

prises. Foreign demand is dull, with few shipments. It is reported that Mr. A. C. McArthur, of McMillen, Idaho, has been given the contract to supply 14,000,000 feet of lumber to Mr. Peter Larson for use in railway construction in British Columbia. The shingle situation on the American side is unusually dull, and this of course, affects injuriously the industry in British Columbia.

**UNITED STATES.**

The feeling of uncertainty occasioned by the war has caused a large falling off in building operations in the larger cities, with a proportionate lack of demand for lumber, particularly the better grades. On the other hand the demand throughout the country, especially for improvements to farm buildings, is unusually good, and is furnishing a market for large quantities of low grade lumber, such as could not in other years be disposed of to advantage. The success which has attended the American arms, and the prospect of an early close of hostilities, is expected to lead to a resumption of business on a large and active scale, and to result in a good fall trade in lumber. Lake shipments are likely to materially increase as the result of the drop due to the failure of the Carriers' Association to maintain rates. Rates from Lake Superior ports to Buffalo have declined to \$1.50, and to Chicago to \$1.62½. Boston advices state that the spruce trade is exceedingly dull. This is attributed to the large importations from Canada last year and the fact that spruce is being superseded by North Carolina pine. Ordinary spruce frames are quoted at Boston as low as \$12.50. A moderate demand is reported from Buffalo and Tonawanda for export stock, cutting and better, shelving, siding, ceiling and flooring, common box and culls, ash, elm, basswood and thick maple. Hardwood conditions remain to a large extent unchanged—the shortage of certain kinds of stock, notably white ash and thick oak, being perceptible.

**FOREIGN.**

A British Board of Trade return just issued shows a heavy decline in timber imports. The figures for the first six months of the present year, in comparison with 1896-7, are as follows :

From	1896			1897			1898.			
	Lds.			Lds.			Lds.			
From Russia		1896	1897		1896	1897		1896	1897	1898.
Sweden and Norway	62,498	57,180	55,495	60,451	49,882	54,578	20,777	18,912	21,703	
Germany	20,777	18,912	21,703	20,777	18,912	21,703	16,132	20,974	15,154	
United States of America	16,132	20,974	15,154	2,680	5,349	4,849	19,264	16,029	9,154	
British East Indies	2,680	5,349	4,849	19,264	16,029	9,154	74,189	69,606	30,634	
British North America	19,264	16,029	9,154							
Other Countries	74,189	69,606	30,634							
Total	256,791	238,732	191,568	256,791	238,732	191,568				
From	1896			1897			1898.			
	Lds.			Lds.			Lds.			
From Russia		1896	1897		1896	1897		1896	1897	1898.
Sweden and Norway	181,068	179,961	142,074	181,068	179,961	142,074	378,379	370,097	280,364	
United States of America	378,379	370,097	280,364	70,593	80,792	73,925	132,199	258,217	139,051	
British North America	70,593	80,792	73,925	132,199	258,217	139,051	7,047	7,205	16,773	
Other Countries	7,047	7,205	16,773							
Total	784,567	898,977	645,187	784,567	898,977	645,187				

To the unusually high freight rates, consequent upon the employment of vessels for war purposes, is doubtless due the large falling off in Canadian shipments. Now that freights are returning to a normal condition, a much larger quantity of goods will probably go forward. There is danger that this may have the effect of weakening prices, which, owing to restricted shipments from the United States and Canada, and also from Baltic ports, have been fairly well maintained. Dissatisfaction with the terms of the new form of charter which Baltic ship owners

are seeking to introduce, is greatly lessening the number of shipments from that quarter at present. Pine and spruce are reported more active. High prices are being paid in the London market for favorite sizes, such as 4 in., 2½ and 2 in. battens. At Messrs. Churchill & Sims' last fortnightly sale, Canadian 3 x 11 1st pine realized £18 10s. to £19, 3 x 8.7 3rd pine £6 10s. to £7 5s., with 3 x 9 at £7 15s., 3 x 11 4th pine £7, 3 x 10 3rd spruce £6 10s. to £6 15s., with 3 x 9 at £7 10s., 3 x 11 4th spruce £5 15s., with 3 x 10 at £6. At Messrs. A. & D. MacKay's sale on the 8th inst., a parcel of 388 bright birch logs, containing 14,210 feet, brought prices varying from 16½d. to 2s. 1d. per ft., or an average of 18½d. per ft. for 16½ in. Another parcel averaged 16¾d. per ft. for 15¼ in. Small lots of elm and maple logs sold at 17¾d. per ft. Importations are said to be somewhat excessive at Liverpool and Glasgow. Charters are reported for July from the Saguenay at 42s. 6d., St. John at 40s. and 41s. 3d., Montreal at 40s. to 42s. 6d. to named ports in the United Kingdom, and will repeat for August. The East Coast Timber Importers' Association has been formed to establish an accepted and generally recognized code of rules for carrying on the timber trade on the east coast or elsewhere to protect the status and interests of recognized lumber importers.

**STOCKS AND PRICES.**

The total shipments for Bay City during June amounted to 6,430,000 feet, which is rather light.

It is estimated that during this season the Fredericton Boom Co. will raft 113,000,000 feet of timber.

Consignments of Canadian logs were last week rafted from French river to Bay City, Mich., for Turner & Fisher and Moore, Glover & Co., amounting to 5,184,211 feet b.m.

Churchill & Sims, London, Eng., give the following as the stock of wood in public docks at London for three years :

	1896.	1897.	1898.
	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.
Foreign deals and ends	1,281,000	1,379,000	1,158,000
" battens	1,501,000	1,628,000	1,657,000
Pine deals and battens	704,000	791,000	857,000
Spruce	236,000	633,000	697,000
Boards, rough	1,478,000	1,664,000	2,307,000
" prepared	5,558,000	6,230,000	5,486,000
Total	12,778,000	12,781,000	12,257,000

**THE NEW BRUNSWICK SPRUCE DEAL MARKET.**

Timber, of London, Eng., in its last issue, contains the following review of the spruce deal market, which will be interesting to manufacturers on this side :

New Brunswick spruce deals are again attracting the serious attention of buyers and sellers, but owing to the bitter experience of last autumn, most of the large operators are displaying great and commendable caution. With the exception of the Irish business, which is a special one, and seldom fluctuates much, nothing like an average supply has been contracted for by importers, and the total imports up to date this year are far below those of 1897. An open winter and spring, with plenty of building work, has reduced stocks nearly everywhere to a low point, so much so that during the past three months values have been exceedingly steady, with a slight upward tendency. This has at length been checked by a few recent arrivals, coupled with the near approach of numerous floating cargoes, now being freely offered to dealers. In the opening months of the year several thousand standards were placed by shippers or their agents around the coast at a slight advance on the lowest prices of 1897, and those who thus bought early have so far no reason to regret it. Some large lines of special sizes, principally 2 and 2½-inch battens, were also placed on the east coast at fully 10s. above present quotations, but this business is now a thing of the past, Baltic whitewood having again come into vogue at lower figures, such as make spruce competition impossible. Our Canadian friends, whose increasing

hopes of a large spruce demand were referred to in our last issue, may, therefore, take it for granted that whenever Russian or Swedish sawn whitewood can be offered at the same, or a slightly higher price, it will, with a considerable number of buyers, especially on the east coast, always have the preference. It is mainly a question of money, and, taking an average of ten years, America cannot compete with the Baltic at many large British ports, apart from the great relative value of whitewood for planed floorings and other joinery purposes. About 1,200 standards of St. John spruce deals lying at Fleetwood, but belonging to a well known Liverpool firm, were offered by auction at the latter port on Friday week last with practically a barren result. Only two lots of 9 x 3 changed hands at £6 17s. 6d., although it is reported that a few others were sold by private treaty afterwards. There can be but little doubt that this excellent stock would have fared much better if it had been offered a short time ago, when many dimension sizes were so scarce, and it was probably a mistake in tactics to try to sell it last week, as against newer arrivals at more favorable places of distribution.

The position at Liverpool is fairly strong, the import and consumption for June being nearly identical, with the further advantage that the existing stock only equals an ordinary month's requirements. Supplies generally on the west coast are also low, so that with a good demand, such as is undoubtedly in evidence, and with prospective moderate supplies, it does not seem possible for the fiasco of last season to repeat itself. A rapid advance in freights, brought about by corn speculations, delayed chartering so seriously that many usual operators lost all confidence in the market, and have since been playing a waiting game. While values in this direction have eased down 5s. to 7s. 6d. per standard, they have not lost all the rise as compared with several recent years, and this forms the only uncertain feature yet to be reckoned with. St. John deals are selling freely ex quay at £6 15s. to £7, while West Bay, Halifax, etc., may be quoted at £6 10s. to £6 12s. 6d. One or two shipments of poor specification are offering at 2s. 6d. to 5s. less, but these consist largely of 7-inch and 8-inch, with practically no 11-inch deals included.

**THE GLASGOW MARKET.**

Edmiston & Mitchell's monthly timber circular of 30th June gives the following particulars of the Glasgow market :

The month of June has been an active one on the Clyde as far as import goes. The liners from Montreal have brought about 1,548 standards of pine and spruce deals, boards, ends, etc., and, in addition, two full cargoes of pine deals, etc., containing 2,113 standards, are to hand; also, two full cargoes of spruce with 1,666 standards. An approximate comparison of the import from British North America up to 30th June, for the last two years, shows the following: Pine deals, boards, etc., 5,626 standards, against 6,256 last year; spruce deals, etc., 3,819 standards, against 4,577 last year. The Clyde shipbuilding returns are highly satisfactory, and no less than 47,800 register tonnage has been launched, making the total for the half-year a record one, viz., 207,500 tons. Although the amount of new orders booked is only about 17,000 tons, still the quantity of work on hand assures us of a continuance of activity for at least six months.

House-building maintains the activity which has characterized it for many years. The strike in the cabinet trade, which has now lasted three months, is, we regret to report, no nearer a settlement, and it is having a serious effect on the timber trade.

**FIRES.**

The Ottawa Mining & Milling Co.'s saw mill, at North Bend, B.C., was recently burned. Cayonette's shingle mill at St. Moise, on the Intercolonial Railway, was burned on the 20th inst. Two watchmen lost their lives.

**SHIPPING MATTERS.**

Large quantities of pulp are being shipped from Montreal to Liverpool and Glasgow. The Cutler & Savage Lumber Co., of Cutler, Ont., have ceased shipping to the United States market for the present, owing to the duty and low prices.

A cargo of 25,000 feet of waney pine was recently brought by steamer Niagara from Ashland, Wis., via Welland Canal to Kingston, Ont., for re-shipment to England.

The schrs. Moss Glen and Walter Sumner, from Liverpool, N.S., and Keewaydin, from St. John, N.B., with cargoes of white pine and spruce lumber, and schrs. Dawn, Nellie Morrow, Minnie and Neva, from Paspébeac, with shingles, arrived at Barbadoes July 9th.

**BUSINESS NOTES.**

Mr. Tegart will erect a saw mill near Golden, B.C.

James Richards, saw mill owner, Kintouh, Ont., is dead.

Mr. A. R. Chisholm has just opened out in the lumber business at Edmonton, N.W.T.

R. E. L. Brown has purchased the Bell saw mill property and timber rights at Kaslo, B.C.

Lumbermen are notified to use the north instead of the south channel of the St. Lawrence river at Cornwall Island during the construction of the New York and Ottawa R.R. bridge.

**LUMBERMAN'S INSPECTION BOOK.**

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