

CANADA LUMBERMAN

WEEKLY EDITION

The Lumberman Monthly Edition, 20 pages } \$1.00 PER YEAR (The Lumberman Weekly Edition, every Wednesday

THIS PAPER REACHES REGULARLY THE PRINCIPAL LUMBER MANUFACTURERS AND DEALERS THROUGHOUT CANADA, AND WHOLESALE BUYERS IN THE AMERICAN AND FOREIGN MARKETS.

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CANADA LUMBERMAN

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Weekly Lumberman, published every Wednesday contains reliable and up-to-date market conditions and tendencies in the principal manufacturing districts and leading domestic and foreign wholesale markets. A weekly medium of information and communication between Canadian timber and lumber manufacturers and exporters and the purchasers of timber products at home and abroad.

Lumberman, Monthly. A 20-page journal, discussing fully and impartially subjects pertinent to the timber and wood-working industries. Contains letters, with prominent members of the trade, and character sketches and portraits of leading lumbermen. Special articles on technical and mechanical subjects especially valuable to saw mill and planing mill men and manufacturers of lumber products.

Subscription price for the two editions for one year, \$1.00.

Lumbermen visiting Toronto are invited to call at the office of the CANADA LUMBERMAN. We shall have pleasure in giving them any information desired.

WANTED AND FOR SALE

Advertisements will be inserted in this department at the rate of 15 cents per line each insertion. When four or more consecutive insertions are ordered a discount of 10 per cent will be allowed. This notice shows the width of the line and is set in Nonpareil type. Advertisements must be received not later than 4 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday to insure insertion in the current week's issue.

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CEDAR POSTS, ETC. APPLY TO S. R. BEZON, Ancien Mills, Ont.

FOR SALE.

FOR HEMLOCK DIMENSION STOCK AND Mill stuff, write to REID BROS., Hepworth Station, Ont.

WANTED.

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Correspondence Solicited

J. T. SMYTH,
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CURRENT TRADE CONDITIONS.

ONTARIO

The transactions of the past week would seem to indicate that the spring demand for lumber had commenced, the shipments being in excess of any previous week since the beginning of the year. The fine weather has no doubt had a stimulating effect upon the market, influencing purchasers to stock up for the season's business. There is yet, however, a wide gap between present business and what might reasonably be expected at this season of the year, more especially when we take into consideration the light supplies held by retailers and consumers. Any improvement in trade is nevertheless acceptable after a long period of depression, and the hope is expressed that this improvement will continue to expand throughout the spring and summer months. Apart from local trade, the shipments to the United States have been active. Buyers are apparently desirous of obtaining Canadian lumber, and to avoid the probability of paying a duty thereon, are purchasing freely for immediate shipment. Several schooners are now loading at Toronto, and this same condition prevails at many other lake points. The railway companies report an active business, the Grand Trunk having brought fifty car loads of square timber to Toronto for rafting to Quebec. There is also a fair trade doing in hardwoods. Elm, basswood and red oak show more activity than the other classes. Cedar and hemlock are being used quite extensively for local building purposes.

QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

Quebec merchants are commencing to return from Great Britain, Mr. Billingsley, Mr. Evans and Mr. John Stain having already arrived. Messrs. William Power

and Harcourt Smith, both of W. & J. Sharples, are expected to arrive this week. They report having made good contracts, and anticipate an active season. As soon as navigation opens, which is likely to be early this year, heavy shipments will go forward. The market is firm for nearly every class of Quebec goods, and square white pine shows signs of advancing in price. Birch timber continues dull, and indications point to a surplus of this stock being again placed on the market. This has already affected prices, which are slightly lower. Lumbermen throughout the province report the roads breaking up, and many camps have been closed down. Several gangs of timber makers from Ontario, Michigan and Ohio have also returned from the woods. At New Brunswick ports a considerable quantity of deals is waiting shipment to Great Britain, notwithstanding that the regular steamers have taken part cargoes all winter. The United States market shows a slight improvement, and several mixed lots have been sent across the border. The prospects for successful stream driving have brightened, and lumbermen look forward to a prosperous season.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND MANITOBA.

General business in British Columbia has shown a marked improvement since the first of March, and collections are reported to be much easier. Unusual activity exists in lumbering, as the result of the local demand for mining purposes and the increased foreign orders which have been placed. Although the organization of the combine to control the foreign trade, to which reference was recently made, has not yet been completed, there is every prospect of the manufacturers experiencing a more profitable year than in 1896, which was an improvement over the previous year. The Japanese Consul states that fifteen million feet of lumber will be shipped from Vancouver to Japan this season, and calls attention to a new industry which gives promise of good profits, viz., the manufacture of boxes for shipping tea from Japan. It is estimated that these boxes can be made from Pacific coast wood at about one-half what they cost in Japan. The construction of railways to the mining districts is providing a market for a quantity of timber. The situation in Manitoba and the Northwest has not changed since last writing. Railway traffic has been interfered with by the large quantity of snow, which is now fast disappearing.

UNITED STATES.

The reports from the white pine sections of the United States convey no tidings of

an enlarged demand for lumber such as might be expected on the approach of the buying season. Outdoor operations have been checked by unfavorable weather, which has also made the handling of lumber difficult. The call for supplies from builders usually becomes quite active before the close of March, but this year an apparent backward tendency towards placing orders has restricted trade. Besides the better grades, which have been moving freely for some time, box lumber appears to be most sought for. Although shipments have been light, stocks at mill points promise to be considerably reduced before the new cut is in shape for market. At Duluth more than half the lumber remaining on the docks at the close of navigation has been sold, leaving only 50,000,000 feet available, which is largely No. 2 and better. In the east trade is improving, although somewhat slowly. Buffalo is receiving some lumber, and a less quantity is being shipped out. Some of the wholesalers have sent representatives to the west to look after stock, and some purchases may be expected as a result. It is thought that the first two weeks of April will witness a large movement of stock to wholesale points, as consumers must, by that time, make arrangements for their season's trade. At Philadelphia the shipments of pine and spruce show the spring movement to be commencing. Short lumber is moving moderately at Boston. Spruce frames are firmer, and a little more is doing in white pine. More encouraging words may be spoken of hardwoods than pine. The sash and door factories are buying freely, furniture factories are encouraged by a promising season, and altogether the outlook is favorable. More inquiries for stock are reported from Michigan points Minneapolis, Boston and New York. Prices are firm, and the tendency is towards an advance. Oak, maple, poplar and ash have been good sellers.

FOREIGN.

The tone of the British market is decidedly buoyant. A large amount of buying is being done by country customers, and indications now point to the fact that present quotations will be maintained throughout the summer at least. Goods to arrive have been sold extensively, and buyers will probably have reason to congratulate themselves before the season is over. At the late auction sales Canadian goods brought average prices. Foy, Morgan & Co., of London, offered a small stock on the 17th ultimo. Breakey's 3 x 9 spruce deals brought £10, and Quebec 4th pine £7 15s. The Liverpool trade is active, and prices keep firm. There is no reckless buying, but a steady and prosperous business is being done. Much interest is taken in the opening of navigation, which will shortly take place, and arrivals are expected to be heavy for the first month. Representatives of Quebec houses who recently returned home will no doubt rush goods forward, as dealers are now in a buying mood and feel encouraged by the prospects for building, etc.