prices. Cedar Laying, although not scarce, would be saleable at about \$2.15, as a lot of 350,000 were imported for a dealer's account at \$2.25, being of slightly better quality than usual."

Less than 60,000,000 feet of pine lumber ef the present season's cut remains unsold in the Duluth district, as against

400,000,000 feet which was available at the head of the lakes one year ago. The cut of the mills at the western end of ' ake Superior in 1903 was 840,000,000 feet as against 420,000,000 feet this year. Two hundred million feet of this latter an ount has already been sold and of the remain-

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Oswego, N.Y. Orillia, Ont.

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